



Farewell, Western Scrub-Jay!

In 2016, the American Ornithologists' Union split the Western Scrub-Jay species into two: the California Scrub-Jay ("coastal" form) and the Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay ("interior" form).

The differences between the "coastal" form (now the California Scrub-Jay) and the "interior" form (now Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay) are described as follows: the California Scrub-Jay is darker and has a more bold personality, while the Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay is more slender, paler, has a thinner bill, and tends to be more shy and inconspicuous.

The American Ornithologists' Union considered this split for several years. The split became official after genetic research demonstrated that the two species rarely interbreed where they



California Scrub-Jay

Swartzentover.com

come into contact with each other in western Nevada and eastern California. The Scrub-Jays found in most of California and all of Washington and Oregon are California Scrub-Jays (*Aphelocoma californica*). Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays (*Aphelocoma woodhouseii*) are found in Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.

For comparison photos, see <https://feederwatch.org/blog/farewell-western-scrub-jay/>.

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NOVEMBER PROGRAM MEETING

Rick Taylor

SURPRISING INSIGHTS FROM CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATA

Friday, November 10, 2017

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Everett Firefighters' Hall

2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett ([map](#))

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is the world's oldest and longest-running citizen science project.

Every December for the last 117 years, teams of dedicated birders spend a day surveying the birds in a 15-mile-diameter circle. Pilchuck Audubon has conducted the Christmas Bird Count in Edmonds for 33 consecutive years.

We've put in a lot of effort on many dark and stormy days counting the birds; but, what have we learned?

- What species are declining?
- What species are increasing?
- Have new species moved into the area?

Please join Rick Taylor, the co-compiler for the Edmonds Christmas Bird Count, on Friday, November 10, at 7:00 p.m., for the November Pilchuck Audubon program meeting, as he uses the 33 years' worth of data to answer these and many other questions about our birds. ✧



Public Invited to Participate in Long-term Planning for Wallace Falls State Park

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is beginning a public process that will lead to a long-term recreation plan for Wallace Falls State Park near Gold Bar.

The public is invited to participate in the effort, which will kick off with a meeting from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 15, at the Sultan City Hall Community Room, 319 Main St, Sultan. At this meeting, State Parks staff will provide background on the park and the goals for the planning process. Information about recreation planning for Wallace Falls State Park is available at <http://parks.state.wa.us/1074/Wallace-Falls-Planning>.



Wallace Falls State Park is a popular day-use and overnight destination, with trail opportunities in the park and on adjacent lands. Over the years, the park's increasing popularity has outgrown the existing parking facilities. This planning process is an opportunity to focus on creative parking solutions.

In addition, the public lands adjacent to Wallace Falls State Park could provide exciting potential trail connec-

tions, with the goal of improved visitor experience for hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and other trail users.

Opportunities for public comment will be available at the meeting, and public comment also may be provided by contacting Randy Kline, Parks Planner, at (360) 902-8632 or randy.kline@parks.wa.gov, or by submitting comments online at <http://parks.state.wa.us/1074/Wallace-Falls-Planning>.

State Parks has completed more than 100 land-use plans for parks around the state through its Classification and Management Plan (CAMP) public process. CAMP processes address parking issues, day-use and camping opportunities, overall visitor experiences, natural resources, recreation areas and trails, and other topics of interest to communities.

About Wallace Falls State Park

Located in Snohomish County, Wallace Falls State Park is a 1,380-acre camping park with shoreline on the Wallace River, Wallace Lake, Jay Lake, Shaw Lake, and the Skykomish River. Located on the west side of the Cascade Mountains, the park features a 265-foot-high waterfall, old-growth coniferous forests, and fast-moving rivers and streams. For more information about the park, visit <http://parks.state.wa.us/289/Wallace-Falls>. ✧

About Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Pilchuck Audubon Profile, official newsletter of Pilchuck Audubon Society, is published monthly.

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is a grass-roots environmental organization with members throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington.

Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, for the benefit of the earth's biological diversity.

Through education, advocacy, and community activism, PAS is committed to bringing people closer to wildlife in order to build a deeper understanding of the powerful links between healthy ecosystems and human beings, and to encourage the involvement of our members in efforts

to protect the habitat this wildlife depends upon for survival.

We serve as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. PAS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

Newsletter Submissions

Submit articles to newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the 21st of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.610.8027.

The monthly Profile is available online at

www.pilchuckaudubon.org

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AUDUBON CLIMATE WATCH PROGRAM

Climate change is the biggest threat to birds around the world. Learn how you can help by counting climate-threatened species.

Audubon's [Birds and Climate Change Report](#) predicts that over half of North American bird species will lose more than 50 percent of their current climatic range by 2080. To test these predictions, Audubon is running the new citizen and community science project [Climate Watch](#). Climate Watch aims to document species' responses to climate change by having volunteers in the field look for birds where Audubon's climate models project they should be in the 2020s.

Time Period

Climate Watch occurs over two distinct thirty-day periods each year, in the winter and in the summer breeding season. The first phases of the pilot occurred in January and June 2016 and January 2017, and the next survey will cover the winter season and will run Monday, January 15 through Thursday, February 15, 2018. The summer survey season will be May 15–June 15, 2018.

The next survey will take place **January 15 - February 15, 2018** and is open to all interested Audubon chapters and centers, in addition to organized groups with an interest in birds.

Target Species

The Climate Watch survey will focus on specific species for which our climate models have strong predictions and which have a high detectability in the field. For 2018 we will focus on two groups of species: **bluebirds** and **nuthatches**. Specifically, Climate Watch participants are asked to survey for Eastern, Western, and Mountain bluebirds and/or White-breasted, Red-breasted, Brown-headed, and Pygmy nuthatches. Additional target species may be added for the summer 2018 survey period, including an urban-focused species.

Most notably, what is new for this year is the addition of a few more species, including **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. With this addition, Climate Watch now includes a species that is common to Snohomish County.

If our chapter is interested in participating, it would involve counting birds for two to four hours on one day in the winter and one day in the summer. For anyone who would be willing to act as our chapter coordinator, it would involve another few hours of work to compile the data.

Coordinator Needed

Is anyone interested in being the Climate Watch coordinator for Pilchuck Audubon? If you are interested, contact Cindy Easterson at president@pilchuckaudubon.org. ✧



Red-breasted Nuthatch |
Mick Thompson

WDFW Reopens Public Access to the Leque Island Unit of the Skagit Wildlife Area

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reopened public access to Leque Island near Stanwood, following a temporary closure for a habitat restoration project designed to benefit shorebirds, waterfowl, and salmon.

The entire island, which reopened to the public October 13, is accessible on foot, though walkers may need to navigate around new channels that could fill with water during the rainy season, said Belinda Rotton, WDFW's Skagit Wildlife Area manager.

Maps showing the easiest walking routes are available at the site. The island's parking areas and road access are unchanged.

Much of Leque Island was historically a saltwater marsh that provided habitat for many species, including juvenile salmon. In the early 1900's, residents built dikes around the perimeter of the island to reclaim land for agricultural use and housing. Those dikes are now failing.

The department began purchasing Leque Island, part of WDFW's Skagit Wildlife Area, for habitat restoration in the 1970s.

The construction project this summer prepared the site for removing the perimeter levee in order to re-establish marsh habitat beneficial to fish and wildlife in the Stillaguamish watershed, said Loren Brokaw, a restoration project coordinator with WDFW.

Work this year involved excavating new channels, filling ditches, and building small islands in the interior of the island.

In the next phase, which Brokaw anticipates will take place in 2019, construction crews will remove the perimeter levee to re-connect the site to the tides. Brokaw expects salt marsh habitat to develop on the site.

The Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program (<http://www.psp.wa.gov/PSAR.php>) and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (<http://www.noaa.gov/>) are providing grants to fund the project.

Those interested in learning more about the project and restoration plan should visit http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/skagit/leque_island_project.php. ✧

SMART GROWTH REPORT

by Kristin Kelly

Executive Director, Smart Growth



The Washington State Supreme Court decision on water policy called the “Hirst Decision” has become a political roadblock for the state’s capital budget which funds a wide variety of important needs. The op-ed from Tim Ballew, Chairman of the Lummi Indian Business Council (<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/implement-hirst-decision-to-allocate-states-water-rights-cautiously-and-fairly>) explains the Hirst Decision and why it is important for all residents of Washington State. Part of that op-ed is reprinted below.

There is a great deal of frustration these days surrounding water policy in Washington. You may have heard the rallying cries to “fix Hirst,” as developers, realtors, and banks called for a state Supreme Court decision to be overturned. In fact, the push to upend the case, *Whatcom County v. Hirst*, ultimately prevented the passage of a bipartisan-supported \$4 billion capital budget that would have funded schools and other universally supported projects.

Overturing *Hirst* would be a shortsighted fix causing lasting damage to the region, especially since the court’s ruling protects everybody’s access to water.

The *Hirst* decision clarified that Washington’s Growth Management Act requires counties to protect ground and surface waters by ensuring there is enough water available to accommodate growth before more development is authorized. It also clarified that residential wells—which do not require a state permit—are not currently managed to ensure protection of our water resources. As a result, counties need to make an independent decision about the impacts of new wells on water availability.

The *Hirst* decision is consistent with 100 years of Washington water law, because it follows the prior appropriations doctrine—new water appropriations shouldn’t impair senior water rights, including those held by farmers, municipalities, tribes, and the environment. Since tribes have always been here, they have senior water rights for both water supply and the preservation of flows for fish, which they have a treaty-protected right to harvest.

This doesn’t mean that new growth must stop. It just means that we need to assess how much water there is and how much water is spoken for, before we allocate it. We need to look a little closer at the consequences of our actions before we act.

If you want to avoid bouncing a check, you balance your checkbook before making a purchase. In water management—much like our personal finances—the best way to avoid water bankruptcy is to look at how much water is legally and physically available before doling it out.

Only when we know we have enough water can we be certain new developments will have access to it now and into the future. New homeowners need certainty that their water won’t get shut off in the future and that they aren’t taking water away from their neighbors.

But when an honest assessment shows we don’t have enough water, we need to take measures to rebuild our reserves, just as we do when our bank account is empty. We can tighten our budgets by conserving water, or we can secure water from senior water-rights holders. In this manner, we can continue to grow sustainably without impacting everybody’s access to water.

Our great country was built on the treaties negotiated between the United States and Native nations. I strongly believe that our ancestors negotiated these agreements with the plan for our communities, both native and nonnative, to grow and prosper. To do that we need certainty that our shared water resources—the lifeblood of our community—will be accessible now and into the future.

This includes certainty that existing rights to water will be preserved, certainty that our streams will continue to flow so that fish can thrive in them, and certainty that if you build a new home you’ll be able to continue to supply it with water.

Hirst is good law. We don’t need to “fix it;” we need to help local governments implement it. For example, the state could provide counties with technical and financial assistance to assess water availability so that each landowner doesn’t need to.

Water management is a complex issue. Important water-policy decisions should not be made under the pressure of budget negotiations. We stand ready to work with our neighbors and the Legislature to implement a water policy that protects everybody’s access to water. ✧

TRIP CALENDAR

Check our website at www.pilchuckaudubon.org for the latest information



Saturday, November 4 Parks in Central Edmonds

Meet at 8:00 AM at the entrance to the Edmonds Park and Ride's parking lot (near I-5 Exit 179). We'll carpool to the first of several parks that we'll visit in central Edmonds: Pine Ridge, Yost, Hummingbird Hill, and Emerald Hills. We'll do a fair amount of walking as we look for birds at these different sites.

Trip Leader: Douglas Resnick, [425-776-4811](tel:425-776-4811)

Tuesday, November 7 Samish Flats

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd and next to I-5. Want to see what a premier birding area offers at its best season? Come along. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Tuesday, November 14 Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Meet at 7:00 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd and next to I-5. The refuge is in Canada, on Westham Island at the mouth of the Frazier River. Expect waterfowl underfoot and chickadees and nuthatches fed in the hand, plus surprise species. Bring birdseed and your US Passport or Enhanced Driver's License. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

ANNUAL MUSHROOM HIKE WITH GREG HOVANDER

Saturday, November 4



Space still available

Call or email Kathy to reserve your place on this hike, limited to 12 participants. Please include your phone number in case of last-minute changes.

We will hike through old growth forest on the Deception Falls trail off SR 2. Meet at the Sultan Park and Ride at 9:00 a.m. This will be an all-day hike with expert mycologist and pharmacist Greg Hovander. Greg is a walking encyclopedia of mycological knowledge, from identification of hundreds of fungal species, to medicinal qualities, to nutrition and cooking methods. We'll proceed at a leisurely pace at first, locating and learning about all types of fungi.

Trip leader: Kathy Johnson, [360-659-7252](tel:360-659-7252) or forest@pilchuckaudubon.org ✧

Tuesday, November 21

Birch Bay/Semiahmoo Drayton Harbor

Meet at 7:00 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd and next to I-5. Should see migrating waterfowl and shorebirds (dowitchers, yellowlegs, Dunlin, Long-tailed and Harlequin ducks). Pack a lunch.

Trip Leaders: Wilma Bayes, 360-629-2028 and Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Tuesday, November 28

To be determined

Check Pilchuck Audubon calendar at

<http://pilchuckaudubon.org> or call Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750).

Tuesday, November 31

Fir Island Area

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd and next to I-5. Expect almost anything. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750) ✧

Olympic BirdFest 2018

Come Bird With Us

Sequim, Washington, April 13-15, 2018

Grab your binoculars and join the 15th annual **Olympic BirdFest 2018** celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 13-15, 2018.

The stage is set...quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a five-mile-long sand spit, and a protected island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; wetlands, tide pools, rainforests, and lush river valleys. The players are ready...Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons, Barred and Pygmy Owls will be sporting their finest spring plumage for this celebration. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tour, and a gala banquet. Our featured speaker this year, Claudio Vidal, has been exploring and birding since the age of 12 and currently leads birding/nature tours and photo safaris through Patagonia, Chile, and South America.

Come bird with us and experience with others the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula ...you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Check out the offerings by going online (www.olympicbirdfest.org).

Precede your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two-night birding cruise of the spectacular **San Juan Islands** on April 10-12, 2018. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort.

Extend your Birdfest weekend with the **Neah Bay post-trip**, April 16-17, 2018: two and one-half days exploring northwest coastal Washington, a region rarely seen by birders.

Contact us by phone at 360-681-4076, or e-mail us at info@olympicbirdfest.org. ✧

Yellow Rails and Rice Festival

November 1-5

Jennings, LA

YRARF calls itself “A festival like no other”. (They also call themselves YRARF, which is a festival acronym like no other). The Yellow Rails and Rice Festival is designed with fun in mind; its primary goal is to provide participants a unique venue to view Yellow Rails while at the same time bringing birders and farmers together to realize the value to birds of the area’s “working wetlands”.

[https://www.snowyegretenterprises.com/Snowy Egret Enterprises/Yellow Rails %26 Rice Festival.html](https://www.snowyegretenterprises.com/Snowy_Egret_Enterprises/Yellow_Rails_%26_Rice_Festival.html)

Alaska Bald Eagle Festival

November 6-11

Haines, AK

Haines, Alaska, is known as the Valley of the Eagles for a good reason: the largest concentration of bald eagles in the United States happens in the Chilkat Valley each November. An autumn run of chum and Coho salmon attracts between two and four thousand bald eagles yearly. The Alaska Bald Eagle Festival is a great opportunity to see them.

<https://baldeagles.org/alaska-bald-eagle-festival/about/>

Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival

November 8-12

Harlingen, TX

Harlingen is centrally located to venture forth for excellent birding. Within 90 minutes are dry, desert habitats to the west, coastal habitats are only 60 minutes to the east, with a riparian ribbon along the entire southern boundary. For 23 years running, the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival has provided thousands of birders with life birds. More than 60 vendors of bird-related products will delight at the Birders Bazaar, too. <https://www.rgvbf.org/>

Festival of the Cranes

November 14-19

San Antonio, NM

This nationally recognized wildlife, birding, and photography festival offers a whopping 156 event sessions in six days. This year is the 30th celebration of the Sandhill Crane (and Snow Goose) flocks returning to the famous Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. **This year features “Wildlife Zone at Festival of the Cranes,”** a chance for families to see raptors and reptiles up close, as well as participate in banding, hikes, and bird tours.

<http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/festival-of-the-cranes.aspx>

National Turkey Consumption Day

November 23

Your Home, WA

Benjamin Franklin wanted the Turkey to be our National Bird. Today is a great opportunity to devour Ben’s favorite. Happy Thanksgiving! <http://allrecipes.com/recipe/166160/juicy-thanksgiving-turkey/> ✧

SAVE THE DATE

Winter Wings Festival

Klamath Basin Audubon Society, Klamath Falls, Oregon

When: Thursday, February 15, 2018 through Sunday, February 18, 2018

Where: Oregon Institute of Technology (Oregon Tech), [3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls, OR](http://www.oregon-tech.edu)

Website: www.WinterWingsFest.org

Registration: Opens December 16, 9:00 a.m. PST

Winter birds at their finest! Winter Wings brings together birders and photographers of all stripes to learn and explore with top notch professionals and enthusiastic local guides. The Klamath Basin is renowned for its massive wintering population of Bald Eagles, but is prime habitat for many other raptors including owls, as well as a stunning abundance and diversity of waterfowl. The 2018 Festival will feature three dynamic keynoters: Author and woodpecker specialist **Stephen Shunk**, Nikon Ambassador and wildlife photographer **Moose Peterson**; and author and instructor with the Cornell Lab, **Kevin McGowan**.

Highlight birds: Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, White-headed Woodpecker, Greater White-fronted Goose, Tule Goose, Snow Goose, Ross’s Goose, Tundra Swan, Barrow’s Goldeneye, Eurasian Wigeon, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Shrike, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Great Gray Owl, Sandhill Crane, Black-crowned Night-Heron



BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

August 26, 2017 to September 25, 2017

Had a big surprise in my backyard in Marysville on September 25. Two Western Scrub-Jays stopped by for a snack. They stayed only about 10 minutes and headed out. A few days later I got a call from Cindy Winter telling me about one she saw near 3rd Street in Marysville. Hilkka Egtvedt also spotted one in Mukilteo. It was a real treat as they are beautiful birds.

Carole and Larry Beason's report from Lake Bosworth listed an American Goldfinch on a rose, 20 American Robin, 36 Barn Swallow over the lake, 48+ Brewer's Blackbird, 10 Cedar Waxwing, 5 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Great Blue Heron on the neighbor's dock, a Hutton's Vireo, 4 Northern Flicker, 2 Red-breasted Sapsucker, 24+ Red-winged Blackbird at the feeders and in the trees, 8 Spotted Towhee, a Turkey Vulture over the house, 20 Violet-green Swallow and 3 Wood Duck on the lake, for a total species count of 45.

Debbie Dern's report from Snohomish listed 5 Anna's Hummingbird, a Pileated Woodpecker, a male Rufous Hummingbird, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Golden-crowned Sparrow, 3 Black-capped Chickadee, a Spotted Towhee, 3 Steller's Jay, 5 American Crow, a Common Raven, and a Downy Woodpecker, for a total species count of 11.

Reporting from Everett, Chris Erickson listed 2 Bewick's Wren, 10 Northwestern Crow, 6 Western Gull, 8 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 23 Black-capped Chickadee, 36 Bushtit, 23 Cedar Waxwing, 4 Anna's Hummingbird, 12 Canada Goose flying overhead, 23 European Starling, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2 White-breasted Nuthatch, and a Cooper's Hawk, for a total species count of 25.

Hilkka Egtvedt listed the Scrub-Jay as California Scrub-Jay, its new identity [Editor's note: see article on page 1]. Her total species count of 21 from her home in Mukilteo included 2 California Quail, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 Hairy Woodpecker, 5 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Spotted Towhee, 3 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 6 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Purple Finch, and 3 American Goldfinch.

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood included 20 American Goldfinch, 10 Anna's Hummingbird, 35 American Robin, a Barred Owl in the yard, 4 Black-headed Grosbeak, 2 Black-throated Gray Warbler, 2 Brown Creeper, 5 Cedar Waxwing, 10 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Great Blue Heron at the creek, 5 Hairy Woodpecker, 8 House Finch, 18 Mourning Dove, 2 Olive-sided Flycatcher, 5 Rufous Hummingbird, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 8 Song Sparrow, 12 Steller's Jay, and 12 Tree Swallow, for a total species count of 39.

Reporting from Marysville, my total species count of 21 included the 2 Western Scrub-Jay, 6 Black-capped Chickadee, 10 House Finch, 4 American Robin, 15 Mourning Dove, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Spotted Towhee, 9 Steller's Jay (they show up in the morning and stay all day), 2 Red-tailed Hawk flying over, 30+ American Crow in the fields, 6 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 4 Northern Flicker, and 130+ Canada Goose at Twin Lakes (they were on the shore and covered over half of the lake).

If you are interested in participating in our Backyard Birding count, please email me at pricemara1@gmail.com or leave a message on my cell phone at (425) 750-8125. ✧

Trip Report

BIRD WALK IN VARIOUS PARKS IN EASTERN EDMONDS

14 October 2017

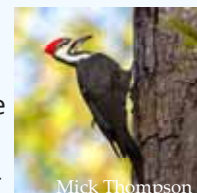
by Doug Resnick

Six of us—Doug, Sherrill, Lisa, Joanne, Jonathan, and Judy—met at the Mountlake Terrace Transit Center, then organized into two carpools for the remainder of the outing. We observed a total of 42 bird species. Lists for the various segments of the walk were submitted to eBird.

Our first birding site was Mathay-Ballinger Park in southeast Edmonds. In addition to birding the park proper, we walked along the connector to the Interurban Trail, which led us to the historic Ballinger Station and further to the launching access area of Lake Ballinger. A rare find was a late-season Osprey.

We drove north to our second site, Sierra Park, which includes a walk for the blind. Driving a short distance north, we entered our third site, Seaview Park. A notable find here was a California Scrub-Jay. We walked from here to the fourth site, Southwest County Park. We also birded along the connecting street, Andover Street.

In Southwest County Park, we walked along part of the outer loop trail in the portion south of Olympic View Drive; then along the main trail, including the historical loop, in the northern portion. While on the outer loop trail, we had gratifyingly close views of a Pileated Woodpecker and a Downy Woodpecker in proximity to one another.



Our fifth and final site was Haines Wharf Park. Sherrill's birding scope came in handy at this site, for viewing birds in the nearby waters and for other purposes. The first few minutes were spent in aid of a passerby who had accidentally dropped her cell phone into a large rose bush; this involved a serendipitous use of the scope. Later, a whale-watcher who came by pointed out the opportunity to view a Humpback Whale in the waters overlooked by the park. We were fortunate to have the whale exhibit before us. A Peregrine Falcon then caught our attention. The falcon successfully caught a pigeon, while we looked on.

Several of the crew lingered afterwards for lunch at Time Out in Mountlake Terrace. ✧

Pilchuck Audubon Society
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 Snohomish, WA 98290-1742



**Pilchuck Audubon Society
 Membership Information**

Support your local Audubon chapter by becoming a member. PAS dues are tax deductible (consult your tax professional for details). The PAS tax ID number is 91-6183664.

- New Member \$28
- Renewal \$28
- Lifetime Member \$1,000
 - 10 monthly payments of \$100
 - 4 quarterly payments of \$250
 - 1 payment of \$1,000
- Donation \$ _____
 - My employer will match my contribution
 My employer's gift-matching form is enclosed with my contribution

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