

Christmas Bird Count 2018

By Rick Taylor, Edmonds CBC Co-compiler

Edmonds/South County CBC – December 15, 2018

Everett/Marysville CBC – December 29, 2018

The National Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count, which began in 1900 as an alternative to Christmas Day bird hunts, is the longest-running, large-scale, citizen-science project in the world. The CBC provides important data about bird population and distribution trends. The results are tallied and submitted to the National Audubon Society. These long-term population data are used in multiple research projects such as the [State of the Birds](#) and the National Audubon Society’s [Birds and Climate Change Report](#). In addition to collecting valuable scientific data, the CBC is also an enjoyable social event with teams working together over the years. Teams try to beat their records for the number of species they can find in their area.

Pilchuck Audubon Society sponsors the 15-mile diameter Edmonds/South County and Everett/Marysville Christmas Bird Counts, which will occur on December 15 and December 29, respectively. The Everett/Marysville count area is located between downtown Everett and Island Crossing, extending as far west as the southeast tip of Camano Island, while the Edmonds/South County count, centered near Martha Lake in Lynnwood, occurs in south Snohomish County, north King County, and the southeast tip of Whidbey Island. Some great opportunities exist to join an existing team or start a new team. Boat surveys in the Snohomish River Delta and on marine waters (weather permitting) offer a unique opportunity to see waterfowl and sea birds not easily seen from shore. Counts are made on Camano, Ebey, Spencer, Jetty, Whidbey, and Gedney (Hat) islands.

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NO DECEMBER PROGRAM MEETING

Next Program Meeting

Friday, January 11, 2019

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Everett Firefighters’ Hall

You can participate either by joining a field team of birders covering one of the 28 areas or by independently counting birds at your feeders and in your yard. Also, there are presently open positions for area leaders. New participants, whether experienced, intermediate, or beginning birders, are welcome to join the counts. The Edmonds CBC also counts the massive “river of crows” as the American Crows move to their evening roost site. If you aren’t comfortable with your identification skills or are only available in the afternoon, this is an excellent way to participate. The CBC compilers can direct you to one of these areas after knowing your interests and experience.

As Snohomish County grows and more land is converted into suburban housing, feeder counts grow in importance. We would like to increase the number of people watching their feeders to ensure that we have good coverage of the urban and suburban habitat.

The CBC compilers are:

- **For Everett/Marysville:**
Scott Atkinson (scottratkinson@hotmail.com, tel. 425-210-2716).
- **For Edmonds/South County:**
Rick Taylor (taylorrl@outlook.com, tel. 425-214-2764).

Each CBC will have a post-count potluck to share results and enjoy the evening. The compilers will provide the locations and times of these events. ✧

BIRDING CLASSES

Taught by Candy Brown

The two classes below will be held at the Frances Anderson Center, 700 Main Street, in Edmonds, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Cost for each class: \$17 for residents, \$19 for non-residents.

To register, call 425-771-0230

WATER BIRDS — FEBRUARY 12

We will discuss several of the different kinds of ducks that live in the Puget Sound region as well as geese, gulls, blackbirds, herons, shorebirds, and others. We will see the unique nests they make and how their babies are very different from those of songbirds.

MORE AMAZING BIRDS — MARCH 13

Many interesting and beautiful birds visit our region at different times of the year or are permanent residents. We will look at and discuss the habits of sparrows, warblers, wrens, woodpeckers, cedar waxwings, and more. ✧



The 40th Annual Klamath Basin Winter Wings Festival February 14-17, 2019

Enjoy more than 50 guided birding and photography field trips, workshops, receptions, keynotes, and more throughout the Klamath Basin in Oregon and California. Featured speakers are Pepper Trail, George Lepp, and Julie Zickefoose. To learn more, visit www.WinterWingsFest.org.

Registration opens December 15 at 9:00 a.m. PST

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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I-1631 Post Mortem

The *Everett Herald*, which endorsed I-1631, suggests in an editorial (“*Clearing the Air After I-1631 Rejection*”; November 11, 2018) why I-1631 failed. A vote against 1631 was, for most voters, not a denial of climate change and the need to reduce carbon emissions. Voters are usually cautious when it comes to self-taxation, and this “fee” came across as a regressive one. Different economic models by opponents and proponents produced conflicting projected costs. Uncertainty about how the new money would be spent also caused negative votes.

It is doubtful that voters thought the record-setting \$31.56 million campaign spent against I-1631 was due to a passionate fossil fuel industry.

What next? The editorial advises lawmakers “to fund the types of programs and efforts that I-1631 (fees) would have supported.” These would “develop alternative energy technologies and other carbon-reduction efforts.” A starting place could be a renegotiated Senate Bill 6230, sponsored last session by Snohomish County legislators Palumbo, McCoy, and Liias. Editorial writers say that voters “...should hold the No on I-1631 campaign to its stated support for a better proposal.

A December 8 workshop in Tacoma will refresh strategies to achieve 100% clean energy in Washington State. The workshop is open to all.

https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/af2SyadcaUyMDFtlhKQghw2?utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email

Focus includes legislation in the upcoming state legislative session. Look for details in the January 2019 PROFILE.

Marbled Murrelet Revised Draft EIS

By December 6, PAS is submitting a comment letter to Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) pertaining to the state’s proposed long-term Marbled Murrelet recovery plan. It will be posted on our website. Many thanks to Kathy Johnson and Cindy Easterson for their contributions!

What now in the waning 115th Congress?

Democrats will be the 116th congressional majority in the U. S. House in January. Some races are being recounted; litigation is a possibility. Could be some races will be rerun based on respective state laws about elections. U. S.



Lobby Day
2018

Senate Republicans strengthened their majority hold. The only change in the Washington State congressional delegation is that Kim Schrier (Democrat) succeeds retiring Republican Dave Reichert in the 8th District. Leadership elections and committee assignments by both parties in both chambers are much discussed but won’t be final until elections are certified to the Congress.

Focus for now is on whether Congress and the President can agree upon remaining appropriations and some policy bills. Some federal government agencies are operating under a Continuing Resolution which ends December 7.

Most federal natural resource agencies lack Fiscal Year 2019 funding beyond December 7. This includes the

(Continued on Page 5)



Bank Swallow



Cliff Swallow

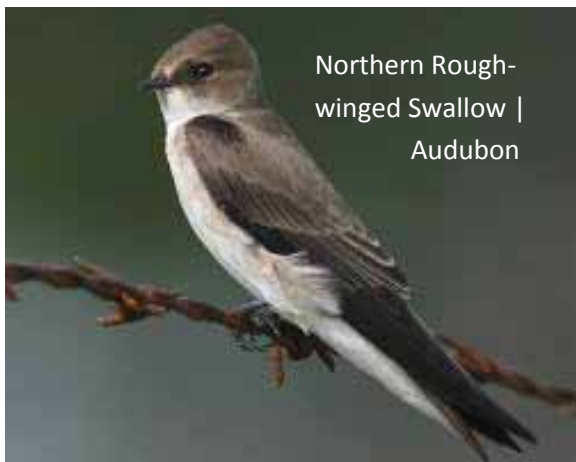
The Swallow Family



Tree Swallow |
Mick Thompson
Photo



Barn Swallow |
Audubon



Northern Rough-
winged Swallow |
Audubon



Violet-green Swallow |
Mick Thompson Photo

TRIP CALENDAR

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



Saturday, December 1 **Beside Lyon Creek**

Meet at 8:00 AM near the entrance to the parking lot of the Mountlake Terrace Transit Center

(<https://www.communitytransit.org/busservice/transit-centers-and-parking>). We'll visit Terrace Creek Park,

Terrace Ridge Park, Horizon View Park, and Lyon Creek Preserve Park.

Trip leader: Douglas Resnick, 425-776-4811
(cell: 206-617-0019), dresnick1@comcast.net

Tuesday, December 4 **Fir Island Area**

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from 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

Tuesday, December 11 **Lummi Flats**

Meet at 7:00 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from store to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Short-eared Owl, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike, and Snow Bunting are very likely. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

Tuesday, December 18 **Deception Pass Area**

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from store to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Maybe seabirds, shorebirds, LBJs, etc. Pack a lunch.

Trip leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

Tuesday, December 25 **No scheduled trip**

Tuesday, January 1 **Happy New Year**

Saturday, January 12 **Carkeek Park, Seattle**

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Lynnwood Transit Center, which is in the vicinity of I-5 Exit 181; come to Bay D1, which is near the southwest corner of the parking lot. We'll carpool to Carkeek Park. For anyone who may wish to meet us at the park, we should arrive at the Eddie McAbee entrance around 8:30 AM; the parking lot is at 6th Ave. NW, just north of NW 100th Pl. in Seattle.

Trip Leader: Douglas Resnick, 425-776-4811
(cell: 206-617-0019), dresnick1@comcast.net.

Conservation Report

(Continued from Page 3)

Department of Interior agencies such as the National Park Service, BLM, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It also applies to the Forest Service, which is in the Department of Agriculture.

Failure to have funding for some federal agencies means "trickle-down-trouble" to state and lower government levels receiving federal funds.

The likelihood of a farm bill passing in 2018 is now remote. Some key members on the farm bill conference committee in both parties and in both the Senate and House were not reelected. That may mean stepping back in the negotiations process to produce a new conference farm bill. The current Senate version contains some very good conservation elements.

What to expect of the 2019-2021 Washington State Legislature, First Session

It was a smaller "wave" of more Democrats coming to our state Senate than to our state House. Recounts are underway with final results to be certified on December 7. As I write this column, there is a 28-21 Senate Democratic majority. There is a 57-41 House Democratic majority. The 2019 session begins on January 14. Soon after elections are certified, visit the Pilchuck Audubon Society website to see the 2019 directory of our area legislators with their email, phone, and USPS addresses in Olympia.

As to priorities, most reporters of the upcoming session say that while the state government is "flush" with money, there is never enough for all wishes and needs. The suggested priorities I have seen mentioned are focused mostly upon social and health issues. "Green issues" will not be ignored. Look for "orca matters" to dominate in way of hearings about policies and regulations, and some funding. Also focus upon funding for wildfire prevention/suppression, and approval of WA Fish and Wildlife Department proposed budget.

Lobby Day January 29

Washington Audubon members, together with other conservation groups, will be in Olympia for Lobby Day on January 29. Among the priorities will again be 100% fossil-free electric energy legislation. Look for details on this adventure in the January PROFILE. ✧

2018 Smart Growth Recap

Another year is almost over, so it is time to recap some of this year's work.

A great deal of time goes into answering questions and concerns on a variety of issues from PAS members and the general public. One of my responsibilities, especially with land use and environmental issues, is to follow-up with any emails and phone calls, and I do my best to assist people with their questions and concerns.



Early in the year, I met with each of the County Council members to discuss several issues of importance to the Smart Growth Program, some of which were before the council this year. Along with several involved citizens, we talked with council members about reopening the Tree Canopy Ordinance for new subdivisions in the urban growth areas, a rezone for Multi-Family Residential along Highway 99 and the inclusion of the Transfer of Development Rights Program in order to allow for more density in this rezone, which would also help protect more of our commercially designated farmland. We also discussed our strong opposition to Urban Growth Area land swaps as a means to expand urban growth areas in the southwest UGA, a policy that would have far-reaching negative impacts.

Along with these issues, a summary of some of what was accomplished follows below:

In regard to the **Tree Canopy Ordinance**, no County Council member championed any amendments that would have done more to save trees as new development occurs.

I attended the Snohomish County Executive's summit on Puget Sound Regional Council's upcoming **Vision 2050**—which is the regional plan for anticipated growth for the next 30 years. The Summit, of course, focused on the anticipated growth forecast for Snohomish County's next comprehensive plan update in 2023. There were about 12 tables full of people who worked on placing where population should go in the county. Most everyone agreed (except the Master Builders Association lobbyist) that urban growth boundaries should not expand, a majority of development or redevelopment should take place along the I-5 and Highway 99 corridors and other transit corridors, and we need to focus on building up, not out! (Smart Growth 101).

After a heavy lift in terms of activism and advocacy work, we did win big on stopping a county-wide policy change that would have allowed for **urban growth area (UGA) land swaps** in order for urban growth area expansions to occur in one area of the county while reducing urban growth area expansions in other areas of the county. Because this policy failed in a 4-1 vote (Council member Terry Ryan voting for because it was his district that was looking to expand the UGA), the UGA expansion in his district (4) and in Sam Low's district (5) failed.

In collaboration with Forterra, the Smart Growth program worked extensively on a Snohomish County rezone

along Highway 99 that would allow for higher densities for multi-family residential development that was combined with the county's Transfer of Development Rights program that would help save more commercially designated farmland. This rezone was 5 years in the making, with a lot of opposition from some of the County Council members. With a developer ready to go, it was frustrating that the council took so long to vote to allow for more density along our most urbanized area with transit already in place. Hopefully this rezone will generate more opportunities along Highway 99 for more high-density, transit-oriented development that will create more affordable housing, while at the same time allowing for farmers to sell their development rights and save their farmland and keep their working farms in production.

In collaboration with Futurewise, we advocated to the Snohomish County Council that they better protect water that is needed for our farmland, and not get diverted for new rural developments, as the county adopted new regulations in response to the **Washington State Supreme Court Hirst Decision**, but to no avail. We also teamed up to oppose allowing mega churches in our rural areas as part of the County's review of rural commercial zoning regulations, again to no avail. Futurewise will be considering an appeal.

PAS continues to wait on its appeal with the Court of Appeals on **Snohomish County's update to their Critical Area Regulations** regarding landslide regulations and water rights in rural areas.

I submitted a comment letter and testified to the Snohomish County Council opposing **Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles (WATVs) on rural roads** between Monroe and Sultan and part of Gold Bar up to Reiter Hill. The ordinance to allow them passed 5-0. Time will tell if allowing these off-road vehicles on the few east-west connections other than Highway 2 was a good idea; safety is a huge concern.

I have been assisting 350 Eastside, 350 Seattle, Protectors of the Salish Sea, Mothers Out Front, and the Snohomish County Group of Sierra Club in their opposition to the **North Seattle Lateral Gas Pipeline Upgrade** along 180th Street from Bothell-Everett Highway to east of Highway 9. We are advocating for a full Environmental Impact Statement on development permits required by Snohomish County to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions from the expanded pipeline will be assessed. ✧

BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

September 26, 2018 to October 25, 2018

Wishing everyone a very happy holiday season. It is turkey time again. I spotted over a dozen wild turkeys when I was in Hawaii last week. They were running through a botanical garden.

Carole and Larry Beason reported a total of 35 species this month. Their count included 20+ American Crow on the lawn, a Bald Eagle flying near the shore, a Belted Kingfisher over the lake, 200+ Canada Goose flying over a Snohomish field, 4 Common Raven overhead, 24+ Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, a Great Blue Heron flying over the house, 3 Hairy Woodpecker, 7 Hooded Merganser on the lake, a Hutton's Vireo eating rose petals, 24+ Mallard Duck on the lake, 7 Purple Finch, 17 Red-winged Blackbird, 3 Song Sparrow, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 4 Wood Duck on the lake, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Pied-billed Grebe, and an Osprey flying over the lake.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo listed a Cooper's Hawk,



5 California Quail, a Eurasian Collard-Dove, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, 5 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Steller's Jays 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 12 European Starling, a White-throated Sparrow, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 12 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 Purple Finch, and 8

House Finch, for a total species count of 19.

Reporting from Everett, Kriss Erickson listed 9 American Robin, 3 Bewick's Wren, 12 Steller's Jay, 15 Northwestern Crow, 13 Western Gull, 7 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 21 Black-capped Chickadee, 5 Northern Flicker, a Bald Eagle flying over, 6 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 American Goldfinch, a Downy Woodpecker, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 12 Mallard Duck flying overhead, 24 Canada Goose flying overhead, and 3 Red-winged Blackbird, for a total species count of 25.

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood lists 11 American Goldfinch, 20 American Robin, 8 Anna's Hummingbird, 12 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Brown Creeper, 11 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 10 Dark-eyed Junco, 5 Downy Woodpecker, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 2 Killdeer in the pasture, 7 Kinglet species, 18 Mourning Dove, 8 Northern Flicker, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 7 Song Sparrow in the trees, 9 Spotted Towhee, 14 Steller's Jay, 4 White-crowned Sparrow, and 4 Pacific Wren, for a total species count of 30.

My total species count of 19 from my home in Marysville included an Anna's Hummingbird, 5 American Crow, 5 Black-capped Chickadee, 4 American Robin, 10 Dark-eyed Junco, 6 Mourning Dove, 11 Northern Flicker, 10 Mallard Duck in the pond, 3 Spotted Towhee, 20+ Rock Dove on the wires, 4 Steller's Jay, a Pacific Wren, 20+ Canada Goose, 50+ European Starling in the field, a Pileated Woodpecker, and 4 Glaucous-winged Gull.

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. ✧

REPORT: Two Loops in Lynnwood 3 November 2018

by Douglas Resnick, Trip Leader

Terry, Suku, Jonathan, Judy, Lisa, and I met at the Edmonds Park and Ride. The temperatures that morning were mild for autumn, and a light rain fell intermittently. The locations on our agenda were Lynndale Park and the Lynnwood Municipal Golf Course Trail. We observed 25 species of birds, as recorded on eBird, whose organizers were so kind as to register both sites as hotspots. Suku preserved some of our observations photographically.

Our encounters with birds on this outing were mostly episodic. We would walk for a bit in the rain, chatting with one another and studying the landscape, when someone would spot the first of what would turn out to be a mixed flock of birds. In these encounters, we observed chickadees, nuthatches, kinglets, and creepers. In between, we studied the variety of mushrooms growing along the path, attempted to identify the different plants bearing red berries, and admired the red and yellow fall foliage.



Fox Sparrow

Lynndale Park has many trails, as recorded on the map produced by the Cascade Orienteering Club: <http://cascadeoc.org/map/lynndale-park/>. Our path was equivalent to a loop, composed of several trails that lay close to the outer edges of the undeveloped parts of the park. We found our first flock while walking along the park's northern border, among the trees next to Olympic View Drive. During a later encounter, a Golden-crowned Kinglet tangled with a moth mid-air; the kinglet departed, while the moth fell to the ground, apparently stunned, but not dead. A stand-out bird from later during the visit was a Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Around the golf course is a single trail. We entered the trail behind the courthouse on 68th Ave. W. The trail follows along the outside of the course's fence, except next to the clubhouse, a good place for us to find restrooms and snacks. We saw birds just outside the golf course at various points, including a Eurasian Collared-Dove near our starting point, a pair of Bewick's Wrens at a parallel point on the west side of the course, and a Fox Sparrow in between. Several ponds inside the course are visible from the trail. Although the ponds on the east were deserted, ponds on the west and the south provided us with views of many Mallards, several Hooded Mergansers, and one American Wigeon.



Hooded Mergansers

We finished our birding around 12:30 PM, then adjourned to Romeo's Restaurant and Pizzeria for lunch. ✧

UPCOMING EVENTS, CLASSES, and FESTIVALS *farther afield*

The December holiday season tends to be a quiet time for bird festivals and classes.

Weekly Refuge Bird Walk

Every Sunday

Ladner, BC

Did you know that the exceptional George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary just north of the US/Canada border offers a weekly guided bird walk? If you have never visited this special place, this walk would be a great introduction; meets at 10:00 a.m. in the gift shop. <http://www.reifelbirdsanctuary.com/birds1.html> **IMPORTANT BRIDGE CLOSURE NOTICE:** The Westham Island bridge is the scenic century-old bridge you cross when coming from Ladner to the Sanctuary. This bridge will be closed to all traffic for deck repairs in December on the following dates: December 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, and 21. It will be closed to all vehicle traffic all day on those dates. If planning a visit to the Sanctuary, you will need pick one of the days unaffected by the work.

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival

Jan 18-21

Morro Bay, CA

Every Martin Luther King weekend, more than 500 bird lovers visit Morro Bay, California, a Globally Important Bird Area, to see, photograph, and learn more about birds. Morro Bay is located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco on the Pacific Flyway. The area offers beaches, state parks, a natural history museum, panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and, best of all, thousands of birds. More than 200 species are usually sighted during the festival weekend. <http://morrobaybirdfestival.org/> or (805) 234-1170.

Project FeederWatch

November through April 5

Your Backyard

It's not too late to join Project FeederWatch nor to gift a family member or friend with a membership. Project FeederWatch is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada. Project FeederWatch is a winter-long (November-April) survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. Participants periodically count the birds they see at their feeders and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. **Your bird counts help you keep track of what is**



Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds Drinking Together | Photo: Jack and Paula Parsons

happening in your own backyard and help scientists track long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

<https://feederwatch.org>

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
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Pilchuck Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation registered with the Washington Secretary of State. Your contributions are tax deductible.



SAVE THE DATE

Olympic Birdfest, April 12-14, 2019

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction, raffle, gala banquet, and more. Featured speaker is John Marzluff, author and Professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Washington.

Join our festival pre-trip, a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 9-11, 2019, or extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 14-16, 2019: three days exploring northwest coastal Washington. To learn more and register, visit www.olympicbirdfest.org. ✧