

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM MEETING

Friday, November 9 • 7:00 p.m.

Everett Firefighters Hall • 2411 Hewitt Avenue • Everett

## PENGUINS and PELAGIC BIRDS in SOUTH AMERICA

with Rick Taylor

For the first part of the evening’s program, Rick Taylor will provide information about the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). During the last portion of the program, he will share new, never-seen-before photos on penguins and pelagic birds taken during a South American cruise last year.

The first section of the program will be on the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Rick will talk briefly about the CBC, including the history, the purpose, how it is done, and what has been learned about local birds over



*Rick Taylor Photo*

*Black-browed Albatross at Cape Horn*

the years. Rick has spent considerable time analyzing the data from the South County Count and will share some of that information. Pilchuck Audubon has CBCs in both north and south Snohomish County, so those attending this program will have an opportunity to become familiar with the count circle boundaries and how they as birders may be able to participate by being bird-feeder watchers for their yards

or as members of area teams, where needed.

For the second section of the program, Rick will share a very special birding trip that he and his wife took in 2017 to see Penguins and Sea Birds on a plush pelagic cruise on a really nice boat cruising from Valparaiso, Chile, to Buenos Aires, Argentina. He will share tales of the trip and photos of the birds they saw.

Rick Taylor, our presenter, is a PAS member and a well-known active birder. Many Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) members and other Washington birders know Rick as an excellent and skilled birder. He has been a key figure as the compiler in the PAS Edmonds/South County Christmas Bird Count for the past few years and will be doing that again this year. Rick also gave a very

popular program for PAS in 2017 on Spring Birding in Snohomish County. He has been a winner (along with his wife Tina) in more than one PAS Birdathon



*Rick Taylor Photo*

*King Penguin on the Falkland Islands*

for seeing the most species in the month of May. Rick has lived in Snohomish County for almost 20 years and birded the county, Washington state, the USA, and many places around the world. ✧

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# 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. ✧

## MARINE BIRDS OF WASHINGTON'S INLAND WATERS

### Taught by Jean Olson

Do you look out onto the water on a gray day and say, "What's that bird?" Join us for species overviews and field trips of the common marine birds of Washington.

We will be focusing on plumage, shape, and behavior to help you feel confident in your identifications when you look out over the water. The class will cover alcids, grebes, diving ducks, loons, cormorants, and phalaropes, with a few gulls and dabbling ducks thrown in.

**Class: Thursday, November 8, 2018; 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. (lots of room available)**

**Location: PUD Building, 2320 California Street, Everett**

**Field Trip (9 spots left):** Saturday and Sunday, November 10 and November 11, 2018. Instructor will lead field trip to Fort Flagler and Point No Point both days; participants will sign up for one of these days at the first class. Participants will meet at the Edmonds Ferry in time to board the 7:10 sailing to Kingston. (Check with Kristin Kelly for space availability if you wish to take the class AND field trip.)

If there are 12 or fewer in the class, the field trip will be on Saturday only.

**Cost:** \$50 for class and field trip, \$30 lecture only. In addition, please plan on bringing cash on the field trip to cover the cost of the ferry and carpool gas.

**To Register: Pay Online** at the Pilchuck Audubon Society website at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org). From the menu on the left side, select "Join/Donate/Volunteer", use the "Event" notation in Designation drop-down, then type Seabird Class in the second box.

### OR

**RSVP by Email** to Kristin Kelly, [execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org), and then pay by check made out to **Pilchuck Audubon Society**, 1429 Avenue D, #198, Snohomish, WA 98290. ✧

## 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](mailto:newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org) or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)

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## I-1631

By the time this edition of PROFILE is published, most of us will have mailed our ballots.

I see a cascade of advertising on TV for/against I-1631. Pilchuck Audubon Society's board supports. The *Everett Herald* endorses, with reservation. The *Seattle Times* opposes, with no reservation. Audubon Washington's State Board endorses. Some labor unions are opposed, others favor. There is some division among conservation groups. There is division among businesses, large and small, and also among farmers and agricultural groups.

On March 8, the last day of the 2018 legislative session, time ran out on final negotiations for a bill to achieve 100% fossil-free electricity. The bill had been close to passing with bipartisan support. It was decided by Audubon Washington, other conservation groups, businesses, social justice groups, and labor unions to continue working on draft legislation for the 2019 legislative session. There is no guarantee, but a bigger majority of Democrats with more like-minded Republicans may produce a bill next year for the governor's signature.

### Big 4 Ice Caves Trail Replacement

The Darrington Ranger District is completing design work for a new boardwalk trail over the Big 4 marsh. The Big 4 Ice Caves Recreation Area is the most popular destination on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, with 50,000+ visitors a year. Anyone who has been there on good-weather summer

weekends finds full parking lots and a crowded trail. It is the draw for Pilchuck's annual potluck visit in June.

The current rotting-wood structure will be replaced by a cast-aluminum boardwalk, with even better barrier-free access to the marsh, meadows, and forest edge.

It is costly but will be a structure with a much longer lifespan. The current and previous boardwalks each lasted about 24 years.

The Forest Service has applied for funds from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) amounting to about \$400,000. It matches a similar amount the Forest Service already has in hand. About \$28,000 of that will extend the eastern end of the bridge over the South Fork Stillaguamish River to the ice caves by replacing a wooden approach with a cast-aluminum extension. The river is eroding into that bank of the river. This is no surprise. The extension would have been part of the new river bridge built in 2009 if money had been available.

Pilchuck, Skagit, North Cascades, Seattle, and Olympic Peninsula Audubon societies have jointly signed a letter in support to the RCO. Deadline for that letter to the RCO is November 2. Individual birders and other conservation groups, plus tourism groups which tout the Big 4 Ice Caves as a destination, are separately sending letters in support. To read about the high-value bird watching at the Big 4 marsh, forest, and meadows, go to: [www.birdweb.org/BIRDWEB/site/big\\_four\\_ice\\_caves](http://www.birdweb.org/BIRDWEB/site/big_four_ice_caves). The article found there was written by Pam Pritzl, a member of Pilchuck and Skagit Audubon chapters. ✧

## Green Everett Day October 27

Pilchuck Audubon was a sponsor and had a table at the Green Everett Day event in Hannabrook Park organized by Forterra.

Forterra organizes this yearly event at a community park in Everett. They ask for volunteers from the community to come to the designated park to pull invasive vegetation and replace it by planting new



native plants and trees. This year they planted more than 700 trees!

Cindy brought small owl nesting box kits to the event and got lots of help building them from the event's youthful volunteers!

Pilchuck Audubon applauds this effort and is very pleased to work in partnership with Forterra in this program! ✧



Photos courtesy of Cindy Easterson and Judy Hall

# Action Needed NOW to Help Protect the Marbled Murrelet in Washington State! Be a voice for this endangered bird.

This is a critical time for the Marbled Murrelet, whose population has declined 44% in Washington state since 2001 primarily due to loss of old, coastal forests needed for nesting.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is asking for your input on a *revised* set of conservation alternatives for



Marbled Murrelet | Audubon

their Long-term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet. There are currently eight alternatives under consideration. Unfortunately, most do **not**

support murrelet recovery on state-managed lands and result in *smaller* populations after 50 years, even under the most optimistic conditions.

It's important that you act NOW and let these agencies know of your concern over the lack of long-term strategies that truly offer hope for this species recovery.

Submit a comment letter urging the DNR and USFWS to do more to protect this endangered seabird and the mature and old-growth forests where it nests. The deadline for comments is **Tuesday, November 6, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.** Your comments will be received by both DNR and USFWS.

Here are some talking points developed by the Murrelet Conservation Coalition for the rDEIS that may help you develop a compelling letter:

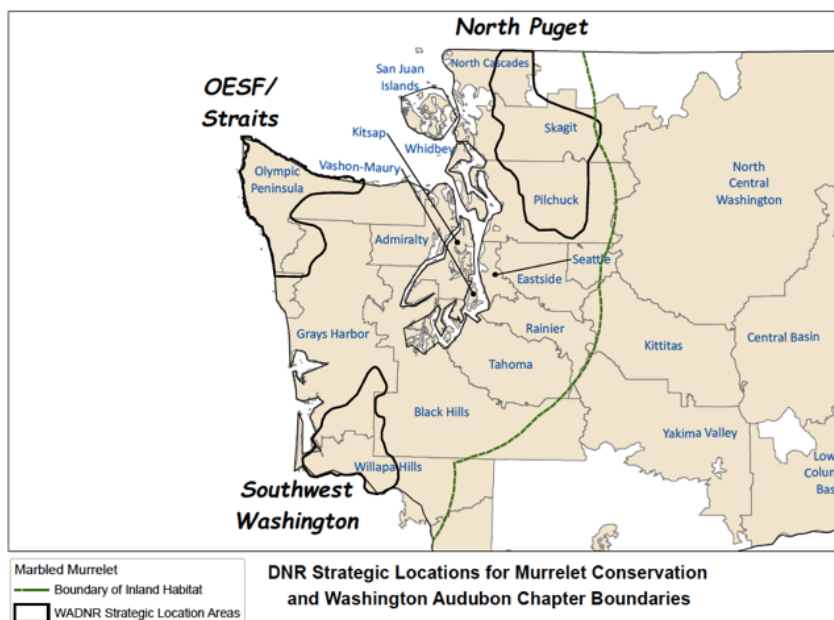
- DNR's preferred alternative (Alternative H) doesn't do enough to support murrelet recovery primarily because it permits the harvest of too much of our mature and old forests over the next 50 years and does not conserve enough habitat as mitigation.
- Applying the most recent data available, DNR must protect all occupied sites, increase existing interior forest habitat, and establish buffers that will protect vulnerable murrelet chicks from predators.

- No Long-term Conservation Strategy should include a net loss of habitat. In the North Puget region, Alternative H anticipates a net loss of more than 1,000 acres after 50 years. The LTCS should include a net increase in habitat for murrelets across our landscape.
- The LTCS should include more and larger murrelet-specific conservation areas to broaden the geographic distribution of murrelets in western Washington. Isolated conservation areas create and exacerbate murrelet population gaps that hinder the species' survival and recovery.
- The LTCS should lead to more murrelets across more of our landscape, not fewer murrelets in smaller forest patches. Broader geographic distribution helps reduce the risk that major human or natural disturbances (logging, roadbuilding, wildfire, increased nest predation) will wipe out significant portions of the murrelet population.

Please be a voice for this special little bird! Write **TODAY** to comment on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Habitat Conservation Plan Amendment for the Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy. A "Long-term Conservation Strategy" should not put future generations of the species at risk.

Submit your comments via the official comment portal: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MMLTCSRDEIS>

Or mail your written comments to: SEPA Center, PO Box 47015, Olympia, WA 98504-7015. ✧



## TRIP CALENDAR

Check our website at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)  
for the latest information



### **Saturday, November 3**      **Two Loops in Lynnwood**

Meet at 8:00 AM by the entrance to the Edmonds Park & Ride (21300 72nd Ave W); the nearest I-5 exit is 179. We'll visit Lynndale Park, then walk the Lynnwood Golf Course Trail. Trip Leader: Douglas Resnick, 425-776-4811 (cell: 206-617-0019), [dresnick1@comcast.net](mailto:dresnick1@comcast.net).

### **Tuesday, November 6**      **Samish Flats**

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. Want to see what a premier birding area offers in the fall? Come along. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

### **Tuesday, November 13**      **Point No Point**

Meet at 7:10 AM at the Edmonds Wade James Theater parking lot. The theater's address is 950 Main St., Edmonds 98020, just east of 9th Ave. on the south side of Main St. We'll take the ferry to Kingston and bird the voyage, the docks, Point No Point, and Foulweather Bluff. Always lots of surprises, both in the air and on the water. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

### **Tuesday, November 20**      **Smith and Spencer Islands**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Langus Riverfront Park, Everett. Go north on SR 529 (Broadway) over the Snohomish River turn right onto 28th Pl NE. Follow signs to Langus Waterfront Park. Continue past the Shell House and Everett Animal Shelter, making a left turn onto 4th St SE to a parking lot on the right side of the street. Trying for raptors and returning waterfowl. Walk the trails, view the Everett sewage ponds. Lots of walking. Pack a lunch. Trip leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

### **Tuesday, November 27**      **Birch Bay / Semiahmoo Drayton Harbor**

Meet at 7:00 AM 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. Should see migrating waterfowl and shorebirds (dowitchers, yellowlegs, Dunlin, Long-tailed and Harlequin ducks). Pack a lunch.

Trip leaders: Wilma Bayes, 360-629-2028;  
Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750



Long-billed Dowitcher |  
Audubon



Green Heron | Mick Thompson Photo

## 2018 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

### **Edmonds / South County CBC**

December 15, 2018

Compiler: Rick Taylor

[taylorrl@outlook.com](mailto:taylorrl@outlook.com)

425-214-2764

### **Everett / Marysville CBC**

December 29, 2018

Compiler: Scott Atkinson

[scottratkinson@hotmail.com](mailto:scottratkinson@hotmail.com)

425-210-2716

### **Tuesday, December 4**

### **Fir Island**

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart lot 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

### **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](mailto:dresnick1@comcast.net)

## Comprehensive Plan Update Information, Continued

Continued from my Smart Growth report from September and October, it's time to get into the nitty-gritty of how to be involved in the next Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan Update that will be completed in 2023. While this seems like a long time out, in terms of long-range planning for where growth and development should occur for the next 20 years, there are a lot of things the county must accomplish to meet the requirements of the state's Growth Management Act, the Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2050 (which is still in the process), and the Snohomish County-wide Planning Policies (which will also be amended during the comprehensive plan update).



So let me try to break it down for you in order for you to best understand the process and how best to be informed and involved.

Each year during the legislative session, there are always bills trying to amend the Growth Management Act (GMA), and usually a good share of those bills would undermine the intent of the GMA, which is to protect our natural resource lands, our environment, and our quality of life as more and more people choose to move to this region. Being involved at this level is always good, but a lot more work. Groups, such as Washington Environmental Council and Futurewise, work diligently at the state level on preventing bad bills from being passed into law. I urge you to join or follow both of these organizations.

As part of the Puget Sound Regional Council Vision 2050, the William D. Ruckelshaus Center has been hosting a series of public meetings to get feedback on growth issues. In case you cannot make one of the meetings, you can add your comments to their on-line survey (which is

anonymous) at [https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8oGL3XLRlksxe1T?utm\\_source=9.18+-+King+County+Road+Map+Workshops&utm\\_campaign=7532ed74dc-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_10\\_17\\_07\\_52&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_d668fdbb86-7532ed74dc-208358565&mc\\_cid=7532ed74dc&mc\\_eid=183092eace](https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8oGL3XLRlksxe1T?utm_source=9.18+-+King+County+Road+Map+Workshops&utm_campaign=7532ed74dc-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_10_17_07_52&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d668fdbb86-7532ed74dc-208358565&mc_cid=7532ed74dc&mc_eid=183092eace).

At the county level, the Long-Range Division of Planning and Development Services is already mapping out a public participation plan and timelines that need to be completed for the update. The county must wait for certain processes to occur at the state level. These include completion of the Vision 2050, growth targets given out by the state's Office of Financial Management, and the Buildable Lands requirements, which help determine what lands are vacant or redevelopable within our cities and urban growth areas, where growth and development should first occur before opening up new rural land for urban development.

As early as 2020, the county will start its SEPA scoping meetings for public feedback and will begin the major docket applications for land use and zoning changes (which includes private landowner requests). I remember well that,

*As early as 2020, the county will start its SEPA scoping meetings for public feedback and will begin the major docket applications for land use and zoning changes (which includes private landowner requests).*

during the 2005 Comprehensive Plan Update, there were more than 100 landowner requests to expand urban growth areas and change zoning. It was a huge nightmare, and the county council entertained them all. While the Smart Growth program fought the most egregious of them, some still were adopted. One of those included the multi-family residential zoning at Paradise Lake Road and Highway 522, which is now a very controversial issue. I highly recommend you keep tracking the docket applications and be involved as they work their way through the process.

In 2022, the Draft EIS will be released for public comment. The County Executive will be sending up to County Council his proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. Planning Commission hearings and County Council hearings and decisions will need to be made in 2023.

According to the Snohomish County Planning and Development Services manager, such issues as expanding the Southwest Urban Growth Area (SWUGA) all the way east to Highway 9 will be on that docket. Of course, the County must show its work that this huge UGA expansion is necessary and that it meets the GMA and Vision 2050 and its own county-wide planning policies. But I do know that the development community is pushing hard for this area to be expanded so they can build more single-family expensive homes for people working in Seattle. Remember, such development will increase our overly burdened county roadways, cost us more in taxes to remedy, and continue to ensure Snohomish County remains a bedroom community to King County. Other issues that will be part of the Comprehensive Plan Update will be Light Rail Communities and how we are going to protect our rural and resource lands.

In order to stay informed, start now by emailing the planners at Snohomish County, Snohomish County Tomorrow, and Puget Sound Regional Council, and ask to be Party of Record. I predict this next Comprehensive Plan Update will be quite controversial and contentious. ✧

## BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

August 26, 2018 to September 25, 2018

The numbers of Dark-eyed Junco and are increasing now and the Black-headed Grosbeaks are leaving.

Carole and Larry Beason reported a large number of American Goldfinch from their home at Lake Bosworth. It was probably a large flock stopping over on their way to warmer climates. They listed 18 American Goldfinch, 14 American Robin, a Bald Eagle flying over, 40+ Barn Swallow, 4 Black-headed Grosbeak, 12 Brewer's Blackbird, 8 Canada Goose on the lake, 6 Cedar Waxing, 2 Raven, 12+ Dark-eyed Junco, 4 Evening Grosbeak, 12+ Golden-crowned Kinglet in the trees, a Great Horned Owl, a Hutton's Vireo, 9 Mourning Dove, 2 Osprey diving on the lake, 7 Purple Finch, 2 Red-breasted Sapsucker, 50+ Red-winged Blackbird at the feeders and in the trees, 4 Spotted Towhee, a Turkey Vulture flying over, 17 Violet-green Swallow, Western Tanager, and 5 Wood Duck on the lake, for a total species count of 46.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo listed a Cooper's Hawk, 2 California Quail, 5 Band-tailed Pigeon, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, a Downy Woodpecker, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 3 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker with a juvenile, 3 Steller's Jay, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Bewick's Wren, 4 Black-headed Grosbeak, 2 Dark-eyed Junco, 8 House Finch, and 2 American Goldfinch, for a total species count of 20.

Reporting from Everett, Kriss Erickson listed 14 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Bewick's Wren, 12 Steller's Jay, 3 Song Sparrow, 12 Northwestern Crow, 9 Western Gull flying overhead, a Barred Owl, 23 Black-capped Chickadee, 9 Band-tailed Pigeon, 3 Spotted Towhee, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 4 Mourning Dove, 5 Anna's Hummingbird, 27 Bushtit, 2 American Goldfinch, 3 House Finch, and 2 Hairy Woodpecker, for a total species count of 21.

Mary Sinker's total species count of 42 from her home in Stanwood included 10 American Goldfinch, 7 Anna's Hummingbird, 24 Band-tailed Pigeon, 30 Black-capped Chickadee, 5 Black-headed Grosbeak, 2 Black-throated Gray Warbler, 7 Cedar Waxwing, 11 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 9 Dark-eyed Junco, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 4 Hairy Woodpecker, 11 House Finch, 17 Mourning Dove, a Northern Pygmy Owl, 2 Olive-sided Flycatcher, 2 Red-tailed Hawk, 3 Rufous Hummingbird, 15 Song Sparrow, 10 Spotted Towhee, 5 Tree Swallow, a Varied Thrush, 6 White-crowned Sparrow, 2 Wilson's Warbler, and 4 Yellow Warbler.

Reporting from my home in Marysville, I listed 6 American Robin, 5 American Crow, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, a Cooper's Hawk on the feeders, 5 Black-headed Grosbeak, 3 House Finch, 7 Mallard Duck at the pond, 2 Mourning Dove, 6 Northern Flicker, 7 Steller's Jay, 11 Tree Swallow on the wires, 3 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Townsend's Warbler around the pond, 2 Wilson's Warbler, and a Red-breasted Nuthatch, for a total species count of 21.

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

## REPORT: Bird Walk in Central Shoreline Parks, 6 October 2018

by Douglas Resnick, Trip Leader

Lisa, Suku, and I met at the Mountlake Terrace Transit Center. It was a cool, cloudy autumn morning, but we were spared any rain during our visits to Echo Lake Park, Ballinger Commons, and Twin Ponds Park in Shoreline. We observed 28 species of birds, as recorded on eBird, and Suku preserved some of our observations photographically.

Perhaps prompted by the onset of fall, Echo Lake Park presented us with more birds than I had seen there before when birding on my own. A number of Mallards greeted us beside the lake, including two that we thought must be hybrids. After encountering two more such birds on the lawn of a nearby church, we tentatively identified them as Muscovy Duck × Mallard hybrids. Also at the lake, we found



*Muscovy Duck × Mallard hybrids*

numerous Double-crested Cormorants, not in the water or on pilings as we might have expected, but perched up in the trees. In addition, a Belted Kingfisher alighted on a telephone wire, eyeing either us or the gentleman and dog who passed by; the bird itself was subsequently hounded out of our view by an Anna's Hummingbird.

We walked from the lake to the south end of Ballinger Commons along the Interurban Trail and along its connector to the Burke-Gilman Trail. Within the commons, we began by following a trail that wove through bushes and trees. We then crossed via the paved roadway to another trail, which skirted five small ponds. To finish, we walked along another piece of the Interurban Trail back to our cars. We saw and heard many of the usual woodland birds as well as a Red-tailed Hawk.

For the final portion of the outing, we drove to the Meridian Avenue trail entrance of Twin Ponds Park. The ponds here played host to numerous waterbirds, including Mallards, American Wigeons, Wood Ducks, a Red-breasted Merganser, and Green Herons. One of the Wood Ducks was nibbling at something round, colored yellow and red, that floated in the water. Although we were never convinced as to what that was, despite views from various points around the northern pond, we did find some large mushrooms of red and orange hues in the surrounding woods.

We finished our birding around noon, then adjourned to Shari's Cafe & Pies for lunch. ✧

Plan ahead for three well-known autumn events, and perhaps one you haven't heard of before...

**Alaska Bald Eagle Festival** **Nov 7-10** **Haines, AK**  
 The American Bald Eagle Foundation's Raptor Center and Natural History Museum in Haines, Alaska, puts on this event celebrating their famous gathering of eagles along the Chilkat River, just outside of town. <https://baldeagles.org/festival-schedule/>

**Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival** **Nov 7-11** **Harlingen, TX**  
 This is the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of a fun fest in a famous birding destination. The Rio Grande Valley in autumn is a mecca for birders from all over the USA. <https://www.rgvbf.org/>

**Festival of the Cranes** **Nov 14-17** **San Antonio, NM (not Texas)**  
 The Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, New Mexico, is well known as a gathering place for Sandhill Cranes. This is the Friends of the Bosque's big weekend; all about exactly that. <http://www.friendsofbosquedelapache.org/festival-of-the-cranes.aspx>

**Festival de las Aves TOH 2018** **Nov 23-25** **Merida, Yucatan, Mexico**  
 If visiting New Mexico isn't exotic enough for you, climb over Donald's wall and visit old Mexico! This festival honors the Turquoise-crested Mot-Mot, a bird not yet seen in Snohomish or Island counties. Admit it: merely saying 'Turquoise-crested Mot-Mot' is just plain fun! <https://www.festivalavesyucatan.com/>

**PAS 2018 Christmas Bird Count** **See Page 5 for Compiler Contact Information**  
 Edmonds / South County **December 15** Compiler: Rick Taylor  
 Everett / Marysville **December 29** Compiler: Rick Atkinson



**SAVE THE DATE**

Olympic Birdfest, April 12-14, 2019

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction, raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our 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](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org). ✧

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