



## A SEASON OF SUCCESS AND GRATITUDE

The past few weeks have been chock full of events, occasions and offerings that would not be possible without our volunteers, partners and sponsors. **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with our Feast on the Farm, Swift Night Out, Puget Sound Bird Fest and Yard Sale.

### **Thank you to the generous sponsors of our Feast on the Farm Event!**

**Mark and Judy Craven of Craven Farm**  
for this beautiful venue

#### **Tasting Sponsor**

Snohomish Conservation District

#### **Chef's Choice Sponsors**

County Executive Dave Somers,  
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(honoring Aargards), Nancy Dawson, Snohomish City  
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#### **Individual Hosts**

Steve Aslanian, Tom Campbell,  
Jennifer Smolen, Michelle Gundersen,  
Randy Whalen, Ed Petersen, Kay McDonald

#### **Chefs**

Dana Daniel (HopeWorks)  
Roger Edyt (Roger's Riverview Bistro)  
Anne Dottai (Grilla Bites)

## NO OCTOBER PROGRAM MEETING

Due to a schedule conflict, we will not be able to host a program meeting in October. We hope to see you at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 9, for our November program meeting.



Lazuli Bunting | Mick Thompson photo

## ACOW

Consider joining us at [Audubon Council of Washington \(ACOW\)](#), organized by the fine folks at Audubon Washington. This is a great resource for anyone interested in a leadership role or looking for more engagement with Audubon's programs and projects. There are two options for how to participate—feel free to choose either or both options:

- ⇒ Join us at 6:00 PM on Friday, October 12, for dinner and a presentation on crow behavior and communication featuring UW Bothell's [Dr. Douglas Wacker](#). The \$10 registration fee includes dinner. Register [HERE](#).
- ⇒ Saturday, October 13 (9:00 AM to 4:30 PM), will be a day of inspiring speakers, informed discussion, shared best practices, and celebrating birds and people. *Hosted by Audubon Chapters in King County: Eastside Audubon Society, Rainier Audubon Society, Seattle Audubon Society, and Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society.* The \$35 registration fee includes lunch. Register [HERE](#).

ACOW events will be held right here in Snohomish County at the Brightwater Community Center, 22505 State Route 9 SE, Woodinville, WA 98072. ✧

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# BIRDING CLASSES

## OWLS AND RAPTORS

Taught by Candy Brown

Class participants will learn more about the most common owls, hawks, and eagles that live here at different times of the year—or all year long. We will also discuss the habitats in which to find them.

**Tuesday, October 16, Edmonds at Frances Anderson Center**

6:30-8:00 p.m.

\$17 for residents, \$19 for non-residents

To register, call 425-771-0230 ✧



Great Gray Owl |  
Rex Guichard

## 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.**

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

**Field Trip: 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.

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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## Update on WA DNR's Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy

Washington's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) released a [Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(RDEIS\)](#) on eight alternatives for the Long-Term Conservation Strategy of the Marbled Murrelet. This replaces DNR's 2016 Draft EIS.

The Marbled Murrelet Coalition will be analyzing this 400-page [RDEIS](#) and providing talking points to use and share during the public comment period, which opened on September 7 and ends at the close of business on November 6.



Further information will be posted soon on Pilchuck Audubon's website under "Advocacy." Read more at <https://tinyurl.com/y922fjry>.

Public comments can be submitted by e-mail but the DNR is encouraging the public to use their new [public commenting portal](#).

Comments can also be submitted:

- SEPA Center: <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/long-term-conservation-strategy-marbled-murrelet>
- By US Postal Service mail: SEPA Center, PO Box 47015, Olympia, WA 98504-7015

Four public meetings to learn more about the RDEIS will be held in western Washington. Two are close to most Pilchuck Audubon members and friends:

**October 15, 2018 (5-7pm); Ballard Library Meeting Room in Seattle; 5614 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW, Seattle 98107**

**October 17, 2018 (6:30-8:30pm); Burlington Public Library Community Meeting Room; 820 East Washington Avenue; Burlington 98233**

You can stay up to date using the [Murrelet Survival Project Facebook page](#), if you have Facebook access. ✧



## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21 ANNUAL MUSHROOM HIKE WITH GREG HOVANDER

*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.*

Meet at the Sultan Park and Ride at 9 AM. We will hike through mature forest on the Necklace Valley trail off SR 2, about an hour's drive from Sultan. 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.

For more information on the trail (note that we will not go farther than the 5 mile E. Fk. Foss River crossing, if that far), see the Washington Trails Association hike description: <https://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/necklace-valley>.

Trip leader: Kathy Johnson, 425-244-3281 or [forest@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:forest@pilchuckaudubon.org). ✧

## Autumn Bird Seed Sale Cancelled

For several years Pilchuck Audubon has helped our members keep their feeders full of high-quality seed for our birds. Unfortunately, due to the high cost of delivery and rising prices, we are not able to offer seed this fall at a competitive cost to our members. We encourage you to take this opportunity to



support your local bird store where you will find fresh, quality product and helpful service.

We will keep our membership informed about a Spring Bird Seed Sale so that you can keep your feeders full and our feathered friends happy. ✧

## REPORT: Bird Walk in Western Shoreline Parks, 9 September 2018

by Douglas Resnick, Trip Leader

Terry, Linda, Gene, Joanne, and I met at Mountlake Terrace Transit Center. This was a morning of late summer, with temperatures in the 60s. Although there had been some drizzle on the way to the meeting place, the weather for the remainder of the morning was overcast, with no rain. We carpooled to four parks in western Shoreline, observing a total of 28 species, as recorded on eBird.

Our first stop was Kayu Kayu Ac Park, a small park next to Puget Sound. It was a fairly quiet morning here, with a few gulls and terns, and no other humans. The view of the water and the occasional sound of a train stayed with us through the next couple of sites we visited.

Our second stop was Richmond Beach Saltwater Park. Although this is a much larger park, we walked a selected part of it, from the lowest parking lot onto the walkway that bridges the train tracks, then through the dunes, in order finally to reach the beach. The gulls were more numerous here, and they were joined by a flock of crows. On the walk to the beach, we also saw some woodland birds, and we heard one Belted Kingfisher.

The third stop was a bit different, the least-developed site and the one most off the beaten track. Innis Arden Reserve Park contains a single trail, running from the dead end of 15th Ave. NW to a point near the south end of the park. Following the trail, we quickly reached a broad clearing at the top of a cliff next to Puget Sound, from which we spotted two Common Mergansers. We nimbly followed the rougher portion of the trail that continued onward and downward, observing a number of woodland birds in the surrounding trees and bushes. The most arresting find was made on the return journey: a Hermit Thrush posed for us on a bare branch, obligingly showing us its back and its reddish tail before flying off.

After waving farewell to Gene and Joanne, the party continued to our fourth and last site, Shoreview Park. The park's map shows a loop trail to Hidden Lake, but my previous forays proved the trail to have become impassable on its northern side; so, we simply walked to and from the lake. The way begins among trees and passes through a scrubby area before reaching the lake. At the water, we saw Mallards and Canada Goose, as might be expected, but were startled by the swoop of an Osprey above us. The warming day seemed to bring out the woodland birds during our walk back up the trail, so that we observed numerous Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Dark-eyed Juncos, as well as one Orange-crowned Warbler.

We finished our birding a bit past noon. ✧

## Volunteers Needed for a Renewed Monitoring Effort at the Edmonds Marsh

After a bit of a “start-stutter-stop” effort, Pilchuck Audubon is restarting monitoring at the Edmonds Marsh under biologist/consultant Scott Markowitz. If you helped with the initial effort or would like to support this new effort, we’d love to have your help.

The Avian Habitat Use at Edmonds Marsh Project is a twice-monthly survey that will document the interaction between avian visitors and the marsh’s habitat. Surveys are planned for the next ten years and will add understanding for how this habitat is used by both resident and migrating species. Our systematic documentation of this information provides us with the science needed to help inform land-use recommendations that support birds.

### ***A project like this needs a lot of volunteer help!***

We are looking for volunteers with great observation skills, an attention to detail, a love for the marsh-like habitats, and the willingness to volunteer three or four hours at a time. Volunteers on this project can choose to volunteer as often as every month, and as infrequently as once a year.

If you are interested in being a part of this survey, please contact [scott\\_markowitz@yahoo.com](mailto:scott_markowitz@yahoo.com) to get plugged in for upcoming training and schedules. We will be organizing training sessions to be held near the end of October and/or early November. Surveys will begin with the New Moon in December 2018.

This monitoring project was made possible by a generous financial gift from Laurie Sorensen and Carroll Bryan. We offer our sincere appreciation for their gift and for the support of our volunteer surveyors for making this effort possible. ✧



Swift Night Out 2018

*Enlarge to 200% to see the Swifts entering the chimney.*

## TRIP CALENDAR

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



### Tuesday, October 2

#### Silvana Roads

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 (next to I-5). Past years, we had Northern Shrikes, a Pectoral and a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and three falcon species. If time allows, we may visit the Port Susan Nature Conservancy site. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

### Saturday, October 6

#### Central Shoreline Parks

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 Echo Lake Park, Ballinger Commons, and Twin Ponds Park.

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

### Tuesday, October 9

#### Snohomish Area

Meet at 8:00 AM at Snohomish Park & Ride, located at the junction of Highway 9 and Bickford Ave. Enjoyable and relaxed trip. We usually have high species counts and surprises. Pack a lunch. Trip leader: Art Wait, 360-563-0181

### Tuesday, October 16

#### Clear Lake and Johnson-Debay Slough

Meet at 7:00 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. Swans, eagles, hawks, and falcons. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

### Tuesday, October 23

#### South Whidbey Island

Meet at 7:00 AM at the Eastmont Park & Ride, I-5 Exit 189, east side, aiming for the 8:00 AM ferry from Mukilteo. Crockett Lake always yields a large and varied species list, and the rest of South Whidbey is great birding. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Wilma Bayes, 360-629-2028

### Tuesday, October 30

#### Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary British Columbia

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. 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

### 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

## Conservation Report

by Allen Gibbs

It is political campaign season with its own clamor for our attention! "Sightings" of candidates familiar and unfamiliar to us are on the upswing. There are few guidebooks to help us identify the true nature of all candidates. Their habitat destinations vary—city halls, courthouses, Olympia or Washington, D.C., and also fire districts, library districts, school districts, public utility commissions, etc. Many thanks to all who are offering themselves for public service!

The U.S. House was in recess almost all of August. It will have no votes on anything in October, providing all incumbent members time off to run their campaigns. The U.S. Senate did not recess in August and has not been quiet. One-third of the Senate will be on the campaign trail very soon. Washington's 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District is the only open seat in our delegation. Incumbents in all other seats are running for reelection.

Washington Auduboners flooded the "Beltway" this summer with pleas to defend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Act, and to prevent destruction of the Endangered Species Act!

To quote from Sarah Greenberger, senior vice president of conservation policy for the National Audubon Society, "The ESA is our nation's most powerful tool for protecting wildlife.... (T)he law currently protects about 100 U.S. bird species, including the Whooping Crane, Piping Plover, and Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The law prohibits harm to listed species, designates 'critical habitat,' and requires a recovery plan with population goals and specific management activities."

Greenfield acknowledges there are good reasons to simplify ESA practices, but to do so "...in a manner that would achieve better and faster conservation outcomes." Some seemingly "tasty bites" proposed by enemies of ESA conceal poison pills with dire consequences for species recovery.

The Washington State Legislature has not been in session since last March. All House seats and about half the Senate seats are up for election. Take advantage of opportunities to meet your candidates and ask about their positions on carbon pollution reduction, better funding of WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife programs, and funding of Puget Sound clean-up for betterment of orca, fish, bird, and other critter habitat.

Audubon, by law (IRS status), cannot be organizationally active in partisan campaigns. Its members can be as active as they choose with their voices, feet, hands, and money.

Consider doing what is comfortable for you on behalf of birds and the planet. ✧

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 ✧

## Comprehensive Plan Update Information, Continued

Last month, I shared some important information about the goals of the Growth Management Act, with which all county and city Land Use Comprehensive Plan Policies must comply. County and city policies also guide the development regulations, which are supposed to be adopted and comply with the Comprehensive Plan and the GMA. In addition, Snohomish County policies must also comply with the County-wide Planning Policies (CPP) and the Puget Sound Regional Council’s (PSRC) Vision 2040 (and soon-to-be Vision 2050), as well as the GMA.



PSRC develops policies and coordinates decisions about regional growth, transportation, and economic development planning within King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties. PSRC is composed of more than 80 jurisdictions, including all four counties, cities and towns, ports, state and local transportation agencies, and tribal governments within the region. PSRC also develops a regional guide for managing growth over the coming decades. Currently, the plan is called Vision 2040 and calls for focusing new housing, jobs, and development in regional growth centers. The strategy also aims to keep rural areas, farmland, and forests healthy and thriving. A key role of PSRC is to help communities secure federal funding for transportation. It also selects projects to receive more than \$240 million in transportation funding each year through the Regional Transportation Plan, a blueprint for improving mobility, providing transportation choices, moving the region’s freight, and supporting the region’s economy and environment. PSRC also has an Economic Development strategy, which identifies drivers of the region’s economy and the near-term actions that will sustain job growth and global competitiveness. PSRC is a leading source of data and forecasting that is essential for regional and local planning.

Vision 2040 and the work on Vision 2050 can be found on PSRC’s website at <https://www.psrc.org/vision>.

Vision 2050 will continue and probably strengthen the policies to keep urban sprawl from eating up our rural and resource lands. It is projected that another million people will be moving into this four-county region in the next 20 years, and with many of those folks coming into Snohomish County. Therefore, as the comprehensive plan process for 2023 continues, the County Council is under obligation to adopt policy and development regulation changes that comply with both the GMA and Vision 2050.

Also, the county must comply with the CPPs. In Snohomish County, while the CPPs and any changes are ultimately adopted by the County Council, there is a long process before it gets to that point, which belongs to Snohomish County Tomorrow (SCT). SCT is a cooperative and collaborative public inter-jurisdictional forum consisting of representatives from the county and nineteen of the cities as well as the Tulalip Tribes. SCT’s goal for Snohomish County, the cities and tribes in Snohomish County is to partner and work together for the

betterment of all citizens in Snohomish County and the region. SCT’s primary function is to oversee the [Countywide Planning Policies](#) (CPP), which are written policies used solely for the purpose of establishing a countywide framework from which the comprehensive plans of the county and cities are developed. SCT consists of a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), a Planning Directors Committee (SCT), and the Executive Committee. Comprehensive plans of the cities and county must comply with these policies.

Only cities and the county can appeal to the Growth Management Hearings Board the CPPs. But anyone that is party of record can appeal comprehensive plan policies and regulations to the GMHB, and they can do so if they have a strong argument why the comprehensive plan is not compliant with the GMA, Vision 2050, and/or the CPPs. To learn more about SCT, visit <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/168/Snohomish-County-Tomorrow>.

More comprehensive plan information will follow in the November and December issues. ✧

*Feast on the Farm 2018*



*Docent volunteers at Swift Night Out*

## BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

July 26, 2018 to August 25, 2018

Now that we are into autumn the bird species we spot will be changing. The Black-headed Grosbeaks will be heading to their wintering grounds. The Swallow and Hummingbird counts will be changing also.

Reporting from Lake Bosworth, Carole and Larry Beason had a total species count of 39. Their count included 12 American Goldfinch, 13 American Robin, 42 + Barn Swallow over the lake, 2 Belted Kingfisher, 14 Canada Goose on the lake, a Common Raven, 6 Downy Woodpecker, a Muscovy Duck, 2 Osprey over the lake, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 9 Purple Finch, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Red-breasted Sapsucker, 30+ Red-winged Blackbird, 4 Rufous Hummingbird, 9 Spotted Towhee, 5 Turkey Vulture over Machias Road, 22 Violet Green Swallow, and 9 Black-Headed Grosbeak.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo included a Cooper's Hawk, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, a Rufous Hummingbird, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 5 Northern Flicker, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Steller's Jay, a Common Raven, 5 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Western Tanager, 5 Black-headed Grosbeak, 2 juvenile White-crowned Sparrow, 3 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Purple Finch, 5 House Finch, 3 Pine Siskin, and 6 American Goldfinch, for a total species count of 27.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett listed 4 Dark-eyed Junco, 8 American Robin, 2 Bewick's Wren, 3 Song Sparrow, 11 Northwestern Crow, 8 Western Gull flying overhead, 7 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 21 Black-capped Chickadee, 4 Northern Flicker, a Downy Woodpecker, 3 Mourning Dove, 5 Anna's Hummingbird, 32 Bushtit, 2 American Goldfinch, 24 European Starling, and 2 Hairy Woodpecker, for a total species count of 21.

Reporting from Stanwood, Mary Sinker had a total species count of 37. Her count included 35 American Goldfinch, 15 American Robin with lots of fledglings, 9 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Bald Eagle, 6 Bewick's Wren, 30 Black-capped Chickadee, 20 Black-headed Grosbeak, a Black-throated Gray Warbler, 2 Brown Creeper in a tree, 10 Downy Woodpecker, 7 Hairy Woodpecker, 11 House Finch, 12 Mourning Dove, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, 4 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 9 Red-winged Blackbird, 11 Song Sparrow, 15 Steller's Jay, 13 Tree Swallow, 8 White-crowned Sparrow, and a Willow Flycatcher.

I listed only 19 species from my home in Marysville. My report included 6 American Crow, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 6 Black-headed Grosbeak, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 3 House Finch, a Pileated Woodpecker, 7 Spotted Towhee including several fledglings, 5 Steller's Jay, 6 Northern Flicker with several fledglings flying around trying to land on the suet feeders, 1 Anna's Hummingbird, a Cooper's Hawk, a Red-tailed Hawk, 5 Mourning Dove, 2 Dark-eyed Junco, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 10 Barn Swallow on the wires, and 4 Violet Green Swallow.

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. ✧

## 2018 eBird Taxonomy Update

By Team eBird | Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology  
August 17, 2018

The eBird taxonomy update is **COMPLETE**. We do this update once each year, taking into account the past 12 months worth of recent taxonomic knowledge on splits, lumps, name changes, and changes in the sequence of the species lists. As of this point, all core eBird data will be reflecting the new taxonomy. This includes your My eBird lists, range maps, bar charts, region and hotspot lists, and data entry. Your eBird Mobile should have had an "Updating taxonomy..." message that will have loaded the new version. We do have a small number of minor changes yet to make, which may affect the lists for some users as we implement these over the next few days. If you see unfamiliar bird names in the list, please refer to the story below to understand the change and why it happened.

If you only have time to take two things away from the taxonomy update, here they are:

- 1) We automatically update your records for you *when possible*, using known range, your checklist comments, and other information to assign records to a species. However, **please review your lists** (made simple by the "my records" links below). With the publication of this story, most species should be changed, aside from species that have a "changes still underway" note. If you need to correct anything, it's super easy using "[Change Species](#)."
- 2) **If you use eBird Mobile** on iPhone or Android, please check the [App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#) to make sure you have the latest version of the app. Also, after you've updated to the new taxonomy (you should see an "Updating Taxonomy..." notification appear when you start the app up) make sure to submit a list from a new location near you (i.e., not one of your stored "recent locations"). This will ensure that the [local checklist filter](#) is updated to the newest version. For example, this step will make sure that all your post-update submissions have the correct new entries such as Velvet Scoter or White-winged Scoter instead of the pre-update White-winged/Velvet Scoter.

Changes are still underway mostly in these species: Mallards in Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico, as well as parts of Mexico; Morelet's and Cinnamon-rumped Seedeaters in some areas of Mexico; Variegated and Purple-backed Fairywrens in eastern Australia.

[Read the complete article.](#) ✧



Noah Stryker book table at Feast on the Farm

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

**BirdFest & Bluegrass** **Oct 5-7** **Ridgefield, WA**

From bird walks and bird language workshops to kayaking, Big Canoe river trips, Sandhill Crane tours and a variety of hikes (including: photo, geology, ethnobotany, and an evening hike), there is plenty to do and see at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Alix Danielsen, Birdfest & Bluegrass Coordinator, [alix@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:alix@ridgefieldfriends.org), 360-887-9495.

**Ding Darling Days** **Oct 12-14** **Sanibel & Captiva Islands, FL**

The friends of Ding Darling Refuge put on this celebration of one of the premier national wildlife refuges in the country. There is nothing like the Gulf Coast of Florida to help with your denial that winter is on the way. <https://www.dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/ding-darling-days>

**CraneFest** **Oct 13-14** **Bellevue, MI**

Michigan Audubon's festival celebrating Sandhill Cranes has a large art festival element as well. Please note that this particular Bellevue is considerably farther east than the one in Washington. <https://www.michiganaudubon.org/news-events/signature-events/cranefest/>

**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/> ✨

**ZALESKY CLASSROOM CONSERVATION GRANTS—APPLY NOW!**

PAS is starting its 13<sup>th</sup> year of supporting conservation projects in Snohomish County elementary school classrooms with the Zalesky Classroom Conservation Grants.

If you are an elementary school teacher in Snohomish County, please apply! If you know an elementary school teacher in Snohomish County, encourage her or him to apply!

PAS will be awarding multiple grants of \$400 for conservation and science-related learning activities and/or materials that enhance and enrich a classroom program.

For an application and more information about the grants, please go to the PAS website, [pilchuckaudubon.org](http://pilchuckaudubon.org) (find us under "Programs"). Applications must be received by November 1, 2018. ✨

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