

Malheur NWR with Dan Streiffert

Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 14, for a photographic tour of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge with Dan Streiffert. Dan is a retired software engineer who



worked in the economic operation of power systems. He now spends as much time as possible photographing wildlife. Currently, he is the Conservation

Chair of Rainier Audubon Society and the editor of the Heron Herald newsletter.

The first time he went to Malheur was in April 2007 for the John Scarff Bird Festival (<http://www.migratorybirdfestival.com/>). He has been going back every year since. He says, "In my opinion, this is the best birding/photography location in the Pacific Northwest. The birds are plentiful and the people are not."

Three migration routes converge in this area, making it one of the most important feeding and resting locations on the Pacific Flyway. Thousands of Northern Pintail, Snow Goose and Ross's Goose, American Widgeon, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, and Canvasback rest and refuel here on their long migrations. Hundreds of Sandhill Crane and Trumpeter Swan add to this spectacle, which is in full swing from mid-March to mid-April.

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June Program Meeting
Friday, June 14, 2019
 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
 Everett Firefighters' Hall
 2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett ([map](#))

All Pilchuck Audubon programs are free and open to all Pilchuck members and to community members of all ages who have an interest in birds and environ-



mental issues affecting birds. Program meetings are the second Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (no meetings are held in August and December). Most meetings are at the Firefighter Hall in Everett, located at 2411 Hewitt Avenue, which is three blocks east of the hockey arena downtown. Parking is available in a lot adjacent to the building as well as on-street parking.

MEMBERSHIP: PAS or NAS?

by Jim Beneteau, Membership Chair

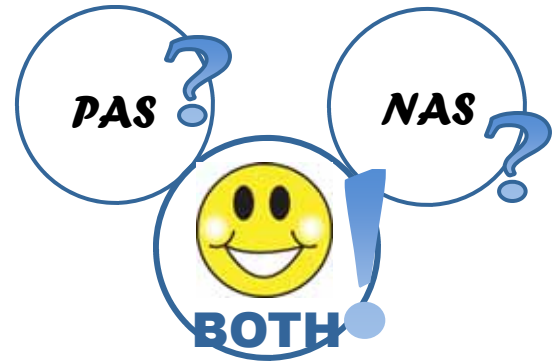
Seems as though lots of folk are unclear about the difference between membership in National Audubon and in Pilchuck Audubon. Here's a short explanation.

Membership in NAS means you receive the *Audubon* magazine, and you are automatically assigned to your local chapter (PAS) if you reside in Snohomish County or Camano Island. For convenience, we call these members "Associate Members."

Membership in PAS—that is, joining us directly by paying the \$28 annual dues—means that you get a really, really, nice membership card with the welcome or renewal letter you get from us. Well, it's paper, really, and you have to cut it out. Oh, you have to print it, too, if you get the letter through email. But, it really is a nifty card, isn't it? However, PAS membership doesn't automatically make you a NAS member.

The other big difference is that your PAS dues remain here in our local area to fund our local projects. These include:

- Sponsoring the Smart Growth program, Edmonds Bird Fest, Stanwood Snow Goose Festival, Monroe Swifts Night Out, Everett Children's Museum Bird



Fest, and tabling events at various festivals and activities in the area.

- Participation in conservation initiatives and political action activities on behalf of conserving our forests and wildlife.

Your dues/contributions to NAS, aside from the magazine, are used for national goals and activities. National does share a small percentage of the contributions they receive with the local chapters, but this amounts to only two to three percent of our budget.

So, here's an idea: join at both the National and Pilchuck level. That way you not only support bird issues throughout the country and locally, you get both the *Audubon* magazine and, don't forget, that really nifty PAS membership card, with your name on it!!! 🐦

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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Vice President	Terry Nightingale ..	vice-president@pilchuckaudubon.org
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Development	Open	develop@pilchuckaudubon.org
Members at Large	Laurel Cheap ...	classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
	Kathy Johnson.....	forest@pilchuckaudubon.org
	Jay Ward	425.418.3226
	David Gladstone	

Consultant

Committee Chairs

Bird Sightings	Mara Price	360.722.5752
Citizen Science Coord.	Sherrill Miller	field.birds.pas@gmail.com
Communications	Open	
Conservation Awards	Laurel Cheap ...	classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
Donations	Open	donations@pilchuckaudubon.org
Education	Jim Beneteau	membership@pilchuckaudubon.org
Field Trips	Art Wait	360.563.0181
Forest Practices	Kathy Johnson.....	forest@pilchuckaudubon.org
Hospitality	Open	
Newsletter Editor	Carolyn Lacy.....	newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org
Programs	Susie Schaefer.....	garden@pilchuckaudubon.org
Volunteer Coordinator	Jed Holmes.....	habitat@pilchuckaudubon.org
Webmaster	Terry Nightingale	webmaster@pilchuckaudubon.org

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Executive Director/Development Director	Open
Smart Growth Director	Open

Everett Children's Museum Bird Fest

Once again, Pilchuck Audubon teamed with the Everett Imagine Children's Museum to produce Birdfest on April 27, 2019. This event gives kids a chance to participate in activities specifically related to birds. As with all the activities at ICM, the intent is to provide a little learning in an atmosphere of fun.

The specific activities ICM produced with and for PAS are:

- A migration game, in which participants must toss a die to move through the migratory trail (or not—some don't make it)
- A ring-toss flyway challenge, attempting to move south to north (or reverse) in one of the four main flyways.



ICM offers several "make and take" activities as well. For this event, kids could make hummingbird perches, little bird baths, window decorations, nest material hangings, and treat hangers (fruits on a string, mainly). One clever activity used a smartphone camera as a microscope to examine feathers.



- A "fill the bill" game where one tries the most appropriate bill shape for specific feeding (from flying insects to scooping fish from the water).
- And the very popular Bird Hunt, where participants try to find the eight life-sized cutouts of birds placed around the room. They even get to use binoculars! (And never mind the skill level, they love those things!)



The sunny weather may have reduced the numbers a bit from last year, but 441 people attended the bird fest room between 10:00 and 4:00! Kept everyone fairly busy most of the time. It's always delightful to see little faces light up when they find a bird, accomplish a goal, or get an answer right!



Many thanks to both the PAS volunteers who helped staff the activities and the several ICM staff and volunteers who not only ran most of the Make and Take tables but also did the set-up and take-down. 🐦

May has been a busy month for Pilchuck's board. We were asked to participate with many other organizations in writing two letters concerning mining in state waterways and the adverse impacts of that mining upon water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.

Motorized Mining

Washington is the only Far West state that still allows suction dredge mining and other forms of motorized mineral prospecting in waterways that contain Endangered Species Act-listed Pacific salmon and steelhead, without suitable permits and regulatory oversight by state agencies! The activity is unchecked in critical habitat for Chinook salmon. Suction dredge miners enjoy "open season"; with few exceptions, there are no fees, no permits required, no monitoring or accountability.

Federal courts recently ruled that states allowing discharges from this motorized mining must comply with the federal Clean Water Act. California, Oregon, and Idaho have enacted compliance programs. **Washington has not!** But there is hope.

Our departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife (DFW) say they already have authority to require discharge permits and to prohibit suction dredge mining in critical habitat. State legislators and others think new laws and regulations are needed. That is why Senate Bill 5322 was introduced this recent session. The bill requires all suction dredge miners to obtain a discharge permit from Ecology and prohibits suction dredge mining in critical Chinook habitat and other habitats necessary for other spawning salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Audubon supports the bill. Time ran out getting the bill through the legislature and to the governor's desk. The votes, I am told, were there and the governor would have signed. The effort will continue next session, early enough to pass quickly the needed regulation and oversight. That is good news!

Meanwhile, the WDFW has for some years been working to revise the process by which Hydraulic Project Approvals (HPAs) are handled. WDFW staff was to present

proposed rules on May 10 to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. However, topic was removed from the WDFW agenda.

The Pilchuck Audubon Society Board joined 60 local businesses, land trusts, conservation, recreation, and wildlife organizations in signing a May 9 letter asking the commission to direct its DFW staff to "re-do" the proposal.

Skagit River Mining

Being vigilant about water quality issues involving our own agencies is important. This winter, we and friends turned our attention north to water quality issues in the Skagit River's uppermost watershed in British Columbia that will have adverse consequences for us downstream. Along with 52 Washington state organizations and elected officials, we signed a letter on May 15, 2019, to the British Columbia

Ministry of Energy Mines & Petroleum Resources in Victoria, BC.

A Vancouver, BC-based mining company, Imperial Metals, proposes to mine its holdings in the uppermost part of the Skagit River watershed in British Columbia. The expanse of the proposed Giant Copper Mine is located within a "donut hole" of Crown lands encircled by the Skagit Valley and Manning Provincial Parks located SE of Hope, BC. This is north of the North Cascades National Park Complex in the USA.

A mine with its tailings dam from mine wastes could fail and, along with vast clear-cutting of forests and building a road system, would inevitably contaminate downstream water quality to the Skagit's estuary in Puget Sound.

At issue is the 1984 High Ross Dam Treaty between the City of Seattle and British Columbia. The treaty agreed, among other things, to the following: 1) to conserve and protect wilderness and wildlife habitat in upper Skagit watershed in BC; 2) to enhance recreation

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TRIP CALENDAR

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



Saturday, June 1 Northern Bothell Parks

Meet at 8:00 AM at the north end of the Canyon Park Park & Ride (22400 17th Ave SE., Bothell); the nearest I-405 exit is 26. First, we'll walk to the Canyon Park Wetlands; later, we'll carpool to Centennial Park.

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

Tuesday, June 4 Snoqualmie River Valley Monroe to Carnation

Meet at 7:30 AM at Monroe Park & Ride on US 2, 1/2 mile west of the fairgrounds. Expect a fun time and exciting birds. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Phil Dickinson, 336-692-3760

Tuesday, June 11 Big Four Meadows

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Lake Stevens Frontier Village Park & Ride (9600 Market Place). From State Highway 9, turn eastbound onto Market Place (the street the Target store is on), then north into the Park & Ride just west of Target. Big Four Meadows is a beautiful setting for our annual potluck bird trip. Bring something to share. Virginia provides hot dogs and potato salad and will advise if you want to know what to bring. Expect Swallows, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Warblers, Vireos, and Dippers. A trailhead pass or Golden Age Pass will be needed and is obtainable en route. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

Tuesday, June 18 Ellensburg Area

Meet at 6:00 AM at Monroe Park & Ride on US 2, 1/2 mile west of the Fairgrounds. We will bird portions of Umtanum Creek area, Robinson Canyon, and other areas. This will be a long, rewarding day. Hope to see Yellow-breasted Chat, Warbling Vireo, Lazuli Bunting, and maybe Canyon and Rock Wren. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

Tuesday, June 25 Mid Whidbey Island

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart lot west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). [Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5).] This is the area between Crockett Lake and Swantown, an always exciting experience for both birding and scenery.

Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

Tuesday, July 2 Camano Island

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart lot west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). We will bird Eide

Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit, and wherever else Virginia prefers. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

Saturday, July 6 Beside Snohomish River

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Everett Mall (1402 SE Everett Mall Way), which is in the vicinity of I-5 Exit 189; park near the bus station in the parking lot south of LA Fitness. We'll carpool to Field's Riffle and to Riverview Wildlife Refuge. Trip leader: Douglas Resnick, 425-776-4811 (cell: 206-617-0019), dresnick1@comcast.net



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Conservation Report

opportunities in the Skagit; and 3) to acquire mineral and timber rights consistent with conservation and recreational objectives set forth in the treaty.

That is not what the British Columbia provincial government is now doing. Stay tuned.

Funding for Environmental Issues

Governor Inslee signed more bills on the Environmental Priority Coalition's list May 22. "... Money ... to fix or replace highway culverts ... blocking salmon migration ... received \$175 million more than the legislature approved, raising total amount to \$275 million," according to *The Seattle Times*. This is an authority allowed a governor. The additional money will come from the transportation department where there are funds unspent from the 2017-2019 budget. Billions more are needed to complete the work by 2030, a federal court-ordered date.

The Department of Natural Resources received additional money for a mix of capital and operation benefits. Inslee had earlier approved bills promoting 100% clean energy. At this writing, on his desk, unsigned, is a bill appropriating \$750,000, "... to study how best to help local communities if the federally owned (Lower Snake River) dams are breached," according to Jerry Cornfield article in the May 22 *Everett Herald*.

PILCHUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY IS HIRING – Now accepting applications for Executive Director

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is seeking an Executive Director (ED) who will help provide vision and voice for the organization. Candidates must have a high level of development and management skills to lead both the day-to-day operations of the organization and to work with the Board of Directors on long-term strategic planning. The Executive Director (ED) is expected to be a leader for the organization and to be chiefly responsible for its operations, staffing, and financial stability.

PAS offers a number of programs with the goal to protect and enhance shorelines, wetlands, and vegetated habitats across working lands, urban environments, and forested landscapes for birds and wildlife. We strive to engage the communities we serve with the birds and environment around them through education, advocacy, and community science opportunities. We support a Smart Growth program that works on local land-use issues to help prevent habitat degradation due to sprawl and development. Pilchuck Audubon is striving to ignite a spirit of conservation in our youth and to reach out to underserved communities.

Pilchuck Audubon Society is embarking on an exciting time of growth as it builds on a current strong foundation of financial and community support. This is a full-time exempt position, hired and supervised by the Pilchuck Audubon Society Board of Directors.

For a full job description and information on how to apply, please contact Cindy Easterson at president@pilchuck-audubon.org. 🐦



Coming in June: the Grosbeaks

Left, Evening Grosbeak

Right, Black-headed Grosbeak

Photos by Mick Thompson



FAMILY FUN AT THE WATERSHED FUN FAIR

Pilchuck Audubon hosted more than 200 visitors at the City of Edmonds Watershed Fun Fair on May 4, 2019. This family event was chock full of exhibits, games, crafts, and activities, including feeding the fish at Willow Creek Hatchery, learning about backyard wildlife habitat, soil and water conservation, and more. Thanks to our volunteers, PAS was able to engage people with birds and reinforce our message of support for native plants. 🐦



BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

March 26, 2019 to April 25, 2019

The weather has been great, and now we have the American Goldfinches, Rufous Hummingbirds, Pine Siskins, and Tree Swallows. Next month it will be the return of the Grosbeaks and Western Tanagers.

As usual, Carole and Larry Beason reported a large number of species from their home at Lake Bosworth. They listed 2 American Goldfinch; 4 Brewer's Blackbird; 13 Bufflehead, 2 Hooded Merganser, 6 Northern Shoveler, and a Common Loon on the lake; 3 Fox Sparrow; 5 Golden-crowned Sparrow; 10 Scaup; an Osprey over the lake; 12+ Purple Finch at the feeders; 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch; 16 Red-winged Blackbird; 7 Ring-necked Duck; 3 Rufous Hummingbird; 6 Spotted Towhee; a Sharp-shinned Hawk flying through the yard; 16 Tree Swallow; 2 Turkey Vulture; and 2 Wood Duck, for a total species count of 45.

Hilkka Egtvedt reported a Red-Tailed Hawk circling overhead in her yard in Mukilteo. Her total species count of 27 also included 2 California Quail, 7 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, a Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Northern Flicker, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Bewick's Wren, a Fox Sparrow, 2 Song Sparrow, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, a White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, 5 Purple Finch, 2 House Finch, 4 Pine Siskin, and 5 American Goldfinch.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett listed 9 Dark-Eyed Junco, 6 American Robin, 3 Bewick's Wren, a Winter Wren, 13 Northwestern Crow, 15 Western Gull, 21 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Varied Thrush, 2 Downy Woodpecker, a Yellow Warbler, 11 Mallard Duck, 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Steller's Jay, 3 Spotted Towhee, and a Rufous Hummingbird, for a total species count of 23.

Reporting from Stanwood, Mary Sinker listed 6 American Goldfinch, 6 Anna's Hummingbird, 4 Barn Swallow, 20 Black-capped Chickadee, a Brown Creeper, 7 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 25 Dark-eyed Junco, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 2 Great Horned Owl hooting in the trees, 4 House Finch, 2 Killdeer heard in the neighboring pasture, 17 Mourning Dove, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Rufous Hummingbird, 5 Song Sparrow, 12 Steller's Jay, 6 Tree Swallow, 2 Varied Thrush, and 4 Winter Wren, for a total species count of 32.

One of the strangest sights I saw in Marysville was an American Crow trying to stop a Bald Eagle from landing near the railroad tracks at 88th St. and State St. My total species count of 22 from my home in Marysville included 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 6 American Crow, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 6 Dark-eyed Junco, a Downy Woodpecker, 4 Mourning Dove, 2 Northern Flicker, 3 Spotted Towhee, 4 Steller's Jay, a White-Crowned Sparrow, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 2 Great Horned Owl in the woods, 2 Purple Finch, 50+ European Starling, and a Great-Blue Heron at the creek.

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: TREES AND BIRDS IN SHORELINE 4 May 2019

by Douglas Resnick, Trip Leader

Jonathan, Kelli, Lisa, Michelle, and I met on a mild, breezy, sunny morning at the Mountlake Terrace Transit Center. We visited two sites in Shoreline: Ronald Bog Park and Kruckeberg Botanic Garden. Having enjoyed those visits for longer than anticipated, we skipped the third site included in the original plan. We observed 24 species of birds, as recorded on eBird, as well as many species of trees.

Ronald Bog Park at the present time consists of a pond, with surrounding vegetation, and an arboretum. Plans for changes are posted at several points around the park; see also the document located at <http://www.shorelinewa.gov/home/showdocument?id=31191>.

We began our visit by walking beside the pond, as closely as we could to its northern edge. Many common park species, such as Black-capped Chickadee and American Robin, sang and flew about us, but we also found several birds in the water, including a pair of Wood Ducks. While we walked along the western edge, we heard a Killdeer calling from the grounds of nearby Meridian Park Elementary School. After returning to the parking lot, we continued walking eastward. At the entrance to the Pacific Northwest Conifer Arboretum, we consulted the map of trees displayed at a kiosk, then walked the paths while matching the trees we saw to the trees shown on the map. When we returned to the parking lot for a second time, we heard an Osprey calling; we located it above us, where it circled several times.

Kruckeberg Botanic Garden contains a large variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers, many identified by nearby signs. Both native and exotic species of plants are present. The garden also contains MsK Rare and Native Plant Nursery, where several of our group found specimens to purchase. We studied and discussed the garden's botanical holdings while we walked, but we also paid attention to the variety of birds that were active both in and above the garden. These included a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, several Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and a Cooper's Hawk being chased by an American Crow. The flycatcher called many times, before we were able to locate it visually; it was perched high in a tree.

We closed our second checklist at around 12:30 p.m. Several of us then proceeded to Hill's Restaurant and Bar for lunch. 📍

UPCOMING EVENTS, CLASSES, AND FESTIVALS FARTHER AFIELD

Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival

May 30-June 2

Sisters, Oregon

Observe eleven different species of woodpeckers (including White-headed, Black-backed, and American Three-toed) as well as 200 other bird species who make their homes in the spectacular forests, burn areas, and diverse habitat of central Oregon's Cascade mountains and high desert. Sponsored by East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS), this festival offers a fun, friendly, casual atmosphere that is all about the birds. The trips are affordable and guided by two local field trip leaders, with the proceeds supporting the many ECAS projects. Online registration opens April 1, 2019, at 9 am, PDT, and tours fill quickly. Contact: Dhwf2018@gmail.com or Ken Hashagen at khashagen@outlook.com.

Wings Across the Big Sky Bird Festival

June 5 to 7

Glasgow, Montana

Wings Across the Big Sky celebrates Montana's diverse birdlife while highlighting important conservation issues. Speakers present on natural history and conservation topics. Festival highlights are local field trips in northeast Montana with outings to North and South Valley County, Fort Peck, nearby BLM Wilderness Study Areas, American Prairie Reserve, Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, and other unique prairie landscapes in Montana's Highline region. Contact: Janet Johnston, 406-443-3949, info@mtaudubon.org.

Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua

June 14 to 16

Lee Vining, California

The Chautauqua offers over 90 field trips, workshops, and presentations with renowned bird guides, naturalists, and artists. Add live music and delicious food, and you've got yourself a fantastic long weekend in nature with friends! The Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua won a Mindful Birding Award in 2015 for adopting ethical birding guidelines and supporting conservation efforts for birds and their habitats. We're proud to practice ethical birding. Contact: Nora Livingston and Andrew Youssef 760-647-6595, chautauqua@monolake.org.

American Ornithology 2019 Meeting

June 24 to 28

Anchorage, Alaska

Opportunities to share and discuss scientific research in all areas involving birds, with a special emphasis on research and conservation focused on our 2019 theme. Symposia, workshops, field trips, and plenary presentations. Keynote address open to the public. Visit our website for more information and to register. <https://www.americanornithology.org/content/aos-2019-meeting>

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
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Make checks payable to **Pilchuck Audubon Society**

Mail to: Pilchuck Audubon Society
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Send me these via e-mail (check all that apply & include your e-mail address above):

- Profile Newsletter
- Program Announcements
- Action Alerts

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

SWIFT NIGHT OUT

September 7, 2019, 4:00 p.m. until dusk

Celebrate the Vaux's Swift migration and watch thousands of birds come to roost in the chimney at Wagner Center, Monroe, Washington. A great event for the entire family.

FEAST IN THE FOREST

October 22, 2019

Join us for an amazing 'chef's table' style feast at the Floral Hall in Forest Park, Everett, Washington. Plans are under way for an incredible dinner and not-to-be-missed program on owls. Mark your calendars and watch the website for more information.