



## City of Edmonds Media Release

Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services

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To: Media

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### **RENOWNED CROW AND RAVEN SPECIALIST TO KICK OFF PUGET SOUND BIRD FEST**

***Celebrate the 16<sup>th</sup> annual event online with speakers, photo exhibit, and virtual birding tours***

**(Edmonds, WA)** Renowned crow and raven specialist Kaeli Swift has been selected as the Keynote Speaker for the 2020 Puget Sound Bird Fest, which will be held online September 12-13. Dr. Swift will kick off the festivities on Saturday at 10:30am with a live interactive webinar ‘Something to Crow About’. Other online presentations and activities will follow throughout the weekend.

Crows and ravens are found on nearly every continent where they infiltrate the hearts and minds of the humans who live among them. Dr. Swift will discuss some of the general aspects of crows that contribute to our affinity (and sometimes hatred) for them, with a particular emphasis on the most frequent questions people have about these birds including play, tool use, communal roosting, and funerals. Webinar guests will have the opportunity to ask Dr. Swift questions following her presentation.

Interactive webinars on bird photography, beginning birding, and local bird research projects will also be held on Saturday, as well as final voting for the annual Bird Fest Photo Exhibition and Contest. Other festival favorites such as the Kids Corner and a Birders’ HelpDesk will also be available online. Video-based virtual birding tours featuring some of our local hotspots will be available for viewing, and the Pilchuck Audubon Society plans to host a native plant sale at the Edmonds Wildlife Habitat and Demonstration Garden on Sunday.

The Bird Fest Planning Committee is hard at work planning the 2020 event, and will continue to update the Bird Fest website as the festival schedule develops. For the latest information, please visit [www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org](http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org) or email [Jennifer.leach@edmondswa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.leach@edmondswa.gov). Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#).