

ANTHONY PANGELINAN



What got you into birding?

I first got into birding around 2020. I felt stuck inside and wanted to spend more time with nature. One of my friends introduced me to the Wingspan board game, which gave me the idea to try birding. I fell in love with the hobby right away and haven't looked back!

What can people expect from a bird outing with you?

I consider myself to still be somewhat of a bird ID novice, so I won't be too reliable with regard to ID-ing any non-common birds in the area (I'm especially bad at shorebird ID). However, I do like to point out anything interesting I find, and ensure that everyone has the best possible view of all the birds we can see on any given day. I am also trying to get into bird photography, so will almost always have my zoom camera with me to try to get some good pictures.

What values do you lead with?

I believe I would lead with encouragement and empathy. I know the feeling very well of not being able to see the bird that everyone around me is looking at, and I will do my best to ensure that everyone is able to see and have the opportunity to enjoy the nature around them.

How did you acquire your knowledge? Are you self-taught, trained in a school, had a mentor?

I have acquired almost all my knowledge by going to Birds Connect Seattle neighborhood bird walks. The staff at the nature shop were very nice and helpful in teaching me about the pros and cons of different binocular configurations, and let me practice using them in the field by letting me borrow them.

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What is your personal approach/mindset toward birding?

My personal mindset towards birding is to relax and enjoy nature. I frequently spend my weeks stressed at work, and find the time to stop and admire nature to be rejuvenating and worthwhile. I like to appreciate birds wherever I find them, and to enjoy the company of others who do as well.

Where do you personally see the intersectionality of birding and creating safe spaces for folks who have often been left out of the conversation before?

I see birding as a great way to get people into the conversation. I believe birding is a very low-barrier-to-entry activity, as one just needs to go outside with some comfortable clothes and the right attitude to be a birder. It's also a way to get those that are usually uncomfortable in group activities to participate. This is because the focus isn't on individual people (something that can cause discomfort in many), but is instead on the birds. I believe this would make it easier for those people to form connections for the first time in a social setting. Finally, enjoying nature is almost always a relaxing and rewarding experience, which naturally makes the process of birding a happy and nice space to be in.

Do you have an area of expertise or focus that you prefer?

I would prefer focusing on getting everyone to be able to see the birds that are out on any particular birding day, and introduce them to the many different variations of birds that they may have overlooked before (such as the fact that there are gadwalls, mallards, buffleheads, shovanders, green winged teals, etc. and that they are more than just "ducks").

What was the best advice you got when starting out as a birder?

The best advice I got was to stay close to those that are good at bird ID-ing. Just by birding with these people, I feel that one would gain so much experience and birding knowledge that are more difficult to get in more "formal" settings, like a course.

What is your favorite ecosystem to bird in?

My favorite ecosystem by far is the UW wetland.

Dare I ask, what your favorite bird is?!

I love the northern flicker. They have a huge variety of calls, are common enough to enjoy (but still infrequent enough to make you want to see one), and look like they're wearing spotted pajamas.

