



Smart Growth Report

By Kristin Kelly, Director

The Growth Management Act (GMA) will celebrate its 25th Anniversary this year!

This state law, while not perfect, has helped shape our communities up until now and, hopefully, will continue to do so for future generations. Over the years, there have been hundreds of appeals statewide to the Growth Management Hearings Board, Superior Courts and Court of Appeals regarding counties' and cities' comprehensive plan policies and how those policies are implemented. It is clear that there has been controversy during these 25 years over keeping our local governments accountable to the goals of the GMA, to their own policy plans, and to keeping our communities great places to live.

Every year during the legislative session, there are numerous attempts to weaken the GMA. It has been the great advocacy efforts of our partner Futurewise that have stopped most of these attempts. This year will be no exception.

Locally, it takes all of us to ensure our county and cities do the right thing! I cannot emphasize enough the importance of being involved with the coming updates to the county and cities' Comprehensive Plan which will guide growth and development through the next 20 years.

I will be hosting a **half-day summit** in either March or April regarding Snohomish County's updates to their Comprehensive Plan and Critical Areas Ordinance. This will be a great opportunity to learn what is being proposed, what Pilchuck Audubon Society and our coalition partners want, and how you can be involved effectively. More information will be sent out via email.

Over the years, I have received many phone calls and emails regarding specific rezones, land use changes or developments that will affect the caller's neighborhood. Most people are distressed by what new development will bring to their neighborhoods. While new permit applications most follow the county and cities codes, it is never a given that county and cities are following their own rules. It definitely is up to the public to be involved if they want codes to be followed.

Snohomish County government (which has jurisdiction over urban growth, rural, and resource lands) has three types of land use processes. Type 1 is an administrative permit, which means there is no Hearing Examiner hearing but appeals usually will be heard. Type 2 is a quasi-judicial hearing examiner process meaning there is a hearing in front of the county council appointed Hearing Examiner and an appeal process that costs \$500. While attorneys are not required, they are advised. Appeals of the Hearing Examiner decisions first go to the County Council and then to Superior Court. Since the County Council must act as appeal "judge" in Type 1 and 2 processes, they are not allowed to talk to their constituents about these matters.

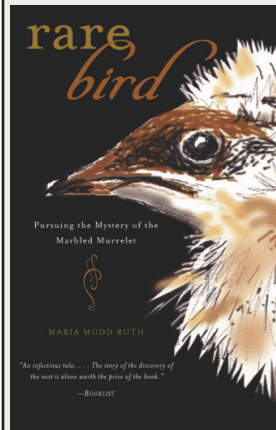
The hearing examiner has jurisdiction over a wide range of subject matter including most rezones, subdivisions, planned residential developments, conditional use permits, code enforcement appeals, administrative permit appeals, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) appeals, false alarm notice appeals and business and animal license appeals. Proceedings

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February Program Meeting

Rare Bird: Pursuing the Mystery of Marbled Murrelet

Friday, February 13, 7:00 PM



Maria Mudd Ruth shares tales from her book, *Rare Bird: Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet*, which celebrates the world of this fascinating seabird of the Pacific Northwest Coast. Maria highlights the bizarre breeding behavior of the murrelet, the 185-year-long search for its elusive nest, and how the accidental discovery of the first nest in 1974 has helped protect our coastal forests and near-shore waters where the murrelet lives. For more information, leave message at 425-252-0926

7:00 - 8:30 pm
Everett Firefighter's Hall
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett WA

The 10th Annual Port Susan Snow Goose & Birding Festival

February 28 & March 1, 2015



Snow Goose; Photo by Dave Menke; USFWS

A wonderful festival, a beautiful landscape and a host of birds – what could be better?

Pilchuck Audubon is a sponsor and we hope to see you there.

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President's Message

By Kathleen Snyder, President

Something new is going to happen in February about which I am quite excited. Audubon members throughout the state are going to descend on Olympia on February 18th to advocate for legislation which will benefit both the birds and the citizens of Washington. Since 2003, Audubon members joined with other environmental groups to participate in Environmental Lobby Day under the organization known as Environmental Priorities Coalition (EPC). This group would decide on two or three issues on which all the organizations would focus their advocacy efforts. This year, in response to National Audubon's report that climate change is the number one threat to birds, WA Audubon has chosen its own two priorities which deal directly with threats to birds – the depletion of forage fish which birds need for food and climate change.

Please consider coming to Olympia on Wednesday, Feb 18th, to meet with your legislators and talk about these priorities. More information can be found at <http://wa.audubon.org/events/audubon-advocacy-day-2015>. As an added bonus, David Yarnold, National Audubon President, will be joining us for lunch. I have heard David speak on two occasions. He is bright, focused and passionate about the work we do. The day and the lunch are free and there will be a small group of us going.

Contact me at president@pilchuckaudubon.org or 425-252-0926 if you would like to come along.



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 425.252.0926.

The monthly Profile is available online at www.pilchuckaudubon.org

Class on Hawk Watching in Western Washington



Red-tailed Hawk; Photo by Keith Lehn

Pilchuck Audubon and Falcon Research Group will be sponsoring a class intended for anyone that wants to learn more about the 16 species of hawks, eagles and falcons that regularly inhabit western Washington.

The basics of hawk biology, including their distribution, annual cycles, hunting behaviors and much more will be covered. There will be a strong emphasis on field identification. The class meets two hours each week for five weeks and covers a different group of raptors each night. Included is a full day winter field trip (date TBD) to the Skagit Flats to observe a wide variety of raptors in the wild. **Cost of the five week class is \$175.00.**

When: February 12th - March 12th; 7:00-9:00PM

Where: United Church of Christ, 2624 Rockefeller, Everett WA

The instructor, Bud Anderson, is a raptor biologist with 50 years of experience working with birds of prey, both locally and abroad. He is the director of the Falcon Research Group (FRG), a non-profit organization dedicated to the support of field research, public education and the preservation of birds of prey. It is based in Bow, WA.

For more information, please call (360) 757-1911 or e-mail Bud at falconresearch@gmail.com.



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Conservation Report

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Committee Chair

Congressman Derek Kilmer – Washington State now has bipartisan representation in the 114th Congress on the House Appropriations Committee. Derek Kilmer (D-6th District which is some Kitsap Peninsula and all of the Olympic Peninsula) joins Congresswoman Jaime Herrera-Beutler (R-3rd District which is SW Washington and into some of Klickitat County).

State Legislature in 2015 – If you want weekly updates and alerts during the session, you should be on WAGENERAL ListServ. You will receive what Jennifer Syrowitz, Washington Audubon Chapter Associate at Seward Park, sends out to us.

Send an email directly to Jennifer Syrowitz and request to be put on WAGENERA list serv. Jennifer's email address is: jsyrowitz@audubon.org

Governor Dan Evans 50th Anniversary – Dan Evans was elected Washington governor slightly more than 50 years ago in November 1964, after being in the State House of Representatives since 1957. He was elected an unprecedented three terms. He became president of Evergreen College in 1977; US Senator in 1983 by appointment and then election.

When governor he supported establishment of the North Cascades National Park Complex in 1968, and established the WA Dept. of Ecology in 1970, which became the blueprint for EPA created by President Nixon later in 1970. In the US Senate, he led the fight for the 1984 Washington Wilderness Act creating 19 wildernesses and expanding some existing ones in WA national forests, and in 1988 the Washington Parks Wilderness Act establishing wilderness areas in the North Cascades, Olympic and Mt. Rainier national parks. He was honored last month by the WA State Senate and the State House.

2014 Christmas Bird Count Results

December 20, 2014 South County CBC – Duane Karna

Eighty-seven field observers covered nearly 88 miles on foot, just over 471 miles by car and ¾ mile by boat counting 36,459 birds in 120 species. Of the total, 40 home observers spent nearly 56 hours counting 1,414 birds in 46 species. The boat survey of Possession and Puget sounds was cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

The less than optimal weather conditions likely accounted for a reduced total number of birds seen compared to last year. However, high counts were recorded for Anna's Hummingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Brown Creeper. White-winged Scoter, American Kestrel, Sanderling, California Gull, and the Slate-colored Dark-eyed Junco were missed during the count. A full report written by Rick Taylor, Bob Schmidt and Duane Karna can be seen on the CBC web site.

January 1, 2015 North County CBC – Scott Atkinson

Our Christmas Bird Count was the most successful ever as measured by a number of indicators. 141 bird species were recorded—our all-time highest ever and #1 in the entire State of Washington this CBC season. This includes a remarkable number of rarities, all supported by details, multiple observers, detection before or after the CBC, photos and/or a combination of several of these. We also had a non-countable (escaped) Green Pheasant in Marysville. We finished with 44,057 individual birds counted by 113 participants. Of particular note, the feeder/private property counters more than doubled (to 44), and feeder-watcher hours also more than doubled.

Weather conditions of clear skies, cold temperatures (18 to 39 F) and almost no wind meant ideal counting conditions. Dabbling duck numbers, raptor counts, 12 types of shorebirds, and a blizzard of new record-high counts of songbirds and woodpeckers—all made big news. Despite the late November-early December cold

snap and cold day, late-lingers (birds that are near their northern maximum for winter range) were in ample supply. Imagine 35 warblers of four species! A full report of the count can be found on the Pilchuck website.

Motocross Track Update

At the request of Snohomish County staff, the Granite Falls Motocross Park hearings were continued on November 6 and December 2, 2014, in order to address three issues:

1. Noise during track construction and operation;
2. Sound monitoring near Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat; and
3. Stormwater drainage near a steep landslide prone slope.

The Hearing Examiner (HE) issued his second Final Decision on December 23, 2014. The SEPA appeal was denied.

The project was approved with the addition of mitigation measures to the Mitigated Determination of Non Significance. The decision can be accessed at: [http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/snohomishcountyhearingexaminer/Type '07101924a'](http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/snohomishcountyhearingexaminer/Type%20'07101924a') into the search box.

Additional mitigations imposed included:

- Limiting the days of operation to 150 per year.
- Measures to prevent illegal ORV use on nearby public lands.
- Drainage plan revisions, including several stormwater recommendations from the appellant's expert witness.
- Measures to limit and monitor construction noise.
- Revisions to the monitoring plan for noise that may affect marbled murrelets.
- Construction of the northern section of the berm prior to track operations.
- Improved trash management to deter corvids that prey on marbled murrelets.
- Measures to mitigate traffic concerns.

On January 6, 2015, Mountain Loop Conservancy (MLC), Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS), and North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC) appealed this decision to the Snohomish County Council, focusing on the following concerns:

1. Procedural issues regarding the original application.
2. The lack of provision for public or County response to the results of additional studies mandated by the HE.
3. Noise issues including:
 - A. Failure to require construction of the entire sound berm prior to operations.
 - B. Inadequacies of the sound monitoring plan.
4. Concerns related to the federally protected marbled murrelet including:
 - A. Inadequate frequency and improper timing of noise monitoring near the birds.
 - B. Employing an unexplained adjustment factor when making measurements at ground level instead of at nest height.
 - C. Lack of noise monitoring during construction.
6. The cumulative impacts to the surrounding community, including marbled murrelets, were not adequately considered.
7. Numerous concerns related to stormwater management including inadequate protection of the aquifer underlying the project area.

The County Council will hold a hearing on the appeal on February 11th at 10:30 am on the 8th floor of the Robert Drewel Building, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett. There will be no opportunity for public comment.

MLC, PAS, and NCCC will continue to follow the legal process to protect this environment and the marbled murrelets that breed here. While we are grateful for the additional conditions imposed by the HE, they inadequately mitigate the adverse impacts of the proposed development. The overwhelming majority of public input was opposed to this project.

Smart Growth Report...

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before the hearing examiner are governed by a combination of county code provisions and a set of Rules of Procedure which can be found on the county's website. The rules cover topics such as pre-hearing procedural requirements, exhibit handling, hearing procedures, withdrawal of applications/appeals, etc.

Type 3 is a Legislative process, which includes all land use policy and development regulations. County council members can be contacted by the public at any time on these matters. The process usually includes public hearings with the appointed Planning Commission and then the County Council has their own public hearings. They can either accept, amend, or reject the recommendations of the Planning Commission.

The information is out there. I have some of it but much of it can be found on the county's or cities' websites on the hearing and appeal processes. The most important thing is to know that there are time limits on when comments need to be recorded and when appeals need to happen.

If you cannot find the information you are looking for on-line, remember the planner in charge of a development or rezone can and must answer any and all questions you have. It is your responsibility to ask the questions; don't count on hearing about things you haven't asked. If you need help guiding you through the process, I will do my best to help where and when I can.

Being empowered in the development and protection of your community is essential for the quality of life we have so far experienced in Snohomish County.

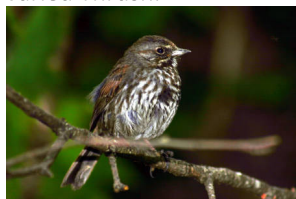
Backyard Birding Highlights

November 26, 2014 – December 25, 2014

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

This time of the year the fields flood along 100th street and fill with Gulls and water fowl making it difficult to count the numerous different species.

Carole and Larry Beason have a great viewing area from their home on Lake Bosworth. Their total species count of 39 included 2 Bald Eagles over the lake, 17 Bufflehead, 22 Canada Goose and 14 Common Mergansers on the lake, 36 + Dark-Eyed Junco, 31 Evening Grosbeaks, 3 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, 2 Great-Blue Heron on the deck, 35 Mallard, an Osprey over the lake, 48+ Pine Siskin flying tree to tree, 5 Anna's Humming Birds, 10 Purple Finch, a Red Crossbill, 9 Ring-Necked Ducks and 2 Varied Thrush.



Fox Sparrow. Photo by Carla Stanley; USFWS

Hilkka Eagtvedt's report from Mukilteo included 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 18 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 5 California Quail, 35 Dark-Eyed Junco in the yard, 2 Fox Sparrows, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 5 House Finch, 4 Northern Flickers, a Pile-ated Woodpecker,

1 Townsend Warbler, 2 Varied Thrush and a White-Throated Sparrow for a total species count of 26.

Reporting from Everett, Kriss Erickson listed 2 Northern Flickers, 2 American Robins, 4 Steller's Jays, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 22 Bushtit, 2 Bewick's Wrens, 8 Western Gulls, 17 Dark-Eyed Junco, 2 Downey Woodpeckers, 30 Mallard in her yard, a Winter Wren, 15 Black-Capped Chickadees, 7 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees and a Cooper's Hawk for a total species count of 18.



Winter Wren. Photo by Mark Musselman; USFWS

The Black-Chinned Hummingbird is still visiting the feeder in Mary Sinker's yard in Stanwood. Her total species count of 30 included 4 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Barred Owls, a Brown Creeper, 66 Dark-Eyed Junco 27 European Starling (they stayed on the ground eating bugs and larvae in the grass), 4 Evening Grosbeaks, 5 House Finch, 6 Mallard, 9 Mourning Doves, a Pile-ated Woodpecker, 2 Red-Breasted Nuthatch, a Red-Breasted Sapsucker, 5 Varied Thrush, 3 White-Crowned Sparrows and 4 Winter Wrens.

My report from Marysville includes 30+ American Crows in the fields, 16 Dark-Eyed Junco in my yard, 100+ Glaucous Winged Gulls in the fields, 2 Great-Horned Owls in the woods, a Great-Blue Heron flying over, 100+ Mallard in the flooded fields, 4 Mourning Doves, 5 Northern Flickers, 5 Steller's Jays, 2 Song Sparrows, a Cooper's Hawk, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 12 Canada Goose in the fields, 6 Eurasian Wigeons in the fields and 30+ Pine Siskin flying through the trees for a total species count of 24.

If you are interested in becoming one of our bird reporters, please email me at pricemara@clearwire.net or leave a message on my cell at (425) 750-8125.

PAS Volunteer Assists Classroom Birding Project



Erin Zackey, a teacher at Edmonds Heights K through 12 school in the Edmonds School District, recently contacted Pilchuck Audubon about having a volunteer visit her First Lego League (FLL) team. "The Soaring Eagles" needed a birding expert to help with their project – "How do people learn about birds in the Seattle area?" FLL is a team building, robotics, STEM program giving kids the chance to learn about a variety of science topics while having fun working as a team.

The Eagles are an all-girl team of 7 members ranging from 3-5th grade. Pam Myers, a new PAS member who recently retired as a kindergarten teacher in Santa Cruz, met with the students one day and answered lots of questions. The team produced this poster and a website which you can visit at: <http://soaringeaglesfll.weebly.com/>

Trip Calendar

Check our web site at www.pilchuckaudubon.org for the latest information.

Tuesday, February 3 **Snoqualmie River Valley**
Meet at 8:00 AM at Monroe Park & Ride on Highway 2, one half mile west of the Fairgrounds. Expect a fun time and exciting birds. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Tuesday, February 10 **Port Townsend**
Meet at 7:20 AM at the Edmonds Wade James Theater Parking Lot (950 Main St., Edmonds, 98020). We'll take the ferry to Kingston. On the way, we'll visit Marrowstone Island and Indian Island with views of Admiralty Inlet, waterfowl, shorebirds and seabirds. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Saturday, February 14 **Auburn**
Meet at 8:00 AM at Everett Mall. Park in the back near L.A. Fitness. We will bird the Soos Creek Hatchery and then visit the White River Valley Museum. The museum has a special art exhibit: Of a Feather: Artists, Birds, and the Northwest. Admission \$6. Will also explore Les Gove Park. Late lunch possible. Rain or shine. Bring water, munchies for the car, foul weather gear, and binoculars, if you have them.
Trip Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh 425-244-7633, aracfi@msn.com

Tuesday, February 17 **Fir Island**
Meet at 8:00 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart (I-5-Exit 200). Park near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Expect to see Golden Eagle, Northern Shrike, Tundra Swans, Merlin, etc. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Tuesday, February 24 **Boundary Bay Regional Park**
Meet at 7:00 AM at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart (I-5-Exit 200). Park near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Expect to see waterfowl, raptors, gulls, shorebirds, songbirds, and scenery, and to do some walking. We will explore the Tsawwassen Causeway and other Delta. This is a trip to Canada so bring your US Passport or Enhanced Driver's License. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Upcoming Events, Festivals and Classes

Great Backyard Bird Count Class **Edmonds**
February 7
Dr. Alan Mearns at Edmonds Native Plant Demo Garden will provide a special workshop to help prepare to participate in the GBBC February 13 – 16. Learn basic bird identification, how to correctly count, and how to submit your data. Class is free but registration is requested to Susie Schaefer at garden@pilchuckaudubon.org or 425-771-8165.

Winter Wings Festival **Klamath, OR**
February 12 – 15
The Winter Wings Festival will once again host four days of activities in Southern Oregon for birdwatchers, photographers, families and those just looking for a good time learning about nature. As in years past, there will be some great national talent that will be taking center stage.
<http://winterwingsfest.org/>

Port Susan Snow Goose Festival **Stanwood**
February 28 – March 1
Enjoy classes, lectures, field trips, marketplace and art show all within a region which supports some of the greatest concentrations of shorebirds, raptors, waterfowl, and seabirds found along the northern Pacific Flyway (as well as Snow Geese and Trumpeter Swans).
<http://www.snowgoosefest.org/>

Grays Harbor Shorebird & Nature Festival **Hoquiam**
May 1 – 3
Each spring, hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop to rest and feed in Grays Harbor Estuary on their migration northward. This festival is timed to match and has something for everyone. Bookmark this webpage and check often for registration information: <http://www.shorebirdfestival.com/>

Great Backyard Bird Count

Don't forget to save some time over the weekend of FEBRUARY 13- FEBRUARY 16 to count the birds in your backyard, neighborhood, local park or anywhere else you want. All the details may be found at:

<http://gbbc.birdcount.org>

Seed Sale - March 7, 9:00-11:00AM

For a price list and to order seed and suet, contact Carolyn Lacy at carolynlacy@gmail.com or 206.245.5836. Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 1. Pick up in the first floor lobby of the Sno-Isle Natural Foods Co-op, 2804 Grand Avenue, Everett 98201 (enter building from the back alley). Jay Ward and other volunteers will be on hand to collect payment and help load the seed.

If you'd prefer to pick up your seed in Edmonds, let Carolyn know when you place your order. You'll need to arrange a pick-up time with Joan Poor, 425.771.5581 or paperboats@aol.com.

Want to prepay for your seed with a credit card? No later than **March 6**,

- 1) go to the PAS website, pilchuckaudubon.org.
- 2) In the navigation menu, click on the Join/Donate/Volunteer tab.
- 3) On the Join/Donate/Volunteer page, click on "I'd like to join/renew/donate through the secure on-line link."
- 4) Once you're on the donation page, go to the box labeled Designation and select Other from the dropdown menu. In the adjacent box, type in Seed Sale.
- 5) Drop just below to the Total Amount to be Charged and insert the amount into the box.
- 6) Then proceed through the remainder of the form and submit it.

Please remember: The price of seed fluctuates. So, the price the day you pick it up might be slightly different from what you were told when the order was placed.



Pilchuck Audubon Society
 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
 Snohomish, WA 98290

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!
 My employer's gift matching form is enclosed with my contribution.

Make checks payable to: **Pilchuck Audubon Society**

Mail to: Pilchuck Audubon Society
 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
 Snohomish, WA 98290-1742

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Send me these via email (check all that apply & include your email address above):

- Profile Newsletter
- Program Announcements
- Action Alerts

Pilchuck Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation registered with the Secretary of State's office. Your contributions are tax deductible.

SAVE THE DATE UPDATES!

Klickitat County will now be Saturday May 23rd through Tuesday May 26th

Memorial Day Weekend 4-Day Trip Leave early Saturday morning. Return Tuesday afternoon to avoid traffic on Snoqualmie Pass. Need to book lodging in Goldendale and Glenwood ASAP.

Northeastern WA Adventure June 11-June 14

Leave early Thursday morning. Return home Monday June 14. Explore Sherman Pass, Boulder Pass, Sullivan Lake State Park, Little Pond Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, Lake Conconully, Sinlihiken Valley, Metaline Falls, Loomis and many other unfamiliar exciting places. Collecting birding information from PAS expert birders Rick & Tina Taylor who have birded every corner of Washington. Will stay in local motels – no camping.

Contact Susie Schaefer 425-771-8165 or garden@pilchuckaudubon.org.