



November Smart Growth Report: Land Use Issues Heat Up *by Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director*

As 2014 draws to a close, it is time to reflect on this year's work and begin the strategy for successful outcomes in 2015.

Three important land use issues discussed below dominated 2014 will continue into 2015. But first, I want to emphasize the power of citizen involvement and persistence.

Prior to my position with PAS, I was a small business owner and mom who became involved in a land use issue in my neighborhood. I knew nothing about the Growth Management Act or land use, but I did know I had to try to change what was going on. I taught myself how to organize and fundraise; I educated myself on the GMA, SEPA, comprehensive planning, development regulations, transportation and appeals so I could be more effective in changing public perception and governmental decision making. I led my community to oppose the inappropriate development. In the end, we saved the land from a big box commercial development project and now it hosts a county park. That was the beginning of my realization of the power of citizens to affect good land use planning and environmental protection.

This year I have seen that power realized with the saving of Hooven Bog and the final decision of the Monroe City Council to keep the eastern edge of the city along Highway 2 in open space and not to continue to pursue commercial development on this environmentally sensitive land. This was due to citizen involvement and persistence!

2015 Comprehensive Plan Update

Snohomish County (and cities) are required under the Growth Management Act (GMA) to update their comprehensive plan policies and regulations every 8 years in order to plan for the next 20 years of growth. While the process has been ongoing since 2013, the first of the public hearings for the county's update took place

(Continued on page 4)

November Program Meeting



Hummingbirds in Peru

Last year Jim and Daphne Robert-Hamilton went to Peru on an EarthWatch expedition studying hummingbirds in Manu National Park. They will share their photos and experiences with us, and tell us the results of the study.

For more information, call 425-252-0926 or email president@pilchuckaudubon.org

Friday, November 14, 2014
7:00 - 8:30 PM
Everett Firefighters Hall
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett, WA



Wild Birds Unlimited in Everett will donate 10% **of your purchase** to Pilchuck Audubon. Just mention your membership to them at the time of purchase.

Thank you WBU Everett!

In This Issue

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|---------------------------|---|
| About..... | 2 | President's Message | 2 |
| Conservation | 5 | Trip Report | 6 |
| Smart Growth | 1,4 | Trip Calendar | 3 |

President's Message

By Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon President

Last month the National Audubon Society (NAS) study on Birds and Climate Change was released. It predicts that 314 of the 588 species of North American bird species studied are at risk of becoming threatened or endangered over the coming decades due to the warming climate. All of Audubon - national, state and local chapters – are gearing up to meet this threat.

Audubon Washington has been chosen as one of four NAS Climate Initiative "Proof of Concept" states. This means that Audubon Washington will focus on making real impacts in the climate discussion. We will learn what works and what doesn't for engaging the public, government decision-makers, and our elected officials in this effort. Audubon WA will receive additional money and access to talent from NAS in order to integrate climate concerns into all of its priority work.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Audubon WA, its office resides in Seattle's Seward Park. **Gail Gatton** is the Executive Director, **Trina Bayard, PhD**, is Director of Bird Conservation, **Jen Syrowitz** is the Chapter Associate, and **Christi Norman** is the Program Director currently working on Sagebrush Steppe Conservation. This is a dynamic team of dedicated and professional women who are making incredible strides in organizing our 25 local Washington chapters into a strong unit as well as tackling conservation and habitat priority issues.

Locally, Pilchuck Audubon has started a new bird survey for the City of Brier in their City Light Woods park. The information gathered will be used for educational programs taking place there. What is unusual about this situation is that one of our surveyors, Reg Reisenbichler, lives within a mile of the park and rides a bike to conduct his survey. What we have here is a carbon neutral venture! Thank you Reg. We all might think of a carbon neutral way to bird occasionally – walking, biking, and taking the bus are all possibilities. Keep on birding as environmentally friendly as you can – it makes a difference!

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 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, nonprofit 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 98290-1742.

Submissions must be received by the 15th 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

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| | | |
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| President | Kathleen Snyder..... | president@pilchuckaudubon.org |
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| Avian Science | Joan Poor..... | avianprojects@pilchuckaudubon.org |
| Development | Open | |
| Members at Large | Laurel Cheap ... | classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org |
| | Kathy Johnson | 425.252.0926 |
| | Jay Ward | 425.418.3226 |
| | David Gladstone | |

Consultant

Committee Chairs

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bird Sightings | Mara Price | backyard@pilchuckaudubon.org |
| Communications | Lindsey Cramer | 425.252.0926 |
| Conservation Awards | Laurel Cheap ... | classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org |
| Donations | Judy Chapman | donations@pilchuckaudubon.org |
| Field Trips | Art Wait..... | 360.563.0181 |
| Forest Practices | Kathy Johnson | forest@pilchuckaudubon.org |
| Hospitality | Virginia Clark..... | 360.435.3750 |
| Legal Advisor | Pete Dewell..... | 206.281.8082 |
| Newsletter Editor | Christabel Lobo..... | newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org |
| Program | Susie Schaefer | garden@pilchuckaudubon.org |
| Publicity | Judy Alles..... | 360.793.1343 |
| Webmaster | Carol Curtin | webmaster@pilchuckaudubon.org |

Staff

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Smart Growth | Kristin Kelly..... | 425.923.8625 |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------|

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Trip Calendar

Check our calendar at www.pilchuckaudubon.org for the latest information

Tuesday, November 4 Fir Island

Meet at 8:00 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Expect to see waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and songbirds. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Tuesday, November 11 Reifel Sanctuary, BC

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). The George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary is in Canada, on Westham Island. Expect waterfowl, chickadees and nuthatches fed in the hand, plus surprise species. Bring your US Passport or Enhanced Driver's License. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Sunday, November 16 Burke Museum

Join us for a behind the scenes tour of the museum's unseen bird collection and learn from Dr. John Klicka, Curator of Birds about the museum's collections. Great opportunity to study difficult field marks. Meet at 9:30 AM at Everett Mall (by LA Fitness) to carpool to the UW campus. **Limited to 15 participants.** RSVP required: suemiller1@gmail.com

Tuesday, November 18 Birch Bay

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Should see migrating waterfowl and shorebirds (Dowitchers, Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Long-tailed and Harlequin Ducks). Wilma will provide lunch at her beach cabin.
Trip Leaders: Wilma Bayes [360-629-2028](tel:360-629-2028), Virginia Clark [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Tuesday, November 25 Vashon Island

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Lynnwood Walmart lot at 1400 164th St SW (I-5 Exit 183). Board the 8:25 AM Fauntleroy ferry. Will proceed to Fisher Pond to observe freshwater ducks and check out Tramp Harbor. Most reliable location for Eared Grebe in King County. May check out Quartermaster Harbor for more saltwater birds and Wax Orchards, Vashon's raptor hot spot. Directions on-line at www.vashonaudubon.org and in book The Birds of Vashon Island (found at www.theswancompany.com).
Trip Leaders: Ed Swan [206-463-7976](tel:206-463-7976), Art Wait [360-563-0181](tel:360-563-0181)

Upcoming Events, Festivals, and Classes

Rosario Beach, Deception Pass November 1

Field trip with Skagit Audubon to some of the best birding and most scenic places in our area.
<http://www.skagitaudubon.org/activities/80-field-trips/53-rosario-head-deception-pass-state-park-and->

lake-erie

Fox Sparrow Workshop November 8

From 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, come find out more about our little brown sparrows, specifically Fox Sparrows & better understand winter habitat needs from Puget Sound Bird Observatory's own Cindy Easterson.
Susie Schaefer - garden@pilchuckaudubon.org or call 425-771-8165

Remembering North America's Extinct Birds November 9

The Lost Bird Project, a film that honors five extinct North American birds, will be shown at 1:00 PM at the Burke Museum. The film follows sculptor Todd McGrain on his journey to install the large bronze memorials he creates in the locations where the birds were last seen in the wild. Discussion with Deborah Dickson, film director will follow.
<http://www.burkemuseum.org/events>

Learning the Winter Woodland Birds November 9

In the quiet of fall and winter, there is still activity in Padilla Bay's uplands. Come explore with Libby Mills - looking especially for those hardy wintering sparrows and other songbirds. At the Breazeale Interpretive Center 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. **Registration is required.** <http://www.padillabay.gov/calendarofevents.asp>

NORTH SOUND BIRDERS MEETUP GROUP

North Sound Birders on Meetup.com is now live and ready for you! This is a collaborative effort between Pilchuck Audubon and Whidbey Island Audubon to reach out to new members.



Meetup.com is an online social networking portal that allows members to find and join groups unified by a common interest, such as birding or political action. It is free to join and enables you to find like-minded individuals for a variety of interests. Go to <http://www.meetup.com/North-Sound-Birders/> to join.

We already have 89 members and we would love to crack the 100 member mark. There is a Pilchuck Meetup group going to the "Remembering North America's Extinct Birds" film at the Burke Museum on November 9th.

Thanks go to Lindsey Cramer for setting this up and involving the folks on Whidbey Island,

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(Continued from page 1)

in October with the Planning Commission. Comprehensive planning is complex and technical. Regardless, everyone should comment and share their vision for our communities. The Planning Commission hearing was very well attended and had great influence on the commissioner's recommendations to the County Council. Those recommendations can be found on the planning commission's website at <http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/164/Planning-Commission>. We will continue to advocate for policies which were not addressed during the public process with the County Council in 2015. Your help will be crucial for success. If you would like a copy of our comment letter and the recommendations from the planning commission, please email me at Kristin@futurewise.org.

Critical Areas Ordinance Update

This county update is required by the GMA and will also be adopted in 2015. Critical areas are defined as wetlands, rivers, streams, lakes, riparian habitat, frequently flooded areas, aquifers, and geologically hazardous areas. Our concerns will focus on protection of farmland critical areas, landslide hazard areas, water quality, wildlife species of local importance and wildlife habitat corridors. If you want to be more involved, send me your email.

Tree Retention and Replacement for the County's Urban Growth Areas

The county planning staff, at the request of the development community, worked to amend the landscaping codes for residential development in the county's urban growth areas on how to retain and replace trees that are cut down for new subdivisions. The county embarked on a very untested new plan called a Tree Canopy Ordinance, that would enable all trees to be removed (as is currently done) and replaced but requiring that within 20 years those replanted trees will provide a 30 percent tree canopy.

Several active and persistent PAS members (Michelle Gundersen, Laura Hartman and Joan Smith) and I tried our best to come up with a set of codes that the development community could use that would help retain significant trees and still allow the development community to build homes. After 9 months of meetings and hearings, the ultimate decision and adoption by the County Council was not what we had hoped for.

The Tree Canopy Ordinance was adopted with a lot of concessions to the development community. If you live around a heavily forested undeveloped lot or acreage, most likely those trees will continue to be clear-cut for

homes but replanting will occur. If you live around undeveloped land that has few or no trees, those lots will need to be replanted. While fines were adopted for illegal cutting of replacement trees and a monitoring program established, code enforcement is a citizen complaint process. If you think trees in your neighborhood are being cut down illegally, please report it to the Code Enforcement division of the county's Planning and Development Services Department.

And please join me in my efforts to bring a conservation perspective to the updating process. Your voice is the one that needs to be heard.

WANTED

Pilchuck Audubon Treasurer



WHOO will be our new Treasurer?

Pilchuck Audubon Society is looking for a new treasurer. Our valued out-going treasurer, Carolyn Lacy, is leaving the post after many years of excellent service and commitment to our non-profit organization.

This is an opportunity to work with our dollars and your good sense in an essential role of conservation. The time commitment is eight to ten hours a month. Benefits range from support of the smallest visitor in our backyard habitats to the farthest flyers of the Pacific Flyway.

Are YOU the ONE we need?

Please contact PAS President Kathleen Snyder at (425) 252-0926 or president@pilchuckaudubon.org

Conservation News

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Committee Chair

Elections! – It has recently been on the quiet side for our issues. There's a hearing on an appeal about Green Mt. Mine that Kathy Johnson is following.

We are waiting for some WDFW reporting back on the proposed six-year game management plan which could include a requirement to no longer use lead shot and ammo in hunting. WDFW announced that it will have completed modeling different plans for Leque Island soon. A report will be available in January.

Suiattle River Road presumably reopened per schedule with a ribbon cutting at Darrington on Saturday, October 25th.

New members were elected to the Audubon WA board this month. Details to come in the December PROFILE about the wonderful expertise the new people are bringing to the state board.

In early December, post-election meetings by WA Audubon Conservation Council will be about legislative priorities for next biennium (2015-2017).

Elections?

Yes, by now, our ballots should be on our kitchen table or already filled out and mailed to the courthouse.

Kudos For Pilchuck Audubon Volunteer

by Teresa Lorenz, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho

Successful conservation requires accurate information on the life histories of birds and much of this information comes from research studies. However, with recent declines in funding for research, many projects need more and more help from volunteers.

In the mountains outside of Yakima, Washington, we have been conducting long-term research on White-headed Woodpeckers, an iconic species of the open ponderosa pine stands on the east slopes of the Cascades. Over the years, we have increasingly relied on volunteer help from local Audubon chapters and this year was no exception.

While in the past most of our help has come from Yakima Audubon, this year we were astounded by the help we received from Pilchuck Audubon's Cathy Clark. This summer, she volunteered untold hours on two research studies that we are conducting with nesting and juvenile white-headed. She painstakingly reviewed more than 20,000 photos from White-headed Woodpecker nests (which enabled us to establish a protocol for nest monitoring) and assisted with radio-

Audubon doesn't endorse candidates nor make donations to favored candidates. Snohomish County has a lot of people running for offices at state and local levels. Some of our state legislators were appointed to offices last year to fill vacant positions until this election. Some them were already State House legislators and moved up to fill vacant senate seats. Some were brand new to the legislature. All of those folks are now running for full terms, and they all have opponents eager to represent varied interests.

Off-year elections have notoriously low voter turnout by both parties but one more than the other in general elections. Whatever your party preference, if you have one, control of the State Senate is the focal point for both parties. If you like what happened last session, or didn't, your vote may make the difference of what the next biennium session will produce.

Now, to enjoy the return of some normal weather – wind and rain!

tagging woodpecker nestlings at two sites on the Wenatchee National Forest.



Please help me in extending a big THANK YOU to Cathy for her excellent work. The research that we do on White-headed Woodpeckers is used to inform management not only for woodpeckers but also Ponderosa pine forests throughout the northwest. Without dedicated volunteers like Cathy, this research would not be possible.

Weekend Bird Walk Trip Report: Paradise Valley Conservation Area

By Terry Nightingale, Pilchuck Audubon Vice President

On Saturday, October 11, six birders defied the gloomy forecast and traveled to one of Snohomish County's newest parks: the Paradise Valley Conservation Area. For anyone who is not familiar, this is a 793-acre wildlife area located at the headwaters of Bear Creek, featuring several miles of multi-use trails. Expect to share the main trails with mountain bikers and the occasional horse (we only saw "horse sign" that day, no actual horses). Smaller trails, open only to hikers exist, if you're looking for the path less traveled.

Arriving at the parking lot, we noticed immediately how crowded it was! About twenty feet from the edge of the parking lot is a helpful interpretive display with a park map and warning signs. Apparently a black bear had been seen in the area recently so we knew to be on the alert. Fortunately we did not encounter bears ourselves that day.



Red-breasted Nuthatch
Photo by Dave Menke/USFWS

We followed the trail labeled "mainline trail" through a beautiful northwest second-growth temperate rainforest. As the sounds of traffic and human activity faded from our awareness, we tuned to the subtle bird sounds around us. First to grab our attention was a flock of

small leaf-gleaners including **Black-capped Chickadees**, **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglets**. These little birds lived up to their reputation of being difficult to spot with binoculars because they are small, move quickly, and stay high in the canopy or understory. The best time to get a better look is in December when they move down closer to the bottom branches to feed. Another small bird often associated with these mixed flocks is the **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, which it didn't take long for us to hear calling from nearby. Just down the trail, we heard another of the usual suspects: a **Hairy Woodpecker**.

Our next move was to turn onto the Red Alder Trail, which is narrower and winds a bit more. **Pacific Wrens** called from the brush on both sides of us, but didn't allow us to see them. We began to notice that the trails in the park alternate between thickly forested patches and open meadows with relatively few trees. Coming around a corner to one of these open areas, we saw a bird fly by us and land on an alder tree (appropriate given the trail's name). This was a woodpecker with a black and white body and a somewhat faded but still brilliantly red head: a **Red-breasted Sapsucker**.

Immediately the bird started pecking small holes in the tree and moving sideways to peck more holes. I've seen dozens of trees with tiny holes in parallel lines, but this was the first time I'd seen the actual bird doing the pecking!

Looping back toward the mainline trail, there were still surprises ahead for us. A flock of **Pine Siskin** flew over unseen but making their unmistakable chattering sounds. A **Varied Thrush** sang its haunting and peaceful song. Yielding only a brief glimpse through the tree branches, a **Red Crossbill** flew overhead, perhaps following the Pine Siskin flock. I don't speak crossbill, but I imagined him or her calling out, "Hey guys, wait for me!"

We also found the leaf-gleaner flock again (or perhaps a different flock), but this time in much shorter trees. We got very nice looks at the chickadees and kinglets, including the yellow-orange crown of one of the kinglets!

Before the end of the trail, we even got a good look at one of the Pacific Wrens. And not to be left out, our familiar sparrows made sure they were heard but not seen: a **Spotted Towhee** and a **Song Sparrow** both made their presence known.

All in all, not the birdiest day ever, but a pleasant hike through the woods in a lovely park with only a few sprinkles from the sky. A few of us capped off the outing with lunch at the nearby Maltby Cafe. In the opinion of your humble correspondent, both the park and cafe are worth checking out if you haven't been before.



Spotted Towhee
Photo by Gary Kramer/USFWS

Backyard Birding Highlights August 26 - September 25, 2014

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

It looks like there were still a number of Black-Headed Grosbeaks and Rufous Hummingbirds here in September. They should be heading south soon, while the Dark-Eyed Juncos return, along with the Pine Siskins.



*Black-headed Grosbeak sitting on a branch
Photo by Dave Menke/USFWS*

Carole and Larry Beason reported 6 Black Headed Grosbeaks and 2 Rufous Hummingbirds from their home at Lake Bosworth. They also listed 3 Evening Grosbeaks, 20 American Robins, 60+ Barn Swallows on the power line, 2 Belted Kingfishers overhead, 15 Canada Goose on the lake, 5 Cedar Waxwings, 9 Dark-Eyed Junco, 6 Mourning Doves, an Osprey overhead, 2 Pine Siskins, 14 Purple Finch, 12 Violet-Green Swallows, 2 Western Tanagers and 2 Wood Ducks by the shore for a total species count of 43.

Hilkka Egtvedt always has plenty of American Goldfinches at her feeders in Mukilteo. This month she listed 10, but they will soon be leaving for warmer climates. Her total species count of 23 consisted of 8 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 4 Black-Capped Chickadees, 6 California Quail, 2 Dark-Eyed Junco, an Eurasian Collard Dove, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 2 Northern Flickers, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 2 Spotted Towhees, 3 Steller's Jays and a Western Scrub Jay.

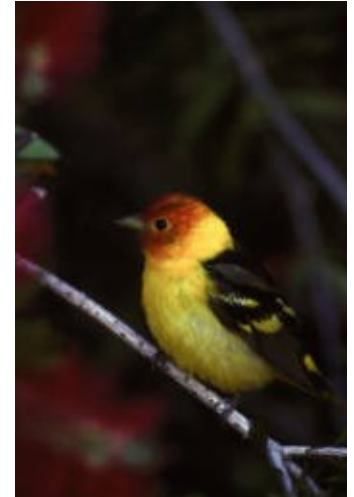
Kriss Erickson's report from her home in Everett included 14 Black-Capped Chickadees, 2 Song Sparrows, 16 Northwestern Crows, 4 Anna's Hummingbirds, 5 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, 2 Bewick's Wrens, 16 Canada Goose flying over, 27 Bushtit, 4 Mourning Doves, a Sharp-Shinned Hawk, 1 male Yellow Warbler, a Common Raven and a Horned Lark for a total species count of 19.

Reporting from Stanwood, Mary Sinker listed 18 American Goldfinch at the feeders, a Bald Eagle in the yard, 5 Bewick's Wrens, 10 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, 6 Cedar Waxwings, 25 Dark-Eyed Junco, 4 Evening Grosbeaks, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 17 Mourning

Doves, 2 Northern Flickers, a Red-Tailed Hawk in the pasture, 4 Red-Winged Blackbirds, 11 Rufous Humming Birds, 12 Steller's Jays, 4 Tree Swallows, 2 Western Tanagers, 2 Veery and 2 Wilson's Warblers for a total species count of 39.

My report from Marysville included 5 Black-Capped Chickadees, a Brow-Headed Cowbird at the feeders, 7 California Quail, 2 Great-Horned Owls (they are sounding more like adult owl now), 9 House Finch, 7 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, 1 Anna's Hummingbird at the pond, 2 Common Ravens, 3 Mourning Doves, 5 Northern Flickers, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 2 Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 4 Spotted Towhee, 2 Yellow Warblers at the pond and a Pacific Wren in the woods for a total species count of 23.

If you have any questions or requests, you can reach me at pricemara@clearwire.net or call my cell at (425) 750-8125.



*Western Tanager
Photo by Gary
Kramer/USFWS*

The 115th Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

Will take place from December 14, 2014 to January 5, 2015. This is the longest running Citizen Science survey in the world and provides critical data on population trends for birds. Those interested in joining the CBC should contact the compilers:

December 20, 2014 Count

Edmonds/South County CBC
Duane Karna
karnadk@comcast.net
Tel: [425-776-5756](tel:425-776-5756)

January 1, 2015 Count

Everett/Marysville/ North County CBC
Scott Atkinson
scottratkinson@hotmail.com
Tel: [425-210-2716](tel:425-210-2716)



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
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Snohomish, WA 98290-1742

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

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