

# Bird Watching Tips & Etiquette:

## Be Polite

- To birds and other wildlife.
- To other people (other birders, other outdoor enthusiasts, neighbors).
- The environment.

## Be polite to the BIRDS:

### #1: Put the birds first

It is magical to see a huge flock snow geese fly off in unison but please don't chase or alarm the birds. We have lots of eagles and typically every 20-30 minutes they pester the flocks and cause them to take wing. Be patient and let the eagles do the agitating. Also, if you approach the flock very slowly, the snows probably won't mind, but if they move away, that's a sign that your actions are disturbing the birds – and you should move back.

### #2: Dogs and birding just don't mix

It would be best to leave your dog home. However, if you must bring Fluffy along, please be responsible for your pet. However, some birding locations and birding groups do not allow dogs at all, so be sure to check before you leave home.

- Fluffy should always be on a leash.
- Make sure Fluffy is not ruining the experience for others (barking, jumping on people, knocking over equipment)
- Pick up after Fluffy.

## Be polite to other PEOPLE:

### #3: Don't trespass on private property.

Fields and vacant lands are “vacant” – but not “unowned”. Publicly owned lands are typically very well marked – and may require a Discover Pass for parking. When in doubt assume it is private land. Please don't trespass.

### #4: Parking

Please observe the No Parking signs on Fir Island Road. There are MANY signs so don't pretend you didn't see them. This is for your safety and that of others.

Most of our rural roads have little or no shoulder so while it may be legal to park, it may not be safe to park due to soft shoulder and/or big drop offs. If you must park on a road, please make sure your car is completely off the roadway and be sure to walk against the traffic.

**\*Note: A Discover Pass (available for purchase at the SG Festival) is required for parking at the two state parks on Camano Island and the sites managed by the Department of Fish & Wildlife (Eide Road, Big Ditch, Wylie Road, Talking Fields #3, Maupin Road, Rawlins Road)**

### #5: Dress for the weather and for birding

So you and your group can enjoy the entire day remember that February in western Washington can be cold and wet so be sure to bring your rain gear, boots, hat, & gloves.

Birds don't like bright colors (whites, yellows, and reds). Try wearing camouflage colors so you can blend into the background.

Once you are out in the field, be sure to move slowly and quietly. Keep your conversation volumes low.

#### **#6: Tips for birding in a group**

Usually birders will offer to let you look through their scope. But don't hog the view.

Make sure you aren't standing in front of someone's camera or telescope.

Be sure to keep your conversation volume down.

Stay with the group so you don't end up being the person who flushes the special bird before the group is ready.

## **Be polite to the HABITAT:**

#### **#7: Stay on trails and paths**

#### **#8: Leave no trace**