

# Pilchuck Audubon Profile

April 1980

Vol. IX, no. 4

## CALENDAR

- April 12 Saturday - Field trip to Foulweather Bluff. Meet at 9:15 a.m. in Edmonds Safeway Parking lot. If there is a ferry strike we will go down to the Museum of History and Industry and through the Arboretum or the Montlake fill.
- April 17 Thursday - 7 p.m. County Hearing Room, Courthouse, Everett. Hearing on the Bureau of Land Management classification of the Wilderness Study Areas. Come hear them and respond. See article on the Juniper Forest.
- April 18 Friday - Program meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Room 308 at Everett Community College. Dr. Richard Martyr, Western Regional Representative of NAS will speak -- the first time a member of the NAS staff has attended one of our meetings.
- April 19 Saturday - Field trip to Mt. Erie and the Sundquist Marine Laboratory Reserve. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Smokey Point Rest Areas, north of Exit 206, heading north on I-5.
- April 26 Saturday - Field trip to Reiffel Game Refuge in Fraser River Delta. Meet at Smokey Point Rest area at 9:30 a.m.
- April 30 DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER
- May 2-4 State Audubon Council at Ellensburg. See article.
- May 10 Saturday - Snoqualmie Wildlife Area. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the SE corner of Snohomish Safeway Parking lot.
- May 17 Saturday - Meet at Jennings Barn in Marysville at 10 a.m. We will go to Deering Wildflower Acres and Kayak Pt. Annual POTLUCK will be at 5 p.m. at Jennings Barn. Bring food and utensils. also Bring SLIDES to share with the rest of the group, the sharing of slides is an annual affair
- June 14 Field trip to Ashland Lakes. Meet at 9:00 at Frontier Village on Hwy 9 near Lake Stevens.
- June 26 Field trip to the Soulder River.

The Biennial Meeting of the Western Regional Audubon Chapters was held at Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California, March 29 to April 1. There were over 1000 participants this year including representatives from 63 of the 78 chapters in the western region plus 5 chapters from the Rocky Mountain region. This makes the Western Regional meeting the biggest of any regional conference in the country.

The main emphasis of the meeting was the Great Basin Desert which occupies most of Nevada, western Utah and smaller portions of southeastern Oregon and eastern California. We had presentations on the geology, vegetation, fishes, birds, and large mammals of the area.

In addition there were special presentations on the proposed MX missile system, the effects of water diversion at Mono Lake in California, the effects of off-road vehicles (ORV) on the California desert, the Snake River Birds of Prey area, and much more.

Many members of the Board of Directors of the NAS were present during part or all of the meetings. It was a real pleasure to get to know some of these people and to put across to them some of our concerns here in Washington state.

In addition we had sessions dealing with the funding of National, Regional and local Audubon activities, the New Audubon Cause statement, the NAS Energy Conservation Emphasis also was covered in several sessions, as well as a session on the readership of the Audubon magazine.

Our chapter was represented by yours truly, many of whose expenses the chapter paid, and by your vice president Martha Jordan sent by her employer to obtain further information on the Great Basin Desert where she is doing much of her work.

It was a good meeting - we learned much, made many good contacts with people and had a good time while doing it.

During the field trips we had a great opportunity to see more of the coastal area and many sea otters with their pups. Sea lions were also abundant.

#### NEW MEMBERS

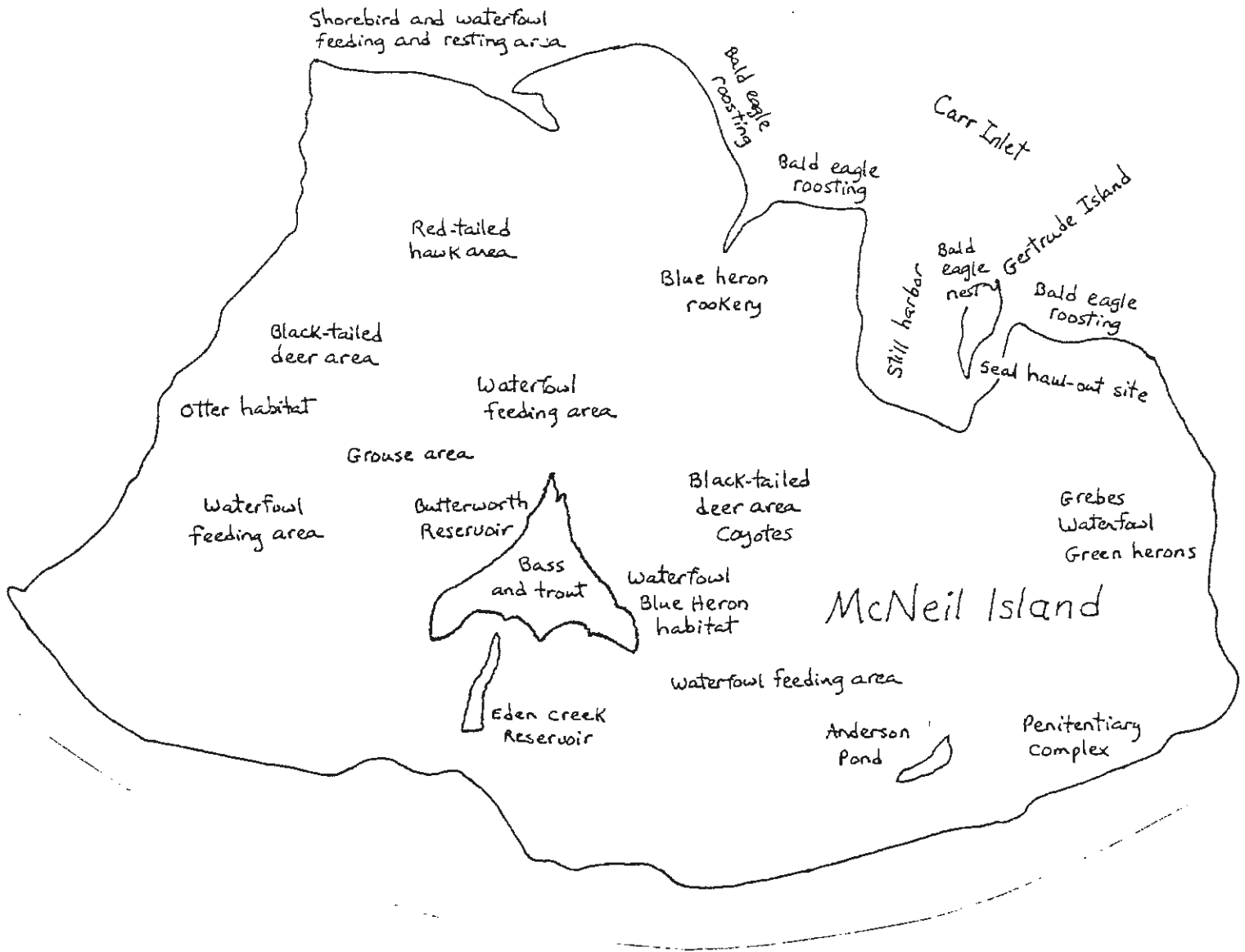
We would like to WELCOME these new members to Pilchuck Audubon: Virginia Hougen, Jane Dewell, Hedvig Antonsen, and Kirk Baker, all of Everett; J.R. Leach and Casey Naakenson of Stanwood; Harold Dillon of Camon Island; Norma Bohan and Melissa Anderson of Lynnwood; Mildred Arnot of Arlington; Katherine Barnell of Snohomish; Phil Strickland of Lakewood; E.R. Mason of Marysville; Frank Roesler of Startup; and Mr. & Mrs. Anders Cross of Monroe. We would also like to welcome Mrs. Eric Molinari of Everett, who transferred into our chapter.

#### GOLDEN RULE OF BIRDING

Take into consideration other people's property and their rights. One birder went to the Everett Sewage Lagoon and was able to drive around it. This individual was parked between the two ponds and not only did he/she refuse to move to let a chemical truck go by, but the individual was verbally abusive to the employee working at the sewage lagoon. We can still go in after each signing a form - but we have to walk. So one person has ruined it for everyone else.

#### TRUMPETER SWAN FUND

Pilchuck Audubon Society received a donation to the Trumpeter Swan Fund in memory of Eva L. Davis. We appreciate the gift and will use it to try and help preserve the habitat of the Trumpeter Swan.



## THE TRUMPETER SWAN SOCIETY

This organization is dedicated to the continued survival of the trumpeter swan. They are international in scope encompassing the whole of North America. They publish a very informative newsletter giving coverage to all issues regarding trumpeters. If you are interested in joining the society please fill out the enclosed membership form and send to the appropriate address.

Because Pilchuck Audubon has become involved with the trumpeter swan and its problems in the Skagit area we thought you might like to know more about these magnificent birds as well as additional information about other populations of trumpeter swans.

## NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

The following people have been nominated for Pilchuck Audubon officers for 1980-81. Further nominations may be made from the floor, but you must have the consent of the nominee. The office of president is for two years and currently held by Jan Van Niel through next year.

Vice-president	Mary Ann McKnight
Secretary	Joyce Kelly
Treasurer	Carl Holmes

Voting will be at the May meeting.

## Mystery of the decade? McNEIL ISLAND

TAS members may be wondering what is happening regarding McNeil Island. It may be the mystery of decade! Then again it may be the fiasco of the decade, except that there are so many competing situations! U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been attempting to help the state work out a suitable management plan so that the Federal Government won't have to spend the money to care for the island. The state may or may not be able to finance such management: how active, after all, has the Legislature been in financing wildlife refuges in the past? There is a bit of hope, but the Governor and the Legislature seem unable to agree on much.

Governor Ray's Task Force on McNeil Island is meeting behind closed doors (we tried to get in). A state plan should be ready May 1. Since the issue is unlikely to be resolved by the end of the legislative period, Governor Ray will be in charge of drawing up any plan the state will submit for ownership of McNeil. USFWS has decided to postpone its final request from January to June, 1980, but still, it says, intends to request the island. The closure date of the prison is October 1980 -- not much time to draw up a management plan. Will there be time for citizen participation in this major land-use decision? Although USFWS says it is holding on to its prerogatives for ownership of McNeil Island, no contingency funding appears in its budget for 1982.

With USFWS demurring, the state's posture becomes more crucial. McNeil Island wildlife is presently the pawn in the struggle for ownership and management. It does not bode well for wildlife, unless the state develops a plan for limited, fenced and guarded public access to the island. This means no bridge! Where will the money come from to run such a refuge-park? Referendum has been mentioned.

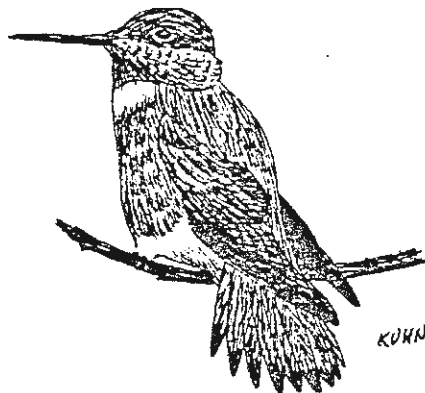
YOU CAN HELP by contacting your state and federal legislators and expressing hope that McNeil will be first an outstanding wildlife refuge, than other compatible uses could be added. The interim management plan is being formulated now, too. For input and information call Mr. Harold Hansen, GAS Center, Auburn, WA 98002. These people respond to our concerns and every contact helps, even if you don't know the details. We're asking for a complete biological inventory during the interim period, and for a prohibition of public access during that time, with deputized game wardens as enforcers.

courtesy TQWHEE, Tahoma Audubon Society  
by Nancy Kroening

## BIRD SIGHTINGS

On March 8, K.C. Jones saw a male rufous humminobird at his feeder. Paula Wellnitz saw a yellow bellied sapsucker and bald eagle on the Pilchuck River. Bill Stearns saw a peregrine falcon on the Tulalip Reservation. A sandhill crane was seen at Burlington. Omer Henderson saw a pileated woodpecker and fledglings at his home near I-5. A tufted duck was seen at the Everett Sewage Lagoon the last week in March. Two bald eagles were over Everett April 1 (no fooling!) and one immature golden eagle was located near Stanwood on Bow Road.

Jan and Sally Van Niel report that the class from Everett Community College that went of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Oregon saw greater and lesser sandhill cranes, sage grouse strutting, great horned owls nesting, ash throated fly-catchers, sage sparrows and 87 more species.



## DON'T WASTE WASHINGTON

The Washington Environmental Council is sponsoring Initiative 383, the Radioactive Waste Storage and Transportation Act of 1980. This initiative will ban the importation and storage of non-medical radioactive wastes generated outside Washington as of July 1, 1981. The goal is to collect 160,000 signatures by the end of June. To obtain petitions for signatures call the WEC office at 622-3902 or Sally van Niel at 778-7568.

## JUNIPER FOREST

The Juniper Forest, north of Pasco is the most northern stand of western juniper in North America. It also provides critical habitat for the ferruginous hawk (including over half of the active nests), Ord's kangaroo rat, long-billed curlew, pygmy rabbit, and the only population of scaled quail in Washington.

The Juniper Forest is managed by the Bureau of Land Management which has tried to protect this area by fencing the 4600 acres. Off road vehicle users cut the fence and go through, causing erosion and plant destruction-activities that will interfere with the ferruginous hawk nesting.

The BLM has just released their classification of lands under their jurisdiction - like RARE II. The Juniper Forest was not suggested for inclusion, so would be open to deprivation. The BLM will be having a hearing April 17 at the County Hearing Room, County Courthouse at 7 p.m. Come express your opinions or write to Roger Burwell, District Manager, BLM, Federal Bldg., 520 W. Riverside, Spokane, 99201 or Director of BLM, P.O. Box 2965, 729 NE Oregon St., Portland, OR 97208.

## ALASKA

Again, I urge you to notify Senators Jackson and Magnuson, Washington D.C. 20510, that you oppose the 5 month delay on the Alaska bill, or we may completely lose it. Urge the Senate leaders to bring it to the floor now. Urge them to co-sponsor and support the Tsongas-Roth Substitute Amendment 626 and other strengthening amendments.

## SKAGIT VALLEY TRIP

The Pilchuck Audubon field trip to the Skagit Valley March 8 was enjoyed by 17 people. We spent most of the day at the Davis Slough access. A beautiful walk along the tidal marsh to the mud flats of Port Susan revealed eight bald eagles, a shorteared owl and many waterfowl species. Meadowlarks and robins welcomed spring with beautiful serenades from the tree tops.

Many snow geese were seen at the Big Ditch access but due to the low tide they were too far away to read neck bands. A short stop at Jensen access finished the day with a small flock of whistling swans. A total of 30 species were seen.

## HUMMINGBIRDS- WE STAND CORRECTED

We really blew it with the last newsletter. Maybelle Nichold, our Master Gardener, says the single best plant to put in your yard to attract birds is Pyraecantha, especially if you let it get bushy.

According to Dr. A. Ruschi, the world's leading hummingbird authority, our suggestion for feeding hummingbirds was wrong. Do NOT feed them honey.

Use cane sugar, 1 part sugar to 6 parts water. Anything more concentrated causes liver enlargement. Also add one or 2 drops of baby vitamins. Of course, having fuchsias and honeysuckle is best of all.

## BALD EAGLES KILLED

There have been at least 25, and perhaps as many as 75, bald eagles killed on the Lummi Indian Reservation so far this year, according to Federal Wildlife Agents. Eagles are also being killed on the Nooksack and the Sauk Rivers.

The Lummi Tribe is also concerned about the problem. They have a tribal law against killing the birds.

Apparently the birds are killed to use the feathers to decorate clothes and cars. It is a federal offense to kill, molest or possess a bald eagle or its feathers. Conviction can mean a \$5,000 fine and a year in jail.

PAS BOARD

President: Jan van Niel (778-7568)  
V. Pres: Martha Jordan (775-0137)  
Secretary: Joyce Kelley (568-5974)  
Treasurer: Carl Holmes (387-4631)

Conservation: Sally van Niel (778-7568)  
Newsletter: P.O. Box 1618, Everett  
Publicity: Joan & Evan Lucas (252-1684)  
Membership: Eileen Loerch (659-6901)  
Hospitality: Joyce Mansfield (546-4040)  
Field Trips: Jim Kuhn (252-0900)  
Education: Lee Henderson (353-7213)

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(Another \$2.00 per year for first class  
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To join Pilchuck Audubon Society,  
which includes membership in  
National Audubon Society and the  
magazine "Audubon", as well as the  
Pilchuck Audubon Profile, fill out  
the application and send to PAS.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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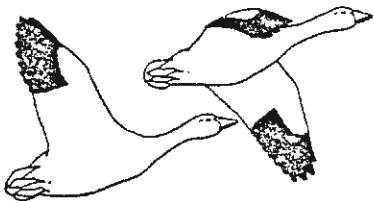
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TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

\_\_\_ Individual (\$20.00 per year)

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