

Pilchuck Audubon Profile

December 1980

Vol. 9 No. 10

Calendar

- December 27 - Saturday CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Meet at Jennings Park in Marysville at 7:00 a.m. See related article.
- January 5 - Monday Board Meeting, call Jan van Niel for details.
- January 16 - Friday Regular meeting. Terry Manthey, a wildlife photographer and tour guide in Alaska will present a program. 7:30 p.m. Room 308, Everett Community College.
- January 10 - Saturday Third Annual Bald Eagle Survey. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Smokey Point exit 206 at the Bank of Stanwood or at 12:30 at the south end of Deception Pass Bridge. Bring sack lunch.
- January 17 - Saturday Field trip - Onamac Point and English Broom. 10:00 a.m. meet at the Bank of Stanwood, exit 206 and I-5 or at 10:30 am at Viking Village in Stanwood. Bring sack lunch.
- January 25 - Sunday Field trip - Deering Wildflower Acres. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Everett Community College lower parking lot. Bring sack lunch.
- January 30 - Friday Bird Identification Workshop. Presented by Dan Svilar. 7:30 p.m. in Room 605 at Everett Community College.
- January 31 - Saturday Field Trip - Eagles of the Skagit. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Bank of Stanwood at exit 206 and I-5. Bring sack lunch.
- February 2 - Monday Board Meeting, call Jan van Niel for details.
- February 14 - Saturday Field Trip - Ebey's Landing and Crockett Lake Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Bank of Stanwood at exit 206 and I-5 or at 11:00 at the south end of the Deception Pass Bridge. Bring sack lunch.
- February 20 - Friday Regular meeting. Fayette Krause, of the Nature Conservancy, will speak and present a film on the Birds of Prey.
- February 28 - Saturday Field Trip - Big Ditch, Wiley Slough, etc. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Bank of Stanwood at exit 206 and I-5. Bring sack lunch.
- March 2 - Monday Board Meeting, call Jan van Niel for details.
- March 7 - Saturday Field Trip - Snoqualmie Wildlife Recreation Area. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Safeway store in Snohomish. Bring sack lunch.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT *****

December 27 is our annual Christmas Bird Count. We hope all of you will participate so this count will be the most productive ever. Not only is this a good opportunity to have a good time birding, but it also provides data on population trends throughout the country. Many of you have already signed up, but there is still ample space that needs to be covered.

This year, as in years past, National Audubon has collected a participation fee to help defray the ever growing cost of compiling the massive amount of information generated during the count period. All the information is published each year in the July issue of American Birds. It takes that long to compile and proof and print all our work. The fee this year is \$1.50 per person participating.

In past years, Pilchuck Audubon has paid the fee for all participants. Because both the fee and the number of people participating have increased steadily, the amount paid out each year by PAS has gone up and is now in excess of \$50. Our chapter plans to continue financial support of participants this year, however, PAS will gladly accept your \$1.50 on count morning. By contributing your CBC fee, PAS saves money to support other equally important environmental issues and programs such as our Trumpeter Swan Project.

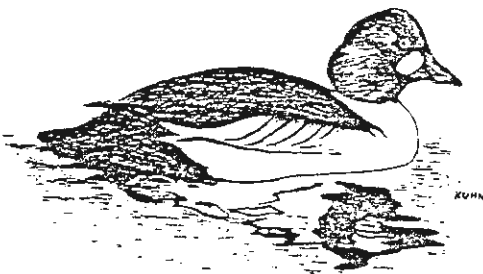
We need and want your participation in the CBC whether or not you choose to contribute the fee. SO, COME ALONG and do not forget the potluck dinner at the end of the day at Jennings Barn. You may bring any dish you like, but be sure to bring your own place setting. See you there.

FROM AUDUBON LEADER:

A Waste of Parrots

A pet dealer who tried to smuggle 259 parrots from Mexico into the United States has been sentenced to six months in jail and five years' probation, reports the Justice Department's newly established Land and Natural Resources Division. David Alan Rives of Los Angeles was arrested as he crossed a lonely stretch of the border late at night. Immigration agents, who had found his behavior suspicious, stopped him and discovered his car was loaded with parrots for which he had no papers.

All 259 birds died soon afterward of Newcastle disease. Had the smuggler not been caught, the infected parrots might have caused another epidemic of the feared disease in California—a disease that only a few years ago cost farmers in that state millions of chickens. And if Rives' case is typical of such operations, the total death toll in parrots was far higher than 259. As pointed out in an article in the September 1977 *Audubon*, when wild birds are caught for the pet trade, often only a small percentage of them reach pet shops alive. The rest die in traps, illegal holding stations, or ill-tended carrying cages.



COMMON GOLDENEYE

Senate Holds a Hearing On Costs of Acid Rain

At a joint hearing a few weeks ago, two Senate committees started "pulling together the available information" on acid rain, the damage it is causing, and its potential economic cost to the nation. The senators heard a parade of scientists and government officials testify that although the facts aren't all in yet, the research so far indicates acid rain is a "grave threat." One estimate set the current cost to the nation at \$5 billion a year.

The hearing was held by the Environment and Public Works Committee and the Select Committee on Small Businesses. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, the chairman, said the purpose was to prepare for the debates next year on two issues bearing directly on the harmful emissions that cause acid rain: possible amendments to the Clean Air Act, which comes up for reauthorization in 1981, and coal conversion legislation.

While the most evident effect of acid rain has been on the thousands of lakes that have been rendered sterile in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the Northeast, according to the testimony, acid rain is also causing corrosion of stone and metal structures, groundwater contamination, and damage to soil that is causing loss of agricultural and forest productivity. If the government waits too long for thorough documentation of all the problems, the scientists said, it may be too late to avoid irreversible loss.

In the November *Audubon* there is an article, "Troubled Skies, Troubled Waters," about the acid rain problem, and the controversies over who is responsible and what can be done about it. The article is being reprinted. When the reprints are ready, there will be announcement in the *Leader* about how they will be distributed, and how additional copies will be made available.

IN MEMORIAM
ROSS NICHOLS -1980

It is with great regret that we announce the death of Ross Nichols. He was a charter member of our chapter and for many years, our able field trip chairman and trip leader. We will miss his enthusiasm, cheerfulness and wit. He had a fascinating knowledge of the history of many local areas to which we went for our outings. We appreciate all of the trips and effort he put into the success of the chapter, often spending at least an entire day in advance checking out a field trip area. His lively remarks and delightful humor will be profoundly missed by all of those who knew him.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

Paula Wellnitz reported that after the Everett Sewage Lagoon trip, she, and a group of people, went to another island near Smith Island and saw three GOLDEN EAGLES soaring.

On the trip to see the trumpeter swans at Barney Lake, we saw about 47 TRUMPETER SWANS. The lake showed the influence of the rain and was at least four times larger than any of us has ever seen it. While we were watching the swans, one pair of adults and four young landed fairly close. We went a little closer and saw another pair of adults with five young fly in over our heads. (Presently there are over 200 trumpeters in the Mt. Vernon area with a ratio of 35 percent young. Russ Canniff has been observing the swans and keeping us updated on count numbers) The trip next went to LaConner (since Clear Lake was so rough), and Joan Lucas and others saw a CATTLE EGRET in the field. We then saw the WHISTLING SWANS. All in all, 26 different species were seen on the trip.

Three hundred HORNED GREBE were observed at the mouth of the Lyre River, west of Port Angeles by Martha Jordan. Several BLACK SCOTER, COMMON GOLDENEYE, and BLACK TURNSTONES were also seen.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREA INFORMATION

We are in the process of gathering information to put together a natural area and wildlife atlas for Snohomish County. Initially we will concentrate on the lowlands since our county is so big. Will anyone who has a special area please make some notes on it and send them to Sally van Niel, P.O. Box 1616, Everett, 98206, or call her at 778-7566 in the evenings to give her the information. The information will be useful in planning field trips, and in having the data available to help the Growth Management Committee in their work or as baseline data when commenting on Environmental Impact Statements.

WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome these new members: Carol Anderson of Mountlake Terrace; Paul and Michele Marshal of Marysville; Ethel Arnold of Lynnwood; Yvonne Ellis, and Rick Reisinger of Everett; and Arlene Sampson of Arlington.

We also would like to welcome John Hallis of Snohomish who transferred into our chapter.

Lots of important legislation is coming up in the Washington State legislative session beginning January 12, 1981. So, if you have not already sent for the Olympia Bulletin (see November newsletter for details) it is still not too late to put your name on the list. Do it for your Washington environment.

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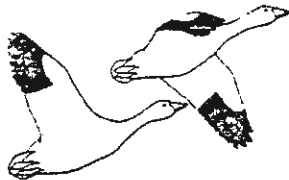
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Pilchuck Audubon Society

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