

Pilchuck Audubon Profile

February 1980

Volume IX, No. 2

Calendar

- February 15, Friday. Program Meeting. 7:30 p.m., Room 308, Everett Community College. We will have a program on the animals of Puget Sound presented by the Seattle Aquarium.
- February 16, Saturday. Field Trip. See eagles on the Skagit. On our way back we may look for trumpeter swans. Meet 9 a.m., Smokey Point Rest Area northbound or 10 a.m., Sakgit Valley CC Parking lot at the Southwest corner. Bring warm clothes and a sack lunch.
- February 24, Sunday. Annual joint field trip with Seattle Audubon to the home of Grace Cornwell. We will have a beach walk to Camano Island State Park. Meet 8:45 Northbound Smokey Point Rest Area, north of Exit 206 or at 9:30 at Viking Village Parking lot (S.E. corner). Bring warm clothes and a sack lunch.
- March 3, Monday. Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Call Jan Van Niel 778-7568 for more information.
- March 8, Saturday. Field trip to Skagit Flats to see snow geese and other birds, possibly swans and snow owls if they are around. Meet 8:30 Smokey Point or 9:15 Viking Village. Bring warm clothes and a sack lunch.
- March 14, Friday. Program Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Room 308 at Everett CC. Note: THIS IS ONE WEEK EARLY BECAUSE THE COLLEGE WILL BE CLOSED FOR VACATION THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

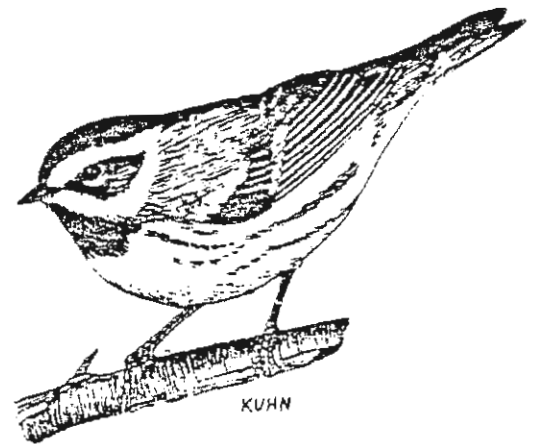
Have you read your January issue of AUDUBON? Look for the article "A Matter of Blind Opposition?" by Vashon Island freelance writer Daniel Chasan. The subject of the article? -- None other than our own Nisqually Delta and the Weyerhaeuser Company's plan to build a major export facility just east of the delta at Dupont.

Conservation organizations in Western Washington have been fighting to save the Nisqually Delta from development for more than a decade. In 1974, a great victory was establishment of a National Wildlife Refuge in much of the delta. Since that time the battle has centered around what happens to the adjacent areas. At a recent State Audubon Council meeting a resolution was passed opposing the Weyerhaeuser plan and other serious development which could endanger the refuge. Now the National magazine comes out with an article directly undermining our stand. No one from the National office talked to anyone from our Washington Chapters about the conclusions reached in the article before it was published. When the magazine was at the addressing company, Dr. Russell Peterson sent Helen Engle (president of WEC and past-president Tahoma Audubon Soc.) a letter warning her that she and others in Washington might not like the article. Where does this leave us? How could this happen? Why was no one in one of our Chapters consulted before the article was published? What are the editorial policies of the magazine and their relationship, if any, to the local Chapters and the people in Audubon? These and other questions raised by the appearance of the article, were discussed by the presidents of a number of the Chapters in the state at a meeting at Helen Engle's house on January 20. By the time you receive this Profile, the Chapter presidents will have had a second meeting at the home of Helen. This one with none other than NAS President Dr. Peterson,

and Western Regional Representative Dr. Richard Martyr. This should be an interesting meeting! I will keep you informed.

On another topic, the Biennial Western Regional Audubon Conference will be held March 29 to April 1 at Asilomar State Park in California. According to the word I have received, each national member should be getting a mailing on this. If you do not get yours, and want more information contact me evenings at 778-7568.

Jan van Niel



TOWNSEND'S WARBLER

NEW MEMBERS ***** WELCOME *****

Steven Brown and Bob Waldsen of Everett, Clyde Ellingsen of Stanwood, Jeffrey Johnson and the P.J. Sanders family of Lynnwood, James Sprinkle of Mountlake Terrace, H. Odell of Marysville, Daniel Lafferty of Brier, and Gary Wold and Laura Keith of Mukiltec.

COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE

The Columbia River Gorge has been studied by the National Park Service which recommends the Gorge be made into a National Scenic Area. This would let appropriate uses continue under mixed public and private ownership.

The Gorge is under threat from port authorities converting the shorelands, wildlife habitat and farms into industrial parks. The White Salmon River may have 7 dams built on it by the Klickitat County PUD. Surface mining on cliff faces and islands is increasing. Clearcuts on the Gorge walls are appearing. Farmlands and vistas are filled by subdivisions. There is a continual destruction of historic and archeological sites.

With the new proposal agricultural lands would be preserved. Fisheries and wildlife habitat would be protected and rehabilitated, with appropriate fishing and hunting to continue. For further information write the Columbia Gorge Coalition, P.O. Box 266, Hood River, OR 97031

PADILLA BAY ESTUARINE SANCTUARY

Senate Bill No. 3371 sponsored by Senator Lowell Peterson, H.A. Goltz and Pat Wanamaker establishes the Padilla Bay Estuarine Sanctuary and appropriates \$250,000 to the Department of Ecology to acquire tidelands, contingent upon the use of public or private matching funds. The money would be spent on a "willing seller" concept, with no condemnation. No uplands will be purchased unless offered by the property owner and no residences will be purchased. This money will be matched by NOAA funds already established for the project. So encourage these Senators and others like Sen. Larry Vognild to support this bill. Toll free number 1-800-562-6000.

LORDS HILL

The future of Lord's Hill is still undecided. The DNR sent back a counter-proposal to the County's proposal. Now we are waiting for the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney to be free to meet with us.

SENTINEL ISLAND

Remember last fall when The Nature Conservancy had a fund raising campaign to buy two islands in the San Juan Islands? The Nature Conservancy has now bought Sentinel Island which has a productive bald eagle nest and the largest breeding colony of pigeon guillemots in San Juan County. The group is now working to earn \$169,000 to buy Yellow Island. Any contribution will be gratefully accepted. Send to TNC, 618 Smith Tower, Seattle 98104.

NON-WILDERNESS BILL

Representative Thomas Foley introduced the "National Forest Multiple-Use Management Act of 1980", H.R. 6070. Any areas recommended for non-wilderness under RARE II by the administration will not be considered as wilderness ever again. In addition, Congress would be required to make all wilderness decisions on primitive areas within the next 2-3 years. Lands not designated as wilderness within that time could never again be managed as wilderness by the Forest Service. This would include Boulder River as a non-wilderness area and thus open immediately to logging. Rep. Swift will co-sponsor the bill, as well as introduce a separate bill to make Boulder River wilderness. How's that for a contradiction. Please let these men know you oppose this legislation (House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515).

MALHEUR FIELD TRIP

Everett Community College is offering a 5 day field trip to Eastern Oregon and Malheur Wildlife Recreation Area on March 21-25. There will be some time spent looking at the natural history of Eastern Oregon and over two days spent bird watching at Malheur. For further information, call Sally van Niel at 259-7151 during the day or 778-7568 in the evenings.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 1979

SPECIES	1979 TOTAL	YRS SEEN	PREV HIGH
Common loon	7	6	8
Red-throated loon	1	6	3
Western Grebe	7	5	245
Red-necked Grebe	12	3	18
Horned Grebe	5	6	15
Eared Grebe		4*	3
Pied-billed Grebe	4	5	13
Cormorant sp.	8		
Obl.-cr. Cormorant	7	2	6
Pelagic Cormorant		1*	1
Great Blue Heron	54	6	35
American Bittern		1*	1
Trumpeter Swan	4	1	
Canada Goose	250	4	400
Black Grant	5	3	67
Snow Goose	6000	6	6000
Mallard	234	6	567
Pintail	65	4	100
Gadwall		2*	8
American Wigeon	1045	6	887
Shoveler		2*	3
Green-winged Teal		2*	4
Wood Duck		5*	3
Canvasback	18	5	23
Lesser Scaup	48	6	55
Greater Scaup		1*	2
Common Goldeneye	86	6	26
Barrow's Goldeneye	12	6	40
Bufflehead	92	6	310
Oldsquaw		1*	1
White-winged Scoter		5*	10
Surf Scoter	10	6	58
Ruddy Duck	30	6	123
Common Merganser	41	6	115
Red-breasted Merganser	52	3	11
Hooded Merganser	8	6	11
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	3	1
Copper's Hawk	1	1	
Marsh Hawk	5	6	6
Rough-legged Hawk		1*	1
Red-tailed Hawk	25	6	18
Swainson's Hawk	1	3	1
Bald Eagle	5	5	2
Merlin	1	5	2
American Kestrel	4	4	2
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	
Ruffed Grouse	4	4	2
California Quail	1	2	2
Sharptailed Grouse		1*	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	3	2
American Coot	89	6	367
Black-bellied Plover		1*	9
Killdeer	15	4	95
Spotted Sandpiper		1*	1
Lesser Yellowlegs		1*	1
Dunlin	399	5	1706
Western Sandpiper	28	1	

SPECIES	1979 TOTAL	YRS SEEN	PREV HIGH
Least Sandpiper		1*	50
Common Snipe		4*	55
Gull sp.	654		
Glaucous-winged Gull	28	6	2
Herring Gull		2*	131
California Gull		4*	326
Ring-billed Gull	157	3	40
Mew Gull	122	4	140
Thayer's Gull	50	3	20
Bonaparte's Gull	20	2	1
Common Murre		1*	25
Cassin's Auklet	2	2	1
Marbled Murrelet	6	2	2
Band-tailed Pigeon	7	3	49
Rock Dove	692	4	250
Great Horned Owl	2	3	2
Long-eared Owl		1*	1
Short-eared Owl		1*	4
Pygmy Owl		2*	1
Barn Owl	1	2	1
Belted Kingfisher	5	6	9
Rufous Hummingbird	2	1	
Anna's Hummingbird	2	1	
Common Flicker	28	6	27
Pileated Woodpecker	2	5	2
Hairy Woodpecker	4	5	4
Downy Woodpecker	5	3	2
Red-breasted sapsucker		1*	2
Horned Lark		1*	8
Rough-winged Swallow		1*	
Steller's Jay	23	6	30
Gray Jay		1*	1
Common Raven	8	5	5
Crow	1053	6	596
Blk-capped Chickadee	117	6	91
Ch.-bk. Chickadee	29	6	76
Common Nuthatch	77	6	175
Wh.-br. Nuthatch		1*	5
Red-br. Nuthatch	2	3	4
Brown Creeper	2	5	7
Dipper		1*	2
House Wren		1*	1
Winter Wren	15	6	36
Bewick's Wren	8	4	3
Long-billed Marsh Wren	1	2	1
American Robin	4	6	486
Varied Thrush	5	5	173
Swainson's Thrush		1*	1
Golden-cr. Kinglet	244	6	165
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	31	6	134
Kinglet sp.	20		
Cedar Waxwing	1	2	1
Northern Shrike	2	3	1
Starling	4551	6	3005
Hutton's Vireo		1*	4
Townsend's Warbler		1*	4
House Sparrow	34	6	231
Tree Sparrow		1*	6
Western Meadowlark	15	3	6
Red-winged Blackbird	528	6	699

SPECIES	1979 TOTAL	YRS SEEN	PREV HIGH
Brewer's Blackbird	145	5	2406
Yellow-headed Blackbird		1*	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	4	25
Evening Grosbeak	<u>67</u>	4	30
Pine Grosbeak		1*	6
Purple Finch	5	5	15
House Finch	87	6	141
Pine Siskin	62	6	800
American Goldfinch		5*	77
White-winged Crossbills		1*	75
Rufous-sided Towhee	39	6	152
Savannah Sparrow		1*	3
Dark-eyed Junco	555	5	894
White-crowned Sparrow	12	4	16
Golden-crowned Sparrow	3	4	12
Fox Sparrow	<u>18</u>	5	11
Song Sparrow	<u>104</u>	6	203
Observers	37		
Species	93		93
Number of Birds	18760		19986

Our sixth annual Christmas Bird Count was the best ever. The weather was chilly, but otherwise nice so we had fantastic participation - 33 people in 10 groups plus one person coserving a feeder helped set new records.

A total of 75 hours was spent in pursuit of avian life. We drove 467 miles and walked 27.5 miles. We saw 93 species (the same as last year) and 18,760 birds (last year was the all time high of 19,986 birds). Although the number of species seen was the same as last year, the types of birds differed slightly as did the numbers of various species compared to last year. More hawks were seen than on previous counts, especially the red-tailed hawk (26). A definite lack of house sparrows and robins was noted. The number of crows was up over 500 from previous years with 1053 seen.

Six new species to our count were seen: Trumpeter Swan (4 - 1 adult and 3 juveniles); Cooper's Hawk (2); Peregrin Falcon (1 - seen in two areas by two different groups); Western Sandpiper (28) and Rufous Hummingbird and Anna's Hummingbird (2 each at a feeder). The hummingbirds are unusual for this time of year, but the feeder seemed to attract them enough to endure the cold.

The following is list of the participants. Thank you for your help and we certainly hope to see you again next year.

Fred Bird, Fred Dahlan, Ellen Farina, Mark Freed, H.C. and P.L. Hanson, Omer Handerson, Carl and Elsie Holmes, K.C. Jones, Martha Jordan, Laura Keith, Joyce and Mary Kelly, Terri Knoke, Mildred Krouse, Jim Kuhn, Michael Kyte, Perry and Kristin Lovelace, Evan and Joan Lucas, Ross and Maybelle Nichols, Mrs. Robertson, Marsha Skewis, David and Kay Thoreson, Jan, Sally, Kristi and Lisa van Niel, Paula Wallnitz, Kenneth Wilcox and Gary Wold.

PAS BOARD

President: Jan van Niel (778-7568)
V. Pres: Martha Jordan (775-0137)
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To subscribe to the Profile, send \$2.00
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Everett, WA 98206.
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postage.)

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.

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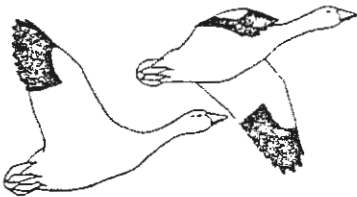
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Pilchuck Audubon Society

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