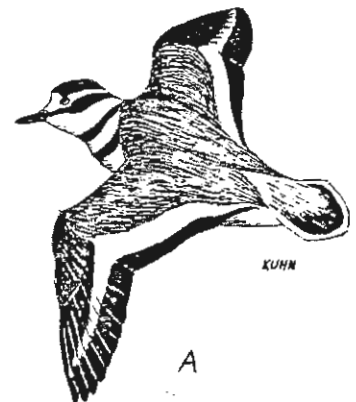


Pilchuck Audubon Profile

Calendar

- JUNE 17 Tuesday Conservation workshop postponed to June 30
- JUNE 23 Monday Hearing on Padilla Bay Estuarine Sanctuary, Anacortes,
See Article.
- JUNE 28 Saturday Field trip to Boulder River. Meet at Smokey Point Rest area,
heading north on I-5, north of exit 206 at 9:30 a.m.
Bring lunch.
- JUNE 30 Monday Conservation workshop. Get to know issues and obtain information
for letter writing at Jan & Sally van Niel's home. Call
778-7566 if you are planning to come and you can get the
directions and address at the same time.
- JULY 12 Saturday Bicycle trip to Lopez Island. Meet at Anacortes ferry. Call
Jim Kuhn at 652-6191 for meeting time and additional information.
- JULY 20 Saturday Field trip to Ebey and Smith Islands. Meet at 1 p.m. in the
lower Everett Community College parking lot.
- JULY 26 Saturday Trip to Lake 22. Bring lunch and be prepared for a hike.
Meet at 10 a.m. in Verlot.
- AUGUST 10 Sunday Deering Wildflower Acres bird census. This is one of the areas
we are trying to survey on a regular basis. These counts
may become quite important if we receive some ash.
- AUGUST 23 Saturday Davis Slough, Skagit Wildlife Area. Bring lunch. Meet at
the Bank of Stanwood, exit 206, east of I-5 at 9:30 a.m. CR
Viking Village in Stanwood at 10 a.m.
- SEPTEMBER 13-14 Ledbetter Point. See next newsletter for additional information.

Included in this issue is a bird quiz. Each of the drawings by Jim Kuhn has a letter by it. Can you guess what each species is, write it down then check with the answers on the last page of this newsletter. If you missed more than one, join us on our field trips and have a great time while sharpening up your birding skills.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This newsletter marks the end of another year's activities for our chapter. As you may know we do not schedule monthly meetings during the summer. However, as you can tell from the calendar we have a full complement of field trips scheduled. Remember you do not need to be an experienced or knowledgeable bird watcher in order to join us. Also remember our trips are for the entire family, not just adults. So come out and see us on our trips this summer.

We are looking forward to a whole group of special and exciting programs for next year so we hope to see you in the fall -- Have a Good Summer.

GOOD NEWS!

The work done last summer to draw up a proposal to make Padilla Bay, by Anacortes and Bayview State Park, a national estuarine sanctuary has passed another hurdle.

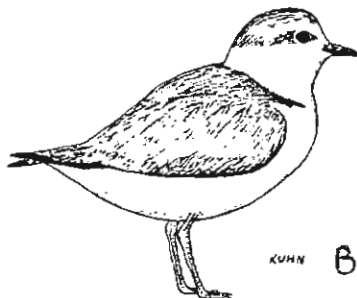
The tidal flatlands and saltmarshes of Padilla Bay support a delicate ecological system of eelgrass beds and wildlife. The area is the habitat for 10 families of plants, at least 57 species of fish, 239 species of birds and 14 species of mammals. It is also an area that is important to bald eagles, peregrine falcons and golden eagles are occasionally seen.

The State of Washington has been working to protect the area for 4 years. Now the U.S. Dept. of Commerce's Office of Coastal Zone Management and the State Dept. of Ecology have added their approval in a draft environmental impact statement.

There will be a formal dedication of the sanctuary in October.

There will be a public hearing at 7 p.m. June 23 at the Anacortes City Hall Council Chambers, 6th and Q Avenue.

Anyone wishing to borrow a copy of the draft EIS, contact Sally van Niel 778-7562.



NEW MEMBERS

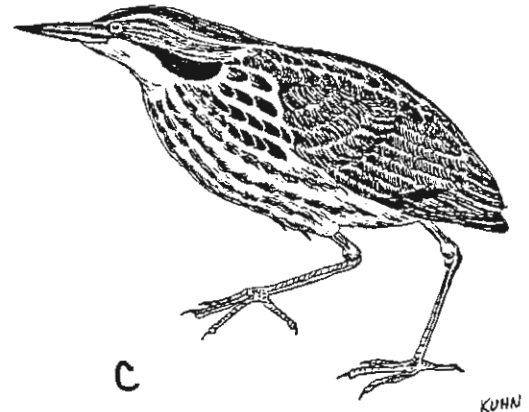
Welcome to new members Charlotte Gannaway of Everett, Jerry S. Ness of Snohomish, Wendy King of Stanwood and Sa. a Lund of Burnaby, B.C.

Also welcome to the following members who have recently transferred into our chapter: Ward Martin, Steven Roy and R.J. Yoxall.

JUNIPER FOREST -- IMPORTANT

The Juniper Forest needs your help. The off-road vehicles are destroying it. It is the most northerly stand of junipers. It is important habitat for red-tail, Swainson's and ferruginous hawks, plus short-eared, great horned and burrowing owls. Ferruginous hawk nest require a minimum of 1 mile circumference of protection from human activity to prevent nest abandonment. The 10 known nests in the Juniper Forest emphasize its wilderness qualities. It is obvious that the airport 15 miles away does not destroy its qualities as wilderness.

Please write Roger Burwell, District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Room 551, U.S. Courthouse, West 920 Riverside, Spokane, WA 99201 BY JUNE 25.



OPPORTUNITY

Paul Dye needs a game keeper to help with the birds he keeps and raises. The position will start July 1 and room is included. For additional information contact Paul Dye at 334-8223.

FRONT WINDOW

Since two days after the Mt. St. Helens eruption, we have noticed an extraordinary number and variety of birds in our yard. The usual ones visited the feeders...finches, towhees, sparrows, stellar jays; and not so usual, an evening crossbeak and several brown-headed cowbirds. Twenty-one varieties in all.

Red crossbills piqued my interest as they harvested the limbs of the spruce. Others flitted through the leaves of the hawthorne in pursuit of dinners served on pink blossoms....streaks of bright yellow so quickly come and go that we almost missed knowing a flock of Wilson's warblers had arrived.

The song of Swainson's thrush has treated us each day for a week....a voice I love. It sounds like sild teffeta in motion. And a bird that fit Peterson's description of the mourning warbler! Could it be?

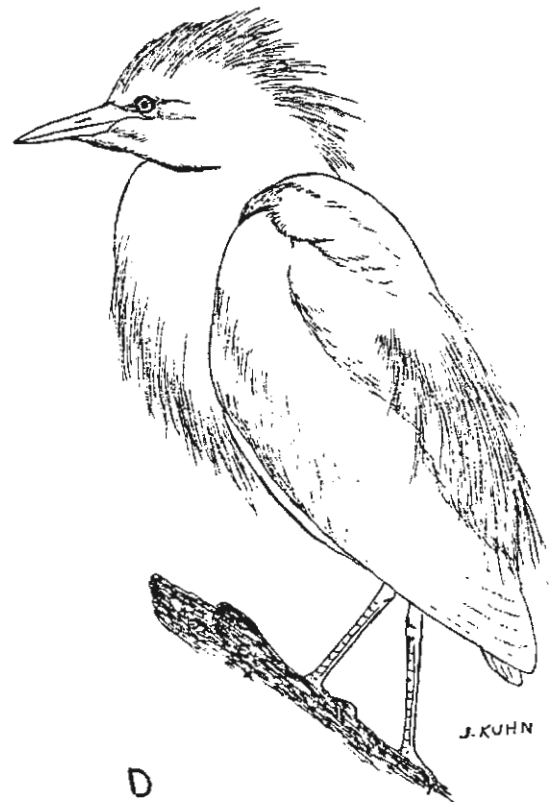
Last evening, just before sundown we watched a most interesting ritual. Seven cedar waxwings perched in the top of the holly tree as if to bask in the last rays of light. Their black masks and sleek tan bodies were beautiful against the green and red of the holly tree. As I steadied my scope on a picturesque pair, I was delighted to witness what appeared to be a mating ritual. (I have only read of this, but never seen it first hand, so I assume that is what was happening.) One bird plucked a holly berry, then stepping sideways toward the other bird, he offered it to her and stepped back again. She took the berry in her beak and danced a step back and forward, then returned the berry to her suitor. Back and forth they repeated the ritual like a rhythmic two-step, continually exchanging the red berry as if it had a precious meaning. As we watched, a third bird (maybe a rival male?) dived at the suitor who in turn flew off in pursuit. The female did not eat the berry, but immediately spit it out with enough force to make it arc out and downward. Then with her head turned skyward, she watched the ensuing fight. Darkness kept us from learning the outcome. This has been a great week for birding!

by Joan Lucas

Contributions to the newsletter are greatly appreciated. We have some very talented members out there even if you do not think you are. Please help make next year's newsletter the best ever by contributing articles relating to conservation, birding, education or other issues related to the Audubon cause.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

A YELLOW WARBLER was in the backyard of Sally and Jan van Niel on May 23. This is the first time they have seen a warbler in their yard. Paula Wellnitz reported seeing a RAVEN and family on the cliffs by Gingko State Park, May 17. Wonder if they are still there after Mt. St. Helens! She also reported seeing a YELLOW THROAT, CASSIN'S FINCH and VEERY on Menzel Lake Road by Granite Falls. Marianne McKnight and Jerry Ness reported a pair of CATTLE EGRETS on Marshland Road south of Snohomish. Floyd Sate of Everett reports a BLACK PHOEGE in his yard in early June.



D

CALIFORNIA CONDOR CHICK HATCHES

For the first time ever, scientists have observed the daily incubation and hatching of one of the rarest birds in the world--the California condor--and hopes are high that their observations of the rearing will shed some light on the mystery of why the continent's largest bird is on the brink of extinction.

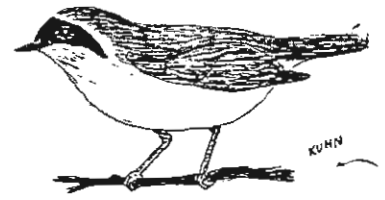
Only 20 to 30 of the majestic birds are left, down by about half in the decade. Most experts are convinced that time is running out for the enormous vulture that has a spectacular nine-foot wingspan. An emergency rescue program to save it from extinction was launched late last year, funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Audubon Society, U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the California Department of Fish and Game.

The mated adult condors were first spotted on March 4, depositing their solitary egg March 15 on loose sandy soil. The nest has been under 24-hour watch since its discovery. They report that birds took turns incubating the egg. Once the egg was pipped it took three days for the chick to emerge. Covered with dark brown, the chick was about the size of a man's fist.

Russell Peterson stated that "We human beings must sometimes intervene on behalf of nature to counter careless and destructive human actions of the past. When we have forced a species to the brink of extinction, as with the California condor, we have an obligation to rectify the damage as best we can--before it is too late."



E



F

HELP STOP POACHING

Poaching is a problem in our state. But, we can all help save our wildlife if during the course of our trips in the field we keep our eyes open for activities that indicate a poacher at work. Remember the poacher takes some of our enjoyment away when they kill game illegally.

The Washington Department of Game gives some tips on how to help stop poaching:

How To Tell...

Suspicious activities, especially at night

Spotlights or shots in the dark

Animal carcasses during closed season

How To Help...

Protect yourself without drawing attention

Write the vehicle's license number

Write description of people and equipment

Telephone information to law enforcement agency.

What Else?

That's all.

Court appearances are not necessary.

BIRDS OF PREY NATURAL CONSERVATION AREA

needs your help --

The Birds of Prey Conservation Area along the Snake River Canyon in southwest Idaho supports the densest known nesting population of eagles, hawks, falcons, owls and other raptors in the world.

The Bureau of Land Management has conducted extensive surveys and recommends the area be enlarged to include hunting territory in addition to nesting sites. Rep. Udall has introduced a bill to the House of Representatives, creating a 640,000 acre Birds of Prey area.

Write Senator Jackson urging him to introduce such a bill to the Senate and support its passage. (Senate Office Building, Wash. D.C. 20510). For further information on this critical area see July 1977 Audubon Magazine.

FEATHER COLORS

By Steve Metcalf

BOOK REVIEW

If you are looking for a good book on bird identification for Canada -- look no further. BIRDS OF CANADA by W. Earl Godfrey has been published in an 11 x 8 inch format with 69 full-color plates, 71 drawings, 346 range maps and an excellent text. It is a bit expensive, but well worth the investment of \$27.50.

Also, I am sure many of you have seen THE ART OF AUDUBON: THE COMPLETE BIRDS AND MAMMALS. For the first time in a single volume, the complete Octavo edition of Audubon's Birds and Quadrupeds -- 655 plates in all, in their original size and in full color. The price is \$35.00, but it is a beautiful showpiece.

And - A FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN BIRDS' NESTS (A Peterson Guide) by Hal H. Harrison. Illustrated with 400 photos, shows how to identify nests and eggs of 520 species west of the Mississippi, where to find them, and more. The suggested price is \$11.95.

WASHINGTON WILDERNESS COALITION

The Washington Wilderness Coalition, a new state-wide organization, is a coalition of groups and individuals interested in the protection of Washington's Wilderness and Wild River resources. Their publication, Washington Wildfire, is a bimonthly magazine which has up-to-date information on wilderness, forest planning, wild and scenic rivers, and other related issues across the state. The WWC is a support organization for local "front line" groups, and provides staff services as they are needed. Individual memberships are now \$5.00, individuals and organizations are both welcome to join.

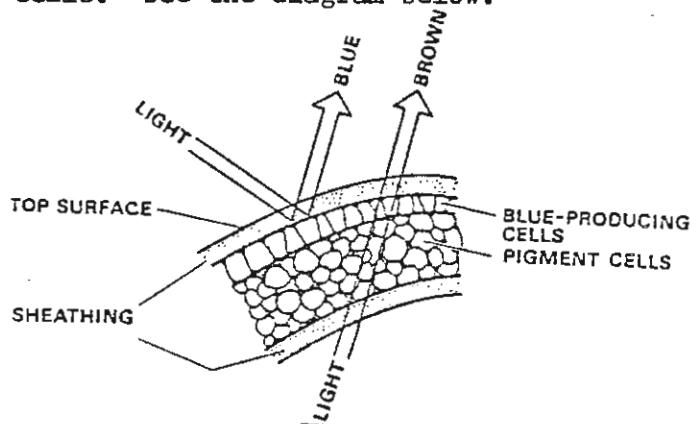
Write WWC, Ken Gersten, 6541 17th NE, Seattle, WA 98115

BIRD QUIZ ANSWERS

- A. Killdeer
- B. Snowy Plover
- C. American Bittern
- D. Cattle Egret
- E. Rough-legged Hawk
- F. Yellowthroat

Most birders know the reasons feathers are colored, such as for concealment (both for prey and predator), mate attraction and, more recently discovered, increased energy efficiency. Fewer birders know how feathers are colored.

Generally, feather color is the result of pigments and/or feather structure. Carotenoid group pigments produce yellows, oranges, and reds. Dull yellows, reddish browns, browns, grays and black result from melanins. Color intensity is related to the concentration of pigments and other factors. White feathers have no pigmentation and reflect all wavelengths (colors) of light. Blues arise from the structure of the feather reflecting only blue light. A blue feather held up to a light so that the transmitted light is viewed, rather than the reflected light, appears brown due to the dark melanin containing cells under the blue reflecting cells. See the diagram below.



A pigment colored feather, say a red one, will not change color when viewed this way. If the blue reflecting cells are covered with a layer of transparent yellow pigments the apparent feather color is green. Iridescence, on hummingbirds for example, is caused by twisted and flattened feather barbules, which scatter light unequally in all directions so that the angle viewed constantly changes (like that of soap bubbles). The two most common color aberrations are melanism, darkness due to excessive pigmentation, and albinism, whiteness due to total lack of pigmentation.

Some color changes are due to the bird's environment. Waterfowl feather colors can be altered by chemicals (usually iron hydroxide) in water contacting the feathers. Tree climbing birds may soil their feathers by contact with tree bark. Air pollution (e.g. soot) sometimes darkens bird plumage. The feathers of birds exposed to lots of direct sunlight, like desert birds, become paler as they age. Plumage may also be stained by food.

From The Curlew 11/79

PAS BOARD

President: Jan van Niel (778-7568)
 V. Pres: Mary McKnight (337-4777)
 Secretary: Joyce Kelley (568-5974)
 Treasurer: Carl Holmes (387-4631)

Conservation: Sally van Niel (778-7568)
 Newsletter: Martha Jordan (775-0137)
 Publicity: Joan & Evan Lucas (252-1684)
 Membership: Eileen Loerch (659-6901)
 Hospitality: Carolyn Ringer (568-2302)
 Field Trips: Jim Kuhn (652-6191)
 Education: Pete Kaiser (652-6191)

To subscribe to the Profile, send \$2.50
 to Pilchuck Audubon Society, P.O. Box
 1618, Everett, WA 98206

(Another \$2.00 per year for first class
 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.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

- ___ Individual (\$20.00 per year)
- ___ Family (\$25.00 per year)
- ___ Other



Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Marysville, WA 98270

Permit #66

Address Correction Requested

Pilchuck Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1618, Everett, Washington 98206

98204-13
 Gerald A. McKnight
 3526 - 113 Pl. S.E.
 Everett, WA 98204

4-81

TIME VALUE MATERIAL