

Pilchuck Audubon Profile

CALENDAR

- March 8 - Saturday. Field trip to see the Snow Geese. Meet at the Smokey Point Rest area, heading north on I-5, north of exit 206 at 8:30 a.m. or at Viking Village at 9:15. Bring warm clothes and a sack lunch.
- March 14 - Friday. Program Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Room 308 at Everett Community College. Sherry Sheng of the Seattle Aquarium will speak and show slides of some of the wildlife beneath Puget Sound.
- March 16 - Sunday. Field trip to Ebey Island. Meet at the lower Everett Community College parking lot at 1 p.m. This is part of our continuing series to develop inventories of local areas.
- March 21-25. Field trip to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon through Everett Community College. See article in newsletter.
- March 29 - Saturday. Field trip to Everett Sewage Lagoon. Meet at 10 a.m. at the lower Everett Comm. College parking lot. Bring lunch and warm clothes.
- April 7 - Monday Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Call Jan van Niel for details.
- April 12 - Saturday. Field trip to Foulweather Bluff. Meet at 9:15 a.m. in the Edmonds Safeway Parking lot.
- April 18 - Friday. Program Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Room 308 at Everett Comm. College. Dr. Richard Martyr, Western Regional Representative will speak at the meeting. This is the first time a member of the National Audubon staff has ever attended one of our meetings. So come give him a good welcome.
- April 19 - Saturday. Field trip to Mt. Erie and the Sundquist Marine Laboratory Reserve. In December 10 black crowned night herons were observed at the lab. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Smokey Point Rest area. Bring lunch and warm clothes.
- May 2-4. State Audubon Council at Ellensburg which we are sponsoring.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The meeting with NAS President Russell Peterson on February 7, 1980, at Helen Engle's home in Tacoma, was a great success. Dr. Peterson had spent the day being briefed on the Nisqually Delta with a field trip to the area and a fly-over of Nisqually and southern Puget Sound. He was quite impressed. Look for the letters in the next issue of Audubon as well as a disclaimer, by NAS, of support for the point of view expressed in the January article. In addition Dr. Peterson has written letters to the Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife with copies to the state offices concerned. This has helped clear the air and make clear NAS position to support our actions.

Also the matter of our relationship to the Western Regional Office came up for discussion. A representative from this office will spend one week each month in the state helping our chapters with our problems. As a matter of fact they will provide Pilchuck's program in April -- see the calander.

Nominations are open for new officers. Contact Joan Lucas, Joyce Mansfield or Eileen Loerch for nominations.

NEW MEMBERS *****

Mr. and Mrs. William E. White and Mrs. E. Stockburger, of Mountlake Terrace; Judy Atkins, Ruth Precht, Arthur and Virginia Grossman, Robert Fairman, and Mr. Billy Fritz of Everett; Mr. John Armstrong of Camano Island; R. Worthington Wade and Terry Hurley of Arlington; J. Niderost of Marysville; Jodi Baugher of Edmonds, Ingeborg Gray of Monroe; Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Foster, Stephen Penland, and Robert Groth of Lynnwood; Mr. and Mrs. John Hopkins of Coupeville; Lauria Monnier of LaConner; and Mr. and Mrs. Wakefield of Bothell.

Also transferred in to our chapter from Tahoma Audubon are Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Hanson of Edmonds.

Malheur Field Trip

On March 21-25, Jan and Sally van Niel through Everett Community College will lead a field trip to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge area. The group will spend one night in Bend, OR each way and will spend 2 nights at the Malheur Environmental Station. Total cost for the trip will be \$76.60 plus you have to buy one dinner and breakfast each way. The number of people who can go is limited.

We should be there to see sage grouse strutting, sandhill cranes doing mating dances and a wide variety of other birds. Last June we saw white-faced ibis, great and snowy egrets, white pelicans, golden eagles and many more species.

For further information, contact the van Niels at 259-7151 during the day or 778-7568 evenings.

WHALE WATCHING TRIPS OFFERED

The American Cetacean Society is offering Whale Watching Trips this spring. The trips will be one & two days and will cost \$25.00 and up. Not only will there be the chance of seeing whales, it will also be an excellent opportunity to see sea birds. The trips will be in the San Juan Islands-North Puget Sound area. For more information write The American Cetacean Society, P.O. Box 1384, Bellevue, WA 98009.

Strange that man should make up lists
of living things in danger
Why he fails to list himself
Is really even stranger.

Henry Gibson

ALASKA REPORT

The Senate voted to postpone any action on the Alaska Bill until July 4th at the earliest. With recesses for the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, this could force action into the closing hours of the session so nothing could be done. Senators Gravel and Stevens of Alaska admitted they did it to allow the energy crisis to worsen and increase pressure to open the Arctic National Wildlife Range to development.

As a result, Secretary Andrus extended protection on 40 million acres of the original 52. Thirty seven million acres were established as 12 new permanent units of the National Wildlife Refuge System with the remaining 3 million acres as Natural Resource Areas. The last 12 million acres are undergoing study and may be included later.

Urge your senators to speak to Majority Leader Robert Byrd and urge him to reschedule the Alaska Bill to bring it up this spring so the legislation can be treated fairly.

BOULDER RIVER

The Boulder River Protection Association met with Rep. Swift to discuss the status of the Boulder River. Swift has proposed a bill asking the area be designated Wilderness and including 50,000 of the 80,000 acres. There is a plan to tie together Cougar Lakes, Kettle Range and other potential wilderness in one bill, but Swift will still submit the Boulder River proposal if the omnibus bill fails.

It was pointed out to Swift that the tress could be harvested once due to the steep and rocky terrain, with reforestation exceedingly difficult. Swift mentioned that Carter had eliminated the reforestation program from the Forest Service budget this year.

Ken Wilcox

REMEMBER THAT MAY 2-4 WE WILL BE PUTTING ON THE WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF AUDUBON CHAPTERS. WE NEED LOTS OF HELP AND WILL NEED SEVERAL PEOPLE TO BRING 2 DOZEN COOKIES FOR COFFEE BREAKS.

SWAN STATIONERY

Pilchuck is now offering Trumpeter Swan Stationery for every \$5.00 you contribute to the Trumpeter Swan Fund. This fund has been established to help the swans in the Skagit area.

It is a really beautiful way to support wildlife. You receive 20 cards of four different designs plus envelopes. They have been designed by Jim Kuhn.

They will be available at the general meeting or from Jan van Niel.

DECLARATION OF DEPENDENCE

I am a part of Nature.
I am a part of everything that lives.
I am bound together with all living things
in air, on land, in water.
My life depends upon Nature - upon its
balance, upon its resources,
and upon the continuity of both.
To destroy them is to destroy myself.
As a member of the human race,
I am responsible for its survival.
I am a part of Nature.
I will no destroy it.

Anonymous

BOOK Corner

Migration of Birds by Frederick Lincoln has been updated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife. This is a 120 page book containing information on aspects of bird migration including routes, patterns and times; origin and evolution of migration and how birds navigate. The book is available for \$4.25 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The order number is S/N 024-010-00404-3.

McNEIL ISLAND

The members of the Pilchuck Board recommended that McNeil Island, if not used as a state penitentiary, be turned over to the Dept. of Interior, specifically the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They can run it as a restricted haven for wildlife in southern Puget Sound and protect the bald eagles, harbor seals, river otters, etc.

SKAGIT SNOW GOOSE POPULATION

The highest number of snow geese ever recorded are inhabiting their wintering ground in Washington and British Columbia. There are estimated to be 39,740 - up from 27,000 last year. Three-fourths of the total were in the U.S.

The habitat is being threatened by the intrusion of Salicornia, an introduced marsh grass, and the possible danger from the Northern Tier Pipeline.

NORTHERN TIER PIPELINE

Eileen Loerch represented Pilchuck Audubon at the Army Corps of Engineers hearing on the Northern Tier Pipeline. She testified against the pipeline because of lack of an adequate detection system (up to 804,660 barrels per day could escape without being detected) and the resultant potential damage to the salmon run, the danger to the snow geese, bald eagles, peregrine falcons and ducks. Other testimony was heard against the pipeline from Skagit Tribes, Camano Island Homeowners, Whidbey Island Historical Society and Seattle Audubon. Only the North Whidbey Chamber of Commerce testified for the pipeline, but gave no reason for their support.

Write your Congressmen, State Legislators and County Council members and let them know how you feel. Copies of the testimony by PAS, SAS and descriptions of the sound and river crossings will be at the general membership meeting for you to read.

OBSTACLES AND SWANS

On Feb. 27 a mute swan at Barney Lake flew into some power lines nearby and broke its wing very badly. The following day a trumpeter swan wearing a neck band flew into the same wires but fortunately was only stunned.

The mute swan was taken to Maynard Axelson's where the wing was amputated. The bird is resting under Mr. Axelson's care.

Puget Power was contacted and a site visit was made on March 3. Currently no action is planned to put something on the line to make them more visible because of lack of sufficient information regarding swans and power line collisions. Information is being gathered on the problem, but you can help. If you have or are planning a trip to the area please keep an eye out for any collisions or near misses between power lines and swans. Report any information to Martha Jordan 775-0137.

HARRASSMENT OF SNOW GEESE

Private airplanes are an ongoing problem at the Skagit marsh because many "pilots" buzz low and cause the geese to fly and move about. This is ILLEGAL. If you are able to identify the numbers painted on the aircraft body please write down all information including color of plane, your estimate of altitude, location and number of craft. Then contact me on the same day as you sighted the offender. Or you may call the FAA direct at 767-2600 to report. In order to bring charges the FAA will also need a signed affidavit from the witnesses. While this may sound time consuming, it is important to start stopping the irresponsible pilot from harrasing the geese at one of the most vulnerable times of the year - as they stage to fly to the north.

Martha Jordan 775-0137

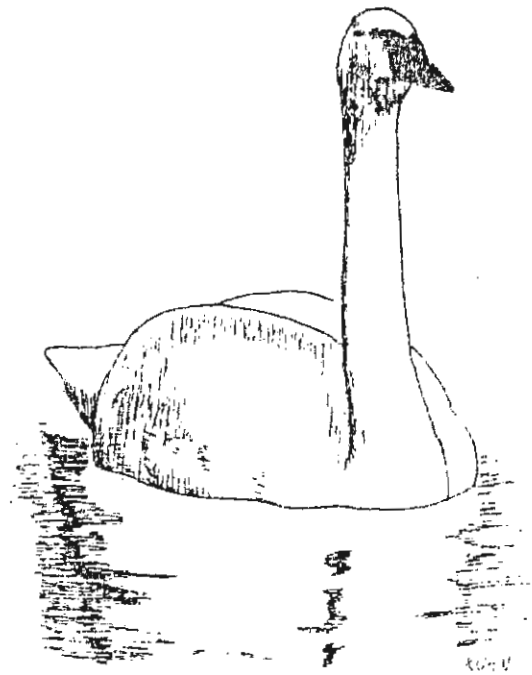
SKAGIT BALD EAGLES

The Pilchuck Audubon field trip to the Skagit, led by Joyce Kelly only saw 19 eagles. This verifies the reports made by the volunteers during the eagle count from Jan. 2-16.

Fewer birds were seen along the Skagit River, but 275 eagles were spotted along the Nooksack River. Another 275 were spotted in the San Juan Islands. In addition, Pilchuck saw eagles around Padilla Bay and on Whidbey Island. Eagles have also been seen along the Sauk and Skykomish River. These all emphasize the importance of the salmon runs in our rivers to the eagles as well as to the people.

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area

The Pilchuck Audubon field trip to the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area was enjoyed by several people. The walk was lovely in the deciduous rain forest. We saw over 20 species of birds in all including several ring-necked ducks. We will be going again in early May at a time when the warblers have been abundant in the past. We urge you to plan on coming next time.

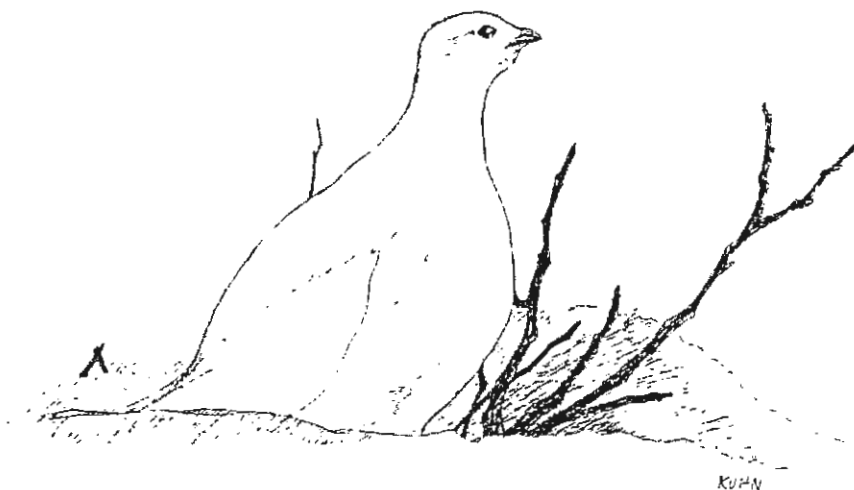


PLANTING IS FOR THE BIRDS

If you can plant but one tree this spring, make it a mulberry (Morus Alba and rubra) tree. This tree can be messy if too near the driveway or sidewalk. The sweet fruit will attract many birds. If we start planting proven plants and trees that are attractive to birds and wildlife, we shall soon have a natural wildlife habitat.

Sugar and water colored solution can cause liver problems in hummingbirds which can be fatal. Instead fill your feeder with one part honey and 3 parts boiled water to prevent fermentation. Paint the outside of the feeder red, pink or yellow.

Corvid Crier



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 (652-6191)
Education: Lee Henderson (353-7213)

To subscribe to the Profile, send \$250
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 _____

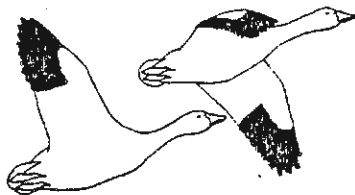
PHONE _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

___ Individual (\$20.00 per year)

___ Family (\$25.00 per year)

___ Other



Pilchuck Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1618, Everett, Washington 98206

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Address Correction Requested

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