

# Pilchuck Audubon Profile

November 1980

Vol. 9, No. 10

## Calendar

- November 7 Special presentation by Pilchuck Audubon. Ira Spring: Wildlife and Freelance Photography. 7:30 p.m. the Bookstore Conference Room, Everett Community College
- November 8 Field Trip - Pigeon Creek. 9:30 a.m. Meet at the Safeway store at 41st and Rucker in Everett. Bring sack lunch.
- November 21 Monthly meeting - Meredith Pfahl will talk on the Swans of the Skagit. 7:30 p.m. Room 308, Everett Community College. See inside article for additional information.
- November 22 Field Trip - Swans of the Skagit 9:30 a.m. Meet at the Bank of Stanwood on I-5 and exit 206.
- December 1 Board Meeting. Call Jan van Niel for details.
- December 6 Field Trip - Boulder River. 10:00 a.m. Meet at the Bank of Stanwood at I-5 at exit 206. Bring sack lunch.
- December 27 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT see article in this issue for details
- January 10 THIRD ANNUAL BALD EAGLE SURVEY see article in this issue  
9:00 a.m. Meet at Smokey Point exit 206 at Bank of Stanwood or  
12:30 p.m. at the south end of Deception Pass Bridge. Bring sack lunch.
- January 17 Field Trip - Uncomas Point and English Goom. 10:00 a.m. Meet at the Bank of Stanwood, exit 206 and I-5 or at 10:30 at Viking Villa. in Stanwood. Bring sack lunch.
- January 24 Regular meeting - 7:30 p.m. Room 308, Everett Community College.
- January 25 Field Trip - Daring Wildflower Acres. 9:00 a.m. Meet at Everett Community College lower parking lot. Bring sack lunch.
- January 31 Field Trip - Eagles of the Skagit. 10:30 a.m. Meet at the Bank of Stanwood at exit 206 and I-5. Bring sack lunch.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome these new members: M.E. Navy and Mrs. A. Koetitz of Stanwood; I.U. Beckett, Dianne McCarthy, Michael W. Sheehan, Ms. H.R. Russel, Lois D. Paterson, and the Gordon D. Aumick Family of Everett; the Fogman Family of Snohomish; and Carol Schwarzenback of Arlington.

We would also like to welcome Roy C. Webster of Snohomish who transferred into our chapter.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

At the Washington State Audubon Council meeting held in Ellensburg early last month many items were discussed. An update on the campaign to save Protection Island (see story elsewhere in this newsletter) was presented by Eleanor Stopps and others. We also heard about the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) from none other than Bert Cole himself. This was not a very enlightening experience. A resolution was also passed formalizing the structure of the state council as it has existed for several years.

At its recent meeting your executive board voted to contribute \$25. to support the fine work done by Lorraine and Steve Decker at the Seattle Wild Animal Clinic. The program which they presented for our October meeting was very enjoyable.

First, please note the date (December 27) of the annual National A.S. Christmas Bird Count (see related article elsewhere). We need all the help we can get to continue and improve our effectiveness. We welcome participation by experienced and inexperienced birders alike - you are able to locate and count birds.

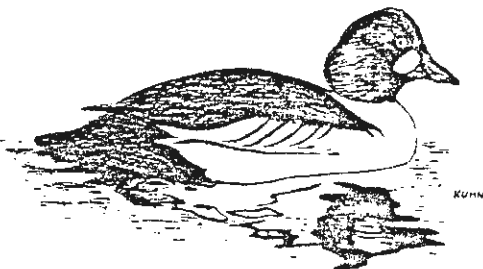
Other upcoming matters of concern are the legislative session with its many issues about which to concern and inform ourselves. Then, sometime in March the Western Regional office will be holding two sets of special leadership workshops, one on each side of the Cascades. These are open to all people interested in or actively engaged in leadership of the chapter.

## EVENING PROGRAM - Trumpeter Swans

Our evening program on November 21 will be presented by Meredith Pfahl of Mt. Vernon. She and her family live on the shore of Barney Lake and each year are privilege to view the annual wintering flock of trumpeter swans that return to the area each year.

The program will deal with the swans, and their habitat and the interactions and problems they are having with man's expansion into and development of the rural areas not used by the swans. Meredith has some beautiful slides to accompany her talk. I hope you will all come and enjoy learning more about the Swans of the Skagit.

Pilchuck Audubon is committed to helping preserve the habitat for the swans. As many of you know, we are selling Trumpeter Swan notepaper to help raise money for land aquisition or easement in the Barney Lake area. We will have the notepaper at the meeting - 20 cards and envelopes only \$5.00.



COMMON GOLDENEYE

## SNOHOMISH MEDIATED AGREEMENT

There is a meeting, November 13 at Snohomish High School Study Hall at 7:30 p.m. At the meeting there will be a discussion of the initial results of the Corps of Engineers' Feasibility study on the Snohomish Mediated Agreement. The mediated agreement consists of a multipurpose dam on the North Fork of the Snoqualmie River, levees for the cities of North Bend and Snoqualmie; preservation of the North and Middle Forks of the Snoqualmie River for recreation and forestry, a park at the juncture of the three forks of the Snoqualmie River, preservation of the Snohomish Delta Lobes wetlands and the Skykomish braided channel; purchase of development rights within portions of the flood plain and modification of the South Fork Tolt River Dam to increase flood control storage.

The meeting is being held since parts of the Mediated Agreement are in jeopardy, and thus the entire agreement since it was negotiated as a package. The problem arises because the dam on the North Fork of the Snoqualmie River and levees for the cities of North Bend and Snoqualmie are not eligible for federal funding, so the plan may not be implemented. Come to the meeting

SPECIAL FEATURE:

GAME DEPARTMENT FUNDING PROBLEMS

The State Department of Game as released its revenue options for the 1981-82 biennium to the State Office of Financial Management. Although these options are subject to change, it is obvious that the Game Department will need to find new revenue sources. The Department projects expenditures of \$50 million for the biennium. Without additional revenue, the Department will receive only \$25.3 million and would have to cut services a minimum of 35 percent.

The Department has already reduced services and closed some facilities because of previous funding shortfalls. More reductions and closures would be very unfortunate. The state population has increased and the demand for recreational opportunities has also increased. The WDG has an important role in providing and protecting these opportunities. They must also protect the wildlife from the increased pressures brought about from population growth and expansion to rural areas.

The WDG did a study on the direct spending by the citizens of Washington for wildlife recreation. In 1979, it came to a whopping \$1 billion, 166 million. Appreciative or non-consumptive users (that's us, the bird watchers, nature photographers, and enjoyers of nature) spent \$545 million. These activities are obviously economically important to the state. As a comparison, Real Estate generates \$705 million and electric companies generate \$888 million.

Where will the WDG get the needed funds? In the past, they have received funding from license fees and federal funds. They have never received monies from the General Fund. However, this will be requested for the biennium. To make up the deficit in their budget, the General Fund must be tapped.

Another source of funding could be increased license fees and the introduction of a conservation license (already done in some states in the Midwest). It has been proposed that citizens using State Wildlife Recreation Areas and Access Areas have either a hunting, fishing, trapping, or conservation license. The fee for such a license would be \$5.00.

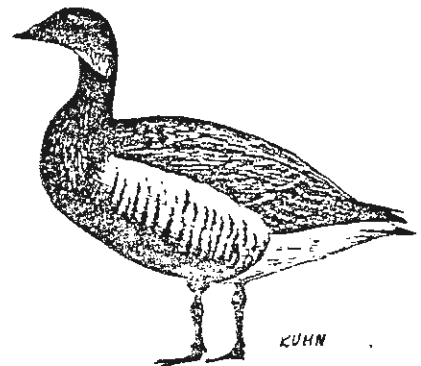
Although this new fee would affect many members of Pilchuck Audubon, it is important that we support the implementation of the new license. Realistically, we cannot expect the state to provide monies from the General Fund until we are willing to support the WDG from our own pockets. If the State Legislature refuses to support the WDG from general funds after imposing a conservation license, we, as citizens, will have a legitimate cause for complaint.

For more information on the funding proposal, write the Washington Department of Game and ask for a copy of the Revenue Options, 1981-82 Biennium, October 1, 1980. Their address is: 600 North Capitol Way, GJ-11 Olympia, WA 98504.

NOTE: This year, in the state of Washington, Audubon's legislative issue will be a name change for the WDG to Washington Department of Wildlife AND better funding, especially in obtaining monies from the General Fund. Paul Howerd will be in our state to help with the lobbying effort. Let's all get out our support for this issue.

MID-WINTER BALD EAGLE SURVEY

Pilchuck Audubon is once again participating in the annual mid-winter bald eagle survey sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation with the Washington Department of Game as the coordination agency in our state. The date is January 10. Our chapter is responsible for Padilla Bay and North Whidbey Island. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Bank of Stanwood on I-5 at exit 206 or at 12:30 p.m. at the south end of the Inception Pass Bridge.



## LOBBYING WORKSHOP - November 22

WEC, the League of Women Voters and the Sierra Club are co-sponsoring a legislative workshop on Saturday, November 22nd in Olympia. The program will begin at 9:30 AM in room 431 of the House Office Building on the capitol campus.

In the morning, political party leaders and issue experts will give us a preview of some of the hot issues of the 1981 legislative session:

- Reorganizing the Energy Office,
- Restricting urban sprawl,
- Funding the Department of Game,
- Preserving wildlife and threatened ecosystems.

In the afternoon we will break into smaller working groups. Some groups will study proposed legislation. Others will help you tune up your lobbying skills:

- How to deal with the new media,
- How to deliver effective testimony,
- How to write a persuasive letter,
- (and for the novice) How to find your way around the marble halls of the capitol.

Please bring a brown bag lunch if you want to make the most of the noon hour.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 1980

Once again it is time to begin thinking about the Christmas Bird Count-1980. This year the date is Saturday, 27 December. Last year 37 people participated in our count efforts, they observed 93 species and a total of 18,760 birds, not a record for our chapter, but a great effort. With YOUR help this year will be the best ever.

A map of Pilchuck's count area is enclosed in this issue. Please note that our count circle is divided into 6 areas with which many of you are already familiar. To insure that all areas are adequately covered for count day, I would like to have people sign up early for their favorite area. Those of you who may be new to our count and unfamiliar with the area may also sign up. Just knowing how many people are planning to participate is important. Sign up for specific areas is on a first come-first bird basis, so please call early. On count day we will meet at 7:00 a.m. at Jennings Park in Marysville. Do not forget that a very tasty potluck dinner follows the count at the Park. For more information and to sign up call Martha Jordan, 225-1117.

## LANDMARK LEGISLATION FOR NONGAME FISH AND WILDLIFE

Probably the most important wildlife conservation measure in recent years was signed into law September 29. The new Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act closes the last major gap in this country's commitment to conserving our fish and wildlife resources. It is designed to benefit nongame species that are not ordinarily hunted, fished, or trapped for food, commerce, or sport and to place special emphasis on urban wildlife.

When funds are appropriated as authorized by the Act, they can be used to reimburse States for 90 percent of the cost for developing comprehensive wildlife conservation plans. After the comprehensive plans are approved, the law also authorizes Federal cost sharing for conducting approved activities such as research, and public education.

Apportioning of the funds will be based primarily on population and land area. Because of this method, wildlife found in urban areas and suburbs likely will receive special emphasis.

The nongame Act parallels two similar measures for sport fish and wildlife, the Dingell-Johnson Act of 1950 and the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937. Under these two Acts, \$117 million was apportioned to the States last year from special excise taxes on sports equipment such as sporting arms and ammunition rods, reels, lures, etc. At present only about 10 percent of these funds are spent to benefit nongame species with most of it going to rural areas.

The new legislation does not apply to threatened or endangered species, marine mammals or feral animals.

## ALPINE LAKES

Remember to turn in your comments on the Alpine Lakes Area plan. Comments are due December 10, 1980 - the extra month was just added.



KUHN

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R. 5 E.

R. 6



To Mt. Vernon

To Sedro Woolley

Stimson H.

ANWOOD

CEDARHOME

PULCHUCK

BRYANT

TRAFTON

FLORENCE

NORMAN

SILVANA

ARLINGTON

LAKWOOD (ENGLISH)

EDGCOMB

MCKEES BEACH

STIMSON

SISCO HEIGHTS

SPEED-DAH

TULALIP

GETCHELL

MARYSVILLE

MISSION BEACH

PRESTON PT.

GEODEY ISL. (HAT ISL.)

PORT GARDNER

LK. STE...

## ALASKA LANDS BILL - HELP!

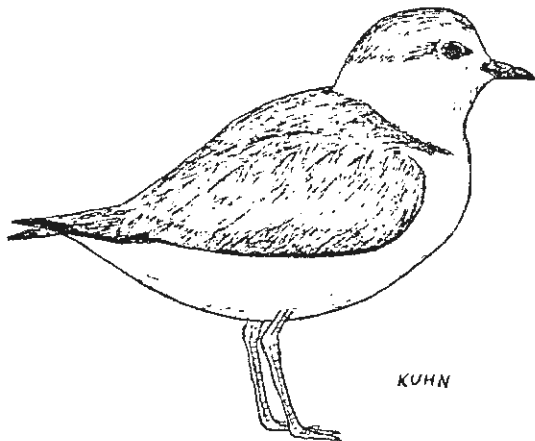
Rep. Morris Udall and Tom Evans introduced H.R. 8311 which would amend some of the weaknesses of the Senate Bill. The compromise would better protect Misty Fjords and Admiralty Island National Monuments and establish the vital shorebird and waterfowl habitat of the Copper River Delta as a wildlife refuge. It accedes to the Senate's seismic exploration program for oil and gas.

Specific examples of what HR 8311 would do are as follows: The Senate bill excludes 149,000 acres from Misty Fjord Wilderness, so that the land could be used by U.S. Borax Co.'s proposed molybdenum mine. HR 8311 would reduce the excluded land to 50,000 acres. The House bill allows no exclusion.

The Senate bill removes 19,000 acres of House passed wilderness in Misty Fjords to Shee Atika Native Corporation for potential clear-cut logging. In HR 8311 the Forest Service is directed to offer Shee Atika alternatives elsewhere in the Tongass National Forest to Admiralty land selections.

In the Senate Bill, the Copper River Delta was not included as a migratory waterfowl staging ground. In the House bill, 1.2 million acres were set aside as a refuge. In HR 8311, 530,000 acres were set aside to be studied and possibly be included in wilderness.

Again - contact Sen. Jackson and Magnuson, Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510 and Rep. Al Swift, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515, to vote on HR 8311 when Congress begins Nov. 12. This session may last as long as mid-December, but there is no guarantee, so act soon. For further information, call Sally van Niel -- 778-7568, evenings.

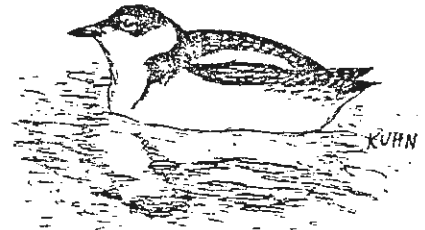


SNOWY PLOVER

## PROTECTION ISLAND - HELP!

Remember to write Rep. John Breaux, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Fish and Wildlife, Washington, D.C. 20515, in support of HR 7892. Also, please write to Rep. Bonker, thanking him for submitting the bill, and to Rep. Al Swift, thanking him for cosponsoring the bill in Congress. Their address is House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. In addition, write Sen. Magnuson, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, expressing your appreciation to him for submitting the bill as SB 3001 in the Senate. If we can get this bill passed when Congress begins November 12 and adjourns this year, we will not have to go through the education process all over.

In addition, it is imperative that this bill is passed immediately. The Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) is getting ready to (if they have not already done so) put out leases for commercial dredging of goeducs 500 feet from the harbor seal pupping grounds.



## AVIAN OBSERVATIONS

Two field trips recently were taken by our chapter. The Everett Sewage Lagoons were visited on October 26 by about 15 people. They saw 12 species including mew gull, bonaparte's gull, mallard, pintail, shoveler, bufflehead, horned grebe, eared grebe, western grebe, pied billed grebe, oldsquaw, American wigeon, coot, green winged teal, red-wing blackbird, common bushtit, red-tailed hawk and a rock dove.

The trip to Deering Wildflower acres on October 19 was not a productive, but was very enjoyable. The 17 participants saw 8 species: golden crowned kinglet, black capped chickadee, white breasted nuthatch, ruby crowned kinglet, chestnut backed chickadee, downy woodpecker, winter wren and red-tailed hawk.

If you missed these field trips there are plenty more - see calander of events for your future planning.

A NEW PUBLICATION

The Washington Environmental Council introduces The Olympia Project which provides year-round coverage of state environmental issues. This project gives people eyes, ears, and a voice in the state capitol year-round. It offers a new level of service to organizations and individuals who care about the land, air, water, and quality of life in Washington State.

The WEC now publishes the Olympia Bulletin. The Olympia Bulletin will provide comprehensive, year-round coverage of environmental issues at the state level.

The Olympia Bulletin is for activists. It will tell you:

WHAT are the major environmental issues at the state level?

WHY are these issues important to our environment?

WHO are the proponents, opponents, and decision-makers? (Names, addresses, and phone numbers of legislators, bureaucrats, and other citizen activists.)

WHERE are meetings and hearings scheduled? (Where to testify, write, or call.)

WHEN are meetings and hearings scheduled?(A calendar of events.)

HOW can you get involved and make a difference?

The Olympia Bulletin will be published twice monthly during the legislative session, once monthly during the interim. The first issue was put out in October 1980.

**Condor Information.** As reported in the August 29th *Leader*, the American Ornithologists' Union voted unanimously at its annual meeting to reaffirm its support of the California condor research and captive breeding program. Before the vote, the AOU heard a thorough briefing by three experts involved in the program. Transcripts of that briefing are now available for \$2 each from Warren B. King, 871 Dolly Madison Boulevard, McLean, Virginia 22101.

**Hazardous Wastes.** Single copies of a 123-page manual, THE TOXIC SUBSTANCES DILEMMA: A PLAN FOR CITIZEN ACTION, are available without charge from the National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th Street, Washington, D.C. 20036. Aimed at helping the ordinary citizen to spot hazardous dump sites and wastewater discharges, the manual explains how to obtain information, find government and community support, and push for enforcement of anti-pollution laws. The manual was funded in part by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Sign Up

- I want to subscribe to the Olympia Bulletin.
- I am a WEC member. Enclosed is \$5.00.
- I am not a WEC member. Enclosed is \$10.00.
- I want to contribute to the Olympia Project. Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I want to become a member of WEC. Enclosed is my membership dues of \$25.00.

\_\_\_\_\_ (name)

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\_\_\_\_\_ (phone) (legislative district)

(I am a member of this organization)

Mail to:  
Washington Environmental Council  
107 S. Main  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Swan Conference.** The seventh Trumpeter Swan Conference will be held in Victoria, British Columbia, February 19-22, 1981. The event, organized by the Trumpeter Swan Society, will include technical papers and a choice of two field trips, one by bus to the coastal habitat of the wintering swans, the other a boat trip to see pelagic species. For information, write to Rick McKelvey, CWS Box 340, Delta, British Columbia, V4K 3Y3.

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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.

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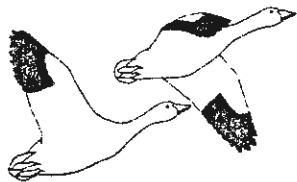
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