

Pilchuck Audubon Profile

April 1981

Vol. IX No. 14

- *April 11 - Saturday - Field trip to Reifel Island. Meet at the Bank Building at exit 206 off I-5. Bring a lunch. Meet at 9:00 a.m.
- April 17 - Friday - Regular meeting. Curt Howard will present "A Summer in Greenland" 7:30 p.m. in Room 308 at Everett Community College
- May 2-3 - Saturday & Sunday - Ellensberg Conference for Washington Audubon Chapters. If you would like to attend call the van Niels at 778-7568. Russell Peterson, our NAS President will be there too. Seattle Audubon is the host.
- May 9 - Saturday - Field trip to Nisqually Delta. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Old National Bank Building at 44th Ave. & 196th in Lynnwood. Bring a lunch.
- May 16 - Saturday - Annual Potluck. We are unable to get Jennings Barn this year so we will have the Potluck Dinner at Jan & Sally van Niels, 4404 222nd Ave. SW, Mountlake Terrace.
- Field trip: rescheduled. We will have a trek of the parks of South Snohomish County, including Scriber Lake. This is a good opportunity to see a park for the blind as well as other parks in our area. Meet at high noon (12:00) at Sally and Jan's house. Bring your food dish and you can leave it at their house while on the field trip.
- ALSO- The evening program is provided by us- the members. So bring slides of trips that you have been on this past year(s) to share with the rest of us. In state or out, all pictures are welcome.
- June 13- Saturday - Field trip to Ashland Lakes. Meet in front of the Coast-to-Coast store in Frontier Village at 9:00 a.m. Bring a lunch.
- * See article inside about finding this "elusive" meeting place.

Carpooling

Several of our members have expressed an interest in starting carpools to field trips and meetings. We now need to know who would be interested in participating, either as a driver or passenger. Please call Eileen Loerch at 659-6901 or fill in the information below and mail to 3625 - 174th Place NE, Arlington, WA 98223.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

I need a ride _____

I will provide transportation _____

IF YOU'RE COMING ON A FIELD TRIP...

Notice to all field trippers: There has been some confusion about our meeting place for field trips lately because a change was made. OUR SMOKEY POINT RENDEZVOUS WILL NO LONGER BE AT THE REST AREA, but by the Bank Building on the east side of the freeway, at Exit 206 off I-5. The reason for this change is because it is much easier to return a passenger to this location, since both the north and south exits exist at this overpass. Also, please note that we are changing the wording in our announcements to read, "By the Bank Building" instead of "by the Bank of Stanwood". We lost a few would-be field-trippers when they waited by the Bank of Stanwood in the town of Stanwood. We are sorry, and apologize if you were one of those who missed out because of this confusion. SO, FROM NOW ON WE WILL MEET AT THE BANK BUILDING AT EXIT 206 OFF I-5. Watch your local papers, The Everett Herald Thursday editions' Grab Bag Section, Channel 3 on Wednesday nights, and listen to Radio KRKO and Radio KWYZ. If you need more information, or if you need a ride to field trips, call our field trip chairman, Jim Kuhn at 652-6191 or President Jan van Niel at 778-7568, evenings.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a hearty welcome to the following new members: David & Mary Stockton, The Alvin Rogers Family, Mr. & Mrs. G.F. Shepherd III, Roberta Price, Glenn H. Jones, and Jeanette Lacy, all of Everett; Mr. & Mrs. R.S. Marsh, and Tom Wiesman of Lynnwood; Phyllis Carroll of Snohomish; Alice G. Witte of Startup; and Virginia E. Clark of Arlington. We would also like to welcome the Martinez Family of Bothell who transferred into our chapter.

Malheur Field Trip - upcoming

Sally and Jan van Niel are leading a field trip to study Natural History of Eastern Oregon and the Birds of the Malheur Wildlife Area. The trip will be from Sunday June 14 through Friday June 19. It is sponsored as a field trip course from Everett Community College.

When the van Niels went last year in June, they saw 93 speices of birds in 2 days including sandhill crances, great and snowy egrets, white faced ibis, golden eagles, arctic terns, bobolinks, trumpeter swans with cygnets and many, many more species.

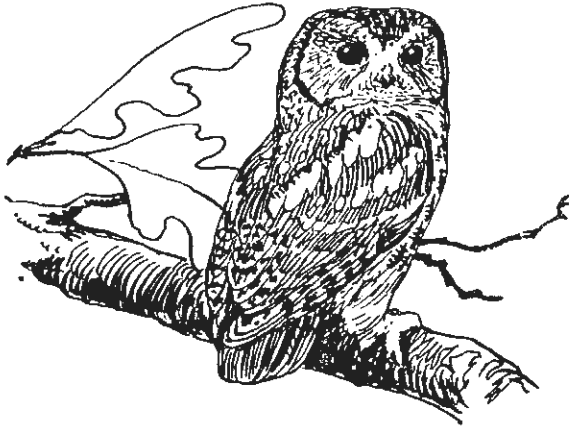
The cost of the trip is about \$100, including a night in a motel at Bend going each way, tuition, lodging and food at the field station. Acceptance is on a first come-first served basis. Reservations should be accompanied by a check for \$30. Send your check or call for further information to Sally van Niel at 259-7151 at EVCC days, or 778-7568, evenings.

Election of New Officers - Nominations

At the April meeting all of the members of Pilchuck Audubon will have the opportunity to vote on the officers to run the chapter for the following year. Below are the names of the people whom the Nominating Committee has chosen. These people have agreed to serve if elected. If you would like to place someone else's name on the ballot you may do so at the April meeting. The Nominating Committee was composed of Jim Kuhn(chair), Sally van Niel and Marianne McKnight.

President: Jan van Niel
Vice-President: Curt Howard
Secretary: Joyce Kelly
Treasurer: Gerald McKnight





BOARD ADOPTS FORMAL PROCEDURES FOR CHAPTER INPUT ON POLICIES

The National Audubon Society's board of directors has approved a set of formal procedures to ensure that all Audubon members and chapters are tied closely into the society's decision-making process. The new procedures simply formalize the practices that have been used in recent years for working up the statement of action goals and environmental priorities which the society issues every two years.

The two-year cycle developed around the society's custom of holding regional and national conferences on alternate years. Under the new procedures, chapters will be asked to submit policy recommendations to their regional offices prior to the 1982 regional conferences. These recommendations, with those of other chapters, will be refined into a policy statement through discussion at these conferences and at meetings of the staff and the board. Then, in a feedback process involving the 1983 biennial convention, regional offices and chapters, the policies will be translated into specific goals for the coming two years.

"With more than 422,000 members and 453 chapters in the Audubon family," President Russ Peterson explained, "the board decided an informal system was not enough. We must be sure all chapters know that their views on the society's goals and priorities are being sought and that they can participate in a meaningful way in shaping these goals and policies." He has sent chapter presidents a letter explaining the details of the new procedures.

SOIL EROSION STILL A BIG PROBLEM: LOSS IS 5.5 BILLION TONS PER YEAR

Erosion is still costing this country 5.5 billion tons of soil per year—enough to cover the state of Iowa with an inch-thick layer—reports the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The problem is that there are still farmers who refuse to heed the lessons of the Dust Bowl that ravaged the Great Plains states in the mid-1930s, says USDA. The hot dry summer of 1980 was a comparatively mild reminder of what it can be like to live with the wind building dunes beside highways and against buildings, muddying drinking water, making table food gritty, and destroying croplands.

At today's erosion rate, food supplies will not be threatened seriously for perhaps another century, but the farmlands that are lost today will not grow food for future generations, according to the agency report: "We have the technologies to prevent another Dust Bowl—contour stripcropping, terraces, grassed waterways, and other practices—but we must act now or face serious trouble ahead."

Good Start for Clean Air

The Congress started work on the Clean Air Act last week, holding a joint House-Senate committee hearing to receive the report of the National Commission on Air Quality. The act comes up for renewal this year, and the commission was established by Congress in 1977 to review its provisions and assess its impacts. Chaired by Senator Gary W. Hart of Colorado, the 13-member commission included three other congressmen, and representatives of local government, business, labor, and conservation.

For environmentalists, the report was basically reassuring. It says the act has worked well overall, but needs revision where its provisions have proved unrealistic and ineffective, and expansion to cover developments that have occurred since the original act was written—most notably, growing concern about acid rain.

Senator Robert T. Stafford of Vermont, chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, and Representative John D. Dingell of Michigan, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, both were members of the commission, and both say they hope to use the report to frame the Clean Air Act debate. Hearings on the act itself are expected to begin late this month or early in April. The committee chairmen say there is a reasonable chance of completing the legislation this year, but some sources predict the debate will continue into 1982.

HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF CONSERVATION

Much progress in conservation of our natural resources has been made over the past 70 years. We now have laws protecting various species, hunting regulations, and wildlife refuges and sanctuaries. But inspite of all our efforts many problems of "then" are still with us "now". Here is an excerpt from "A History of the Game Birds, Wild-fowl and Shore Birds of Massachusetts and Adjacent States" by E.H. Forbush - 1912.

PUBLIC GAME AND BIRD RESERVATIONS

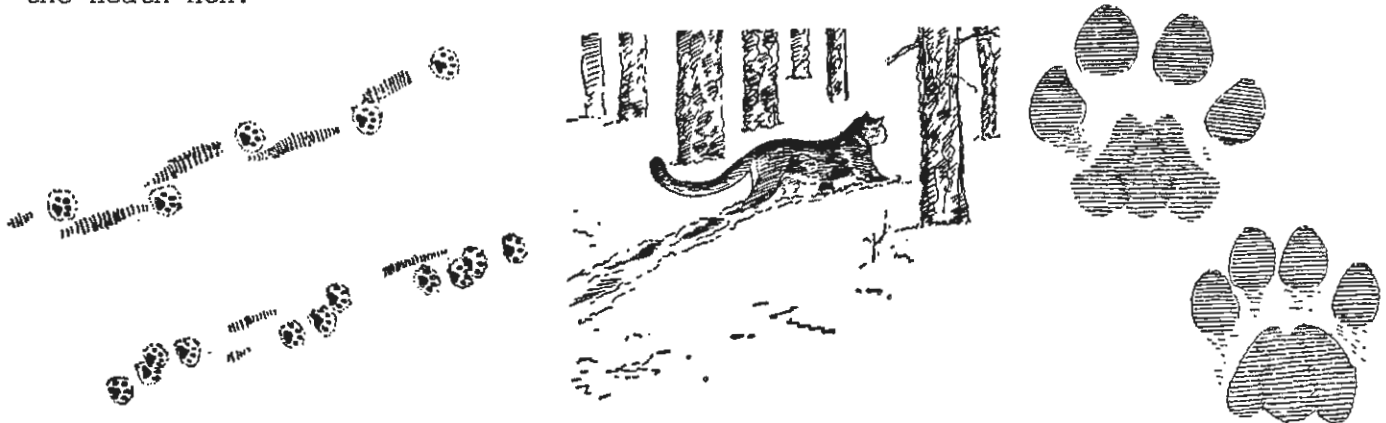
The quotation which follows is taken from my paper entitled Statutory Bird Protection in Massachusetts, which was published in 1907 in the annual report of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture:--

Where all other measures promise only failure there is still one resource left and that is the setting aside of tracts or reservations of woodland, lake, river or shore, within the limits of which all killing of birds by man may be prohibited, under heavy penalties. In such tracts or reservations the resident game and birds may breed unmolested, and thus replenish the surrounding country. Here migrants may find safety to stop and rest from their long journeys.

A chain of such sanctuaries established along the Atlantic coast of North America probably would preserve our stock of wild-fowl and shore birds indefinitely. The sanctuary has succeeded in Europe, and it is no new idea here. Already in Massachusetts we have been experimenting with it in a small way. One modification of the plan is to forbid the taking or killing of all wild animals or all birds within certain limits, after the plan adopted on Cape Ann in 1897 and in the town of Essex in 1899. In these cases a time limit of five years was set; but such an act might be made perpetual. Park commissioners are given police powers, and can prevent shooting within the limits of their reservations, as the Metropolitan Park Commission and many city park commissioners now do. In 1899, three thousand acres of land were set aside on Wachusett Mountain as a State Reservation, and the commissioners in charge were given police powers; this should ensure a permanent game sanctuary for Worcester County. The enactment in 1907, by which the Commissioners on Fisheries and Game were empowered to take one thousand acres of land on Martha's Vineyard as a reservation for the protection of the Heath Hen and other birds, is an example of direct legislation for this purpose, more of which will, sooner or later, become necessary.

The many bird reservations now established in this country by the United States Government and by the National Association of Audubon Societies have been so successful as to demonstrate the fact that public reservations would solve the problem of game preservation if we could have enough of them. Failing in this, we must depend largely on private enterprise.

AUDUBON IS important, then and especially now. Education of the people and continued support of conservation issues will ensure that no more species follow the path of the Heath Hen.



HELP!

As soon as you receive this, call the legislative hotline 1-800-562-6000 to find out where the following bills are in the legislative process, and to voice your opinion on them. The bills would all seriously impact and destroy the intent of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Substitute House Bill 261 - would destroy local government land use regulation while allowing private property owners to sue for compensation if any government action (or inaction) adversely affects property values.

Substitute House Bill 429 - eliminates judicial review of the adequacy of environmental impact statements and exempts residential developments of less than 300 units from EIS requirements, and lets developers sue for malicious prosecution on the grounds that a project is challenged for purposes of delay.

Senate Bill 4036 does the same thing as Sub. House Bill 429 but would come under review in two years. A bad law that expires in two years is still a bad law.

Call the hotline and oppose these bills by leaving messages for your state representatives.

IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHO THEY ARE CALL YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY OR POLITICAL PARTY HEADQUARTERS AND FIND OUT.



Bird Sightings

A Prairie Falcon was seen by Joyce Kelly somewhere in Snohomish County, Eileen Loerch reports a Lazuli Bunting stopped briefly in her yard. Michael Kyte observed a crow bringing a twig to another crow with a twig; he also observed two seals near the Snohomish River Boat Launch in Everett. They were swimming with heads out of the water barking, then would leap and dive.

And for all you who want spring to be here - just get up about 5 a.m. and listen outside: singing from what seems to be every tree and branch - robins, warblers, flycatchers, etc. all voicing their rights of spring.

Honored Guest

The Occasion: Western Regional Leadership Conference

The Setting: Indoors on a sunny afternoon.

The Time: Late Afternoon

Action: Dick Taylor summarizing the messages of the day, giving pep talks to local leaders. An attentive audience, quiet and listening....well, all but one are listening. Jan van Niel is dreamily gazing out the window and across the grassy slopes of the golf course. Suddenly in the back of the room, Jan stands and waves, declaring excitedly that an unusual bird is on the green! The entire group rushes to the windows to see the albino robin. That is right, a white robin came to the Leadership Conference. Plan to attend the next conference or other Audubon gathering...you never know what you are going to miss.

by Joan Lucas

Seattle pigeons beware
Of the corn that is fed in the Square!
Don't fly in to get it
It is estrogenetic
And soon there'll be none of you there!

Stream Survey

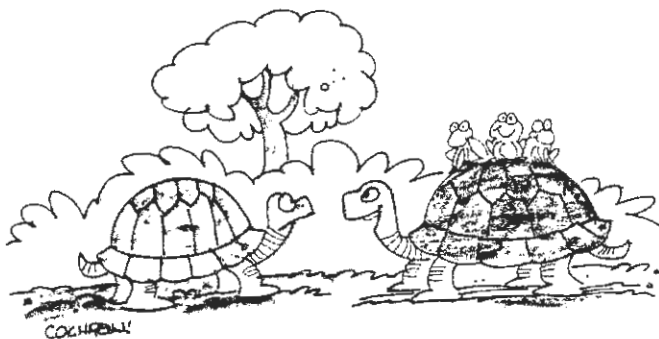
Interested Audubon members met at the van Niel house on March 24 to try and coordinate any knowledge about the 37 potential dam sites in Snohomish County. Each member then took some specific sites to survey, take pictures of, and look for threatened or endangered animals and plants. This process will give us some baseline data to support or oppose proposed dams, as well as provide information for the significant natural areas in the County that we are trying to compile. Anyone else who would like to help, please contact Sally van Niel at 778-7568, evenings.

Poaching Hotline

The Washington Department of Game has a toll free number to report poaching - the poaching hotline number-
1-800-562-5626

The number is to report violations only, illegal hunting or poaching. Use of this number to report cases has resulted in many arrests and convictions during the past year.

To report a violation please try to have the following information: a clear description of the violation, the exact time and location of the violation, a description of the suspect and/or the vehicle license plate number. Time can be important so call as soon as possible.



"I'm a three-toad box turtle."

BIRDATHON

April has been designated as National Audubon Society month with the Birdathon as its focal point.

What is a Birdathon? It is a fund-raising program similar to a walk-a-thon. Participants seek sponsors who contribute money for each bird species seen by the counter in a 24-hour period. Donations of any amount are fine from 5¢ to \$5.00 or more per species seen. The date of our Birdathon is 26 April (John J. Audubon's birthday).

National and Regional prizes will be awarded to the person: raising the most money, seeing the most species, and the top chapter in contribution per member. Each participant will receive an attractive Certificate of Appreciation.

Our Chapter will award a print (approx. 16x24) of a red-shafted flicker by Guy Cohealeac to the person raising the most money. (The print is worth over \$50.) Also each participant will receive an Audubon keyring.

For those of you wanting to get together the Chapter is planning to go to our CBC area (in part). Not only will this be a fun outing, but we will also be collecting data in the spring on our special area.

For further information on the Birdathon contact the chairman, Keith Estes at 743-1306 or Jan van Niel at 778-7568.

WEC Membership Convention

Washington Environmental Council's Membership Convention is coming. May 1-2, all members of affiliate organization, as well as the general public, are invited to attend at the Seattle Center.

This year we will focus discussion on the future of Washington's environmental resources, together with WEC's role coordinating public involvement with these issues. Distinguished speakers will address the key-note session and awards banquet. A plenary session will discuss WEC's future priorities.

Workshops will be broad enough for all interests, focusing on the most current controversies, omnipresent issues, and sharing "how-to" skills for influencing public and private environmental decision making.

If you would like further information please contact the WEC office at 623-1483.

THE AUDUBON PHILOSOPHY

WE BELIEVE in the wisdom of nature's design.
WE KNOW that soil, water, plants, and wild creatures depend upon each other and are vital to human life.
WE RECOGNIZE that each living thing links to many others in the chain of nature.
WE BELIEVE that persistent research into the intricate patterns of outdoor life will help to assure wise use of earth's abundance.
WE BELIEVE that every generation should be able to experience spiritual and physical refreshment in places where primitive nature is undisturbed.
SO WE WILL BE vigilant to protect wilderness areas, refuges, and parks, and to encourage good use of nature's storehouse of resources.
WE DEDICATE ourselves to the pleasant task of opening the eyes of young and old that all may come to enjoy the beauty of the outdoor world, and to share in conserving its wonders forever.

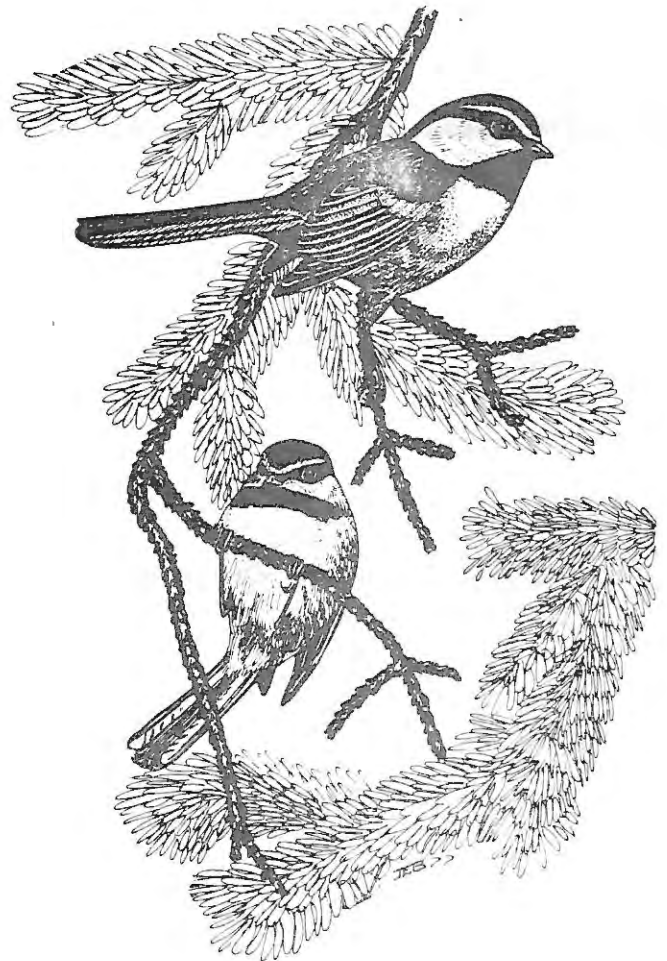
Pollution or Power?

"The Environmental Protection Agency recently reported that burping cows' must rate as the number 1 source of air pollution in the U.S. Cows burp 90 million tons of hydrocarbons into the atmosphere every year. Ten cows can burp enough gas a year to heat a small house."

Back to Killing Eagles?

Fifty woolgrowers in New Mexico have petitioned the Department of Interior for authorization to start killing eagles again. To do so would be a reversal of a policy that was instituted under the Nixon administration and has been in effect ever since. The Interior Department is responsible for protecting ranchers from eagles if they prey on livestock, but since 1972 it has banned the killing of these birds and has relied on other methods of protection.

The Department's long-standing eagle policy could be reversed by an order from the Secretary of the Interior. So far, however, Interior officials have not seen fit to grant the New Mexicans' request. Instead, they have been resorting to such methods as frightening away the birds, live-trapping and removing them, and removing carrion that may attract predators to lambing sites.



PAS BOARD

President: Jan van Niel (778-7568)
 V. Pres.: Marianne McKnight (337-4777)
 Secretary: Joyce Kelley (568-5974)
 Treasurer: Carl Holmes (387-4631)
 Program: Marianne & Gerald McKnight
 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 Trip: Jim Kuhn (652-6191)
 Education: Pete Kaiser (652-6191)

To subscribe to the Profile, send \$3.50 to Pilchuck Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1618, Everett, WA 98206.

(If you would like first class postage, send \$2.00 to PAS in addition)

To join Pilchuck Audubon Society, which includes membership in the National Audubon Society and the magazine "AUDUBON", as well as the Pilchuck Audubon Profile(our chapter newsletter), please fill out the application and send to PAS.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

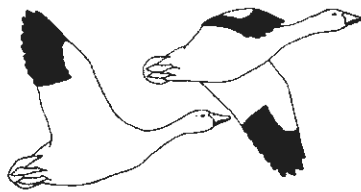
Phone _____

Type of Membership:

___ Individual (\$20.00 per year)

___ Family (\$25.00 per year)

___ Other



Pilchuck Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1618, Everett, Washington 98206

TIME VALUE MATERIAL

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