

# Pilchuck Audubon Profile

February 1981

Volume X, no. 2

## Calendar

- February 14 Field trip to Eby's Landing and Crockett Lake. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at The Bank, Smokey Point Rest Area, exit 206 or at 11 a.m. at the south end of Deception Pass Bridge. Bring a sack lunch. Field trip leaders Jim Kuhn and Pate Kaiser, 652-6191, evenings.
- February 20 Regular Meeting. Our guest speaker is Fayette Krause of The Nature Conservancy. His program will be the Snake River Birds of Prey area. 7:30 p.m. room 308, Everett Community College.
- February 22 Field trip to Camano Island and Grace Cornwall's place. This is a joint trip with Seattle Audubon. Call Jan van Niel for time and meeting place or go directly to Cornwalls. 9/15 Smokey Point
- February 28 Field trip to Big Ditch and Wilay Slough. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Bank, Smokey Point ~~Rest Area~~, exit 206, I-5 or 10:00 a.m. at Viking Village. Bring sack lunch. Field trip leader Jim Kuhn, 652-6191, p.m.
- March 2 Board Meeting. Call Jan van Niel for details.
- March 7 Field trip to Snoqualmie Wildlife Recreation Area. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Safeway Store in Suchomish. Bring sack lunch. Field trip leader Jim Kuhn.
- March 20 Regular Meeting. Terry Wahl, noted sea bird expert will present a program on Conservation, Oil Spills and Birds. Meeting 308, Everett Community College at 7:30 p.m.
- March 21 Audubon Leadership Workshop at Everett Community College. See article elsewhere in the newsletter.
- March 28 Field Trip to Wallace Falls. Field trip leader Pate Kaiser. See next newsletter for meeting place and time.
- April 2 Board Meeting. Call Jan van Niel for details.

## LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

On March 21, 1981 NAS Western Regional Office will be putting on the Western Washington Audubon Leadership Workshop. The meetings will be held at Everett Community College and are tentatively scheduled to run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend. Here is a very good chance to become more active in the chapter. Also, the skills learned can be applied equally well to other organizations. Since the workshop is in our area and your chapter is helping out it on, let's have a good turnout of members. The workshop is free. Bring a sack lunch or you can go to a nearby restaurant. Circle the date on your calendar and look for more information in the next Profile.

## WELCOME

We would like to welcome these new members: Ken and Peggy Kramlich, Gina Lason, the McKay-Green family, Richard Mcardla and Otis Ramstad, all of Everett; John Ferrara and Mrs. P. Eisenberg of Snohomish; Lynn Morris of Lake Stevens; Vernon Meissner of Alderwood Manor; Mrs. R.L. Waygand of Marysville; Mrs. N. Kelly of Camano Island and Pamela Haggars of Lynnwood. We would also like to welcome Keatie Abbenhouse who transferred into our chapter.

## BIRD SIGHTINGS

Joan Lucas saw an osprey on the Skagit River field trip. Brent Young spotted a mature bald eagle flying over the center of Sylva. The MacKnights saw a snowy owl at the Everett sewage lagoon as well as black ducks, green winged teal, American and European widgeon, red-breasted merganser, eared grebe and an immature bald eagle. In addition, they saw a red-throated loon at Padilla Bay. Ed Gilleland saw 20 red-breasted nuthatches in his year. The van Diels saw a golden eagle on the west side of Stevens Pass. Joyce Killey saw a great horned owl, Canada goose, pintails and canvasbacks by Rock knife Bridge.

## Thank You

Thank you Mrs. Zula Cook for contributing 12 years of Audubon magazine to the Audubon library. Mrs. Cook lives in Granite Falls.

## ASHLAND LAKES

Just before the election, the Dept. of Natural Resources announced that the Ashland Lakes timber sale was being postponed for at least a year because of public protest over the sale. However, on Dec. 15, 1980, DNR applied for a Forest Practices Acts Permit, a preliminary step to logging. The clear cut would be directly above Upper Ashland Lake and would destroy the hiking and recreational opportunities provided by the area. It seems wasteful to log an area where \$150,000 dollars were spent to build trails and campsites and additional funds were used to maintain the area. Please write to Land Commissioner Brian Boyle, DNR, State of Washington, Olympia, Wa. 98504. Explain to him what excellent recreational opportunities the area provides. Mention any wildlife you have seen in the area. If you need any additional information, please call Eileen Leerch at 659-6901 or Sally van Nial at 778-7568.

## CHRISTMAS BIRDS COUNT - 1980 REPORT

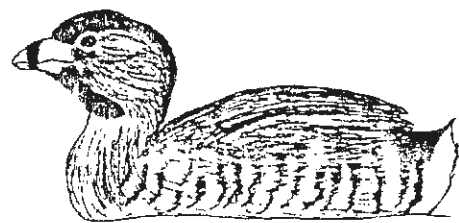
This year, it was different than most due primarily to the weather. It was flooding in the Stillaguamish Basin, but the temperature was warm for the season. The count day was a bit windy and cool compared to the day previous and the day following and as a result the number and kinds of birds observed was down from last year, but the total number of birds seen was up 190 from last year. Twenty people participated this year, down from last years 35. The number of species seen was also down, 75 compared to 93 of a year ago.

The most notable sightings were those of the Townsend warbler and mute swan. The swans were seen a Lake Goodwin along with a flock of 130 common mergansers. The swans were the only new species to the count, although 15 new species high numbers were recorded. The following summary list all the species seen this year on our count, the number of years seen on previous Christmas Bird Counts, and the previous high number. The species with no counts are unbolded.

1960 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

SPECIES	1960 TOTAL	YRS SEEN	PREV HIGH	SPECIES	1960 TOTAL	YRS SEEN	PREV HIGH
Red-throated loon	3	7	3	Hairy woodpecker	4	6	4
Western grebe	209	6	245	Downy woodpecker	4	4	6
Horned grebe	7	7	15	Stellar's jay	11	7	30
Eared grebe	1	5	3	Common raven	1	6	8
Pied-billed grebe	1	6	13	Crow	597	7	1053
Red-necked grebe	1	4	16	Blk-capped chickadee	95	7	117
Obl.-crested cormorant	28	3	7	Ch-bked chickadee	21	7	76
Pelagic cormorant	2	2	1	Common bushtit	58	6	175
Great blue heron	29	7	54	Wh.-br. nuthatch	1	1	5
Mute swan	14			Brown creeper	1	6	7
Canada goose	296	5	400	Winter wren	12	7	36
Snow Goose	5400	7	6000	Long-billed marsh wren	1	3	4
Mallard	435	7	567	American robin	396	7	486
Pintail	162	5	100	Varied thrush	20	6	173
American Wigeon	1980	7	1045	G.-crowned kinglet	116	7	244
Shoveler	6	2	4	Ruby-crowned kinglet	73	7	134
Green-winged teal	17	5	3	Kinglet sp.	15		
Canvasback	20	6	23	Northern shrike	1	4	2
Ring-necked duck	35	5	28	Starling	2605	7	4551
Lesser scaup	5	7	55	Hutton's vireo	2	1	4
Common Goldeneye	9	7	66	Townsend's warbler	10	1	4
Barrow's goldeneye	7	7	40	warbler unidentified	4		
Black duck	2	2	2	House sparrow	29	7	231
Bufflehead	63	7	310	Western meadowlark	10	4	15
White-winged scoter	9	5	10	Red-winged blackbird	4	7	699
Surf scoter	23	7	58	Brewer's blackbird	17	6	2406
Ruddy duck	23	7	123	Purple finch	4	6	15
Common merganser	130	6	115	House finch	31	7	141
Red-breasted merganser	10	4	11	Pine siskin	131	7	800
Hooded merganser	11	7	11	Rufous-sided towhee	12	7	152
Merganser sp.	1			Dark-eyed junco	182	7	204
Sharp-shinned hawk	1	4	2	White-crowned sparrow	2	5	16
Cooper's hawk	1	1	1	Golden-crowned sparrow	3	5	12
Marsh hawk	6	7	6	Fox sparrow	11	6	18
Red-tailed hawk	30	7	26	Song sparrow	22	7	203
Swainson's hawk	2	4	1				
Bald eagle	7	6	5				
American coot	103	7	367				
Killdeer	81	5	95				
Lesser yellowlegs	1	1	1				
Dunlin	1000	6	1706				
Dowitchers sp.	13						
Gulls sp.	2969						
Glaucous-winged gull	694	7	274				
Herring gull	1113	2	131				
California gull	44	4	326				
Mew gull	200	5	140				
Bonaparte's gull	17	3	20				
Rock dove	99	5	692				
Short-eared owl	1	1	4				
Belted kingfisher	6	7	9				
Common flicker	36	7	28				

Total number of species 75  
Total number of birds 20176



Pied Billed Grebe KOHN

# Watching whales







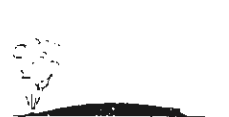







## When and Where

1. Observe from coastal headlands that jut out into the ocean--especially those with good elevation. CR here in Puget Sound.
2. Pick early morning hours. Conditions are usually more favorable before winds cause whitecaps on the water's surface.
3. Choose weather favoring a calm ocean. Don't go during or just after a heavy storm. Overcast days are good for whale watching because there is little glare.

## What to Look For

1. Scan the horizon and look for the blow--vapor, water or condensation blown into the air up to 12 feet when the whale exhales.
2. Usually, only a small portion of the whale's head and back show during a blow.
3. Spy-hopping is a term applied to a whale with its head partially out of the water in a vertical posture, frequently bringing the eye above the surface. This is thought to be a visual orientation behavior and may be done near boats to see, "What's that?"
4. Breaching is a term for the whale's rising vertically out of the water (often  $1/2$  to  $3/4$  of its length) and falling to its side or back, making a spectacular splash when it hits the water. The reasons suggested for breaching include knocking off whale lice, communicating, courting, or just having fun.

Table 1.—Blowing and diving characteristics of some of the large whales (reproduced by permission from Gordon C. Pike, Guide to the Whales, Porpoises and Dolphins of the North-East Pacific and Arctic Waters of Canada and Alaska)

Surfacing and blowing	Beginning the dive	Diving
	Blue	
	Finback	
	Sei	
	Humpback	
	Gray	
	Right	
	Sperm	

from the Audubon Leader

**Porpoise Quota Lowered.** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has announced a cut of one-third in the number of porpoises that may be killed "incidental" to tuna fishing operations each year for the next five years. The new annual quota is 20,500. Less than ten years ago as many as 300,000 a year of these air breathing mammals were being drowned unintentionally when caught in nets with the tuna. Various new netting methods and regulations have been reducing the kill steadily.

# Message to Reagan: 'Reconsider MX'

National Audubon Society has joined a group of environmentalists, Western ranchers, and good government organizations in sending a letter to President-elect Reagan calling on him to "reconsider" the Air Force's proposed MX missile system. The start of the new administration, the letter says, would be "an appropriate time to ask whether the proposed missile system would add or detract from national security."

What the Air Force wants to build (see the November 1979 *Audubon*) is an immense missile-shuttling system akin to the old shell game, in which only the operator knows where the pea is hidden. In the Air Force version, 200 MX missiles could be hidden in any of 4,600 shelters in an interconnected network of launching areas scattered across most of Nevada and half of Utah. The presumption is that no enemy could wipe out that many shelters before the United States could launch some of its missiles in retaliation; thus it would be a deterrent to enemy attack.

The project would be built on a colossal scale. The 26-wheeled vehicles for shuttling the 70-foot missiles — each missile with ten 335 kiloton nuclear warheads — would weigh 750 tons when fully loaded. The shelters and 8,000 miles of heavy-duty roadways capable of carrying these massive loads would require one-third as much concrete as the nation's entire interstate highway system. It would cost at least \$35 billion to

build and billions more to operate.

A draft environmental impact statement for the project was released last month by the Air Force. Bearing out many of the contentions of environmentalists, it concedes that the MX system would degrade air and water quality, deplete the region's limited water supply, destroy grazing lands, and cause social disruption affecting jobs, schools, housing, public services, and lifestyles in the now sparsely populated region.

The release of the impact statement led Friends of the Earth and Sane, a disarmament organization, to organize a press conference. One of the speakers was a National Audubon Society senior vice president, M. Rupert Cutler. He urged policy makers to take a "comprehensive" view of the nation's strength and security: "We are asking a very rich, yet extremely fragile area to serve as our nation's first line of defense, a primary source of strategic materials and a center of energy production. The Colorado River system, the land itself, and the existing communities cannot possibly withstand for long the cumulative impacts of the development of a large synthetic fuels industry, coal mines, powerplants, the MX missile system and the demands of the population and service industries attracted by these projects."

The letter to Reagan was sent by the press conference participants. In addition to environmental and social effects, the letter stressed the "enormous drain" the project would put on the U.S. Treasury, and noted that a number of military analysts have questioned the basic concept of the project.

## Make Yourself Heard

### Contacting Your Lobbyist

Here's how to contact your lobbyist. Write:

Allen Jones  
WEC Lobbyist  
215 E. 10th #6  
Olympia, WA 98501

Call Allen at: (206) 754-7781.

Or leave a message with the legislative answering service in the Capitol building by calling: 754-3290.

### Legislative Hot-line 1-800-562-6000

You can call the Capitol for free on the **legislative hot-line: 1-800-562-6000**. Hot-line operators can do the following:

1. Relay a **brief** (one-sentence) message to a legislator.
2. Send you bills if you identify them by number or short title.
3. Tell you the status of bills.
4. Tell you committee meeting times and agendas.

If you want to leave a longer message, or if you want to talk to your legislator, call the legislator's office number. (See numbers on the back of this sheet.)

### Letter-writing

Letter writing can be an effective form of lobbying. Paper is the universal medium of exchange in the legislature. Letters are easily copied or filed for later reference. Legislators usually answer letters from their own constituents.

Consider sending a copy of your letter to your local newspaper editor.

Send a copy of your letter to WEC's lobbyist in Olympia.

#### Tips for Letter Writers

Address your letters:

Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
Washington State Senate  
Olympia, WA 98504

Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
Wash. State House of Representatives  
Olympia, WA 98504

Identify the bill by number and subject and give the bill's status if you know it.

Be brief (One page maximum unless you are expert.)

State your position and respond to **their** concerns.

Be informative and constructive, not hostile.

Ask their position on the bill.

Tell them what you would like them to do ("Please vote YES in committee," "Please support these amendments," etc.)

Thank them when they vote right.

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