

Pilchuck Audubon Profile

March 1981

Vol. IX No. 13

Calendar

- March 20 - Friday - General meeting. 7:30 pm Everett Community College (ECC), Room 308. Terry Wahl will speak on his seabird study and discuss oil spill problems. Mr. Wahl is a Research Associate in Zoology at Western Washington University. Also, Western Regional Representatives will be at the meeting.
- March 21 - Saturday - Leadership Workshop See related article for details.
- March 24 - Tuesday - Conservation workshop at Sally van Niel's. See article for details.
- March 28 - Saturday - Field trip to Wallace Falls. Meet at 9:30 am at Safeway store in Snohomish. Bring a lunch.
- April 4 - Saturday - Field trip to Sundquist Marine Lab. Meet at the bank building at exit 206 off I-5. Bring a lunch. 9:00 am
- April 11 - Saturday - Field trip to Reifel Island. Meet at the bank building at exit 206 off I-5 at 9:00 am. Bring a lunch.
- April 17 - Friday - Regular meeting. Curt Howard will present "A summer in Greenland". 7:30 pm in Room 308 at ECC.
- May 9 - Saturday - Field trip to Nisqually Delta. Meet at 8:30 am at the Old National Bank building at 44th & 196th in Lynnwood. Bring a lunch.
- May 16 - Saturday - Annual Potluck at Jennings Barn. A field trip to Deering Wildflowers Acres will be held prior to the dinner.
Field trip: meet at the barn at 9:30 am
Potluck: meet at the barn at 5:30 pm Be sure to bring whatever dish you like and your own eating utensils.
- June 13 - Saturday - Field trip to Ashland Lakes. Meet in front of the Coast-to-Coast store in Frontier Village at 9:00 am. Bring lunch.

*****FREE*****

Tell a friend about our Chapter and NAB. If you have found someone that might be interested in becoming a member or just wants to know more about our organization, please let our membership chairwoman (Eileen Loerch) know about them. Give her their name and address and we will send them absolutely FREE for three months - our newsletter, and a brochure about Pilchuck and NAB. So let her hear from you.
Phone: 659-6901.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members: Jo Bushie Wood and family, Joseph E. Kelly, Doug & Katherine Denison, Betty Rettenmier, and Colleen Bentley all of Everett; Jim Poortinga of Marysville; and Bonnie L. Swaffield of Lynnwood.

AUDUBON LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Come one - come all, this is a good chance to start getting involved with you Chapter. The workshop is for all members, not just our present leaders.

There will be workshops on membership, education, and conservation in addition to ones for people involved in newsletters and publicity.

National AS's new senior vice-president, Dr. Rupert Cutler will also be present.

Saturday, March 21, 9am - 4pm.
Everett Community College - Room 253

Bring a lunch, coffee will be provided. Let's have a big chapter representation and show how active we are.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

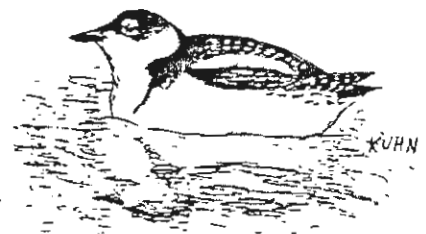
The nominating committee was named at the March Board meeting. Members are Jim Kuhn, Marianne McKnight, and Sally van Niel. We will need president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. If you are interested in any of these offices contact one of the above.

WORKSHOP - CONSERVATION

On Tuesday, March 24, there will be a Conservation Workshop held at the van Niels to discuss proposed dam sites in Snohomish County (proposed by the Army Corps). Contact Sally van Niel if you need more information.



Contributions to your newsletter are important if the diversity and quality are to remain high. We must have the help of many people to write, type, colate, staple, address and mail the Profile. Get involved so your conv will come on time. Call 775-0137.



BIRDATHON

National Audubon is sponsoring a new activity this year - a Birdathon. Thought you had heard of everything didn't you! The idea is to get sponsors to commit 5¢ to \$5 or more for each species of bird seen on THE DAY - Saturday April 25.

Anyone can participate-young or not-to-young, experienced or novice -- there will be help available for the inexperienced counters.

What happens to all the money we raise? One third of the money raised will be used by our chapter for the Swan Protection Fund/or Protection Island. The Western Regional office will get another third to run its many programs and help the chapters in the state. The remaining third will be used by National to further all its programs.

So plan to come out for a fun day of bird watching - Saturday, 25 April. For more details see next month's newsletter

HAZARDOUS WASTE IN PUGET SOUND

NCAA has conducted a survey of Puget Sound and has found parts of it very, very sick. Fish that are diseased, crippled or have tumors have been found in the Duwamish River, Commencement Bay, Lake Washington Ship Canal and in the Snohomish River. These areas have had chemicals poured into them for the last 40 years and at least 200 of them have been put into the Sound. There is no absolute proof that the chemicals caused the disease or tumors, but there is circumstantial evidence to indicate that this might be the case.

There are some problems indicated as bacteria are built up on the beaches and heavy metals have increased in the sediments. Unfortunately, we will not know the full effects for several years to come.

SCRIBER LAKE- a success

Good news! The Lynnwood City Council and Parks Department have hired a landscape architect firm to submit a Master Plan for Scriber Lake. The proposal, as submitted, looks like a fine approach to protecting the lake and yet make it accessible to people. Boardwalk trails over peat are suggested for the area, with several over-water floating decks extending into the lake for viewing. There would be a few interpretive signs to provide information on the lake, the bog, geology, history, and the interaction between the natural systems and the surrounding urban area.

Picnic areas and parking would be placed on stable uplands. There would also be trail links to Sprague Lakes along existing rights-of-way and downstream to Cedar Valley Elementary School.

NEST RECORD CARD PROGRAM

The North American Nest Record Card Program is sponsored by the Thomas Burke Memorial Washington State Museum at the U. of W. From volunteers is gathers information on the nestings of any birds, hatchings, successes, failures. The data is reported on cards supplied to the volunteers. It is necessary to identify the bird species (not difficult) but the record keeping is not difficult.

Completed cards are kept on file at the Museum; duplicates go to the base of the program at Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology for storage in a computer (data available to researchers).

If you would like to volunteer, or want to know more about the program write to: Nest Record Card Program, Burke Museum, DB-10, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.



Water

The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle is doing a study on the Sultan River water which supplies Everett, much of South County, Lake Stevens, Monroe and other parts of the County. The Sultan River contains one of the highest asbestos fiber counts of any supply in the country--and it comes from the rocks and clays in the area. So--the question is "Do people who drink asbestos laden water from their faucets at home stand a greater chance of developing cancer than those who do not?"

Information will be obtained by talking to patients with cancer of the stomach, intestines and other organs. This information will be compared with a random sample. The information obtained may be the final straw that requires the installation of a filtration plant. For further information call Sally van Niel at 778-7568.

PROTECTION ISLAND

Congressional Bills that would designate Protection Island as a National Wildlife Refuge have been introduced in the new Congress as HR 1486 and S327. Rep. Don Bonker introduced the bill in the House and Sen. Jackson in the Senate. The bills were co-sponsored by the entire Washington delegation.

Please write these people thanking them and showing your support. House Office Building, Wash. D.C. 20515 Senate Office Building, Wash. D.C. 20510

In the meantime, Admiralty Audubon is continuing to purchase lots as they receive money. They have bought 13 lots so far and have a waiting list of people eager to sell. So send your money to SAVE PROTECTION ISLAND, Box 666, Port Townsend, WA 98368.

Remember, this island is absolutely essential for rhinoceros auklets, tufted puffins, pigeon guillemot, black oystercatchers and glaucous-winged gulls in our state.

How much energy does it take to slow down the conservation movement?

A: one Watt.

SBR - WHAT IT MEANS: (From The Prairie Owl, Palouse Audubon Society.)

The Sagebrush Rebellion (SBR) is still very much with us, and the list of supporters is growing. As you are no doubt aware, the greatest potential threat of the SBR is the transferring of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (FS) lands out of federal control and into the control of the individual states. Most analysts of the issues feel that, for a variety of reasons, the states will not be able to maintain control over and/or successfully manage the lands they gain. It is feared that the millions of acres of BLM and FS land will eventually be turned over to private interests (individual, corporate, American and foreign). It is important to remember that the lands in question are public lands, belonging to you and me...the citizens of the United States. Every American citizen "owns" approximately two acres of BLM land, one acre of FS land, and one-half acre of National Park, Fish and Wildlife and National Monument land. The American public uses this land for a wide variety of activities--camping, backpacking, hunting, fishing, skiing, snowmobiling, photography, and enjoyment of nature, to name only a few. On the other hand the supporters of the SBR are primarily the commercial users--the mining industry, the oil and gas industry, the timber and livestock industries.

The gains involved in federal land turnover are obvious, but there already exist many positive aspects for commercial users; the federal government subsidizes loggers by building roads costing more than its income from timber sales; grazing fees are cheaper than on comparable private land; miners are free to do pretty much as they please under the mining law of 1872. Additionally public-land states receive half the money from mineral leasing on federal land, 25% of National Forest receipts, 25% of BLM grazing receipts, and highway subsidies.

SBR supporters very often claim that federal lands should be returned to the States. However, the states never owned the land. They were originally acquired through national treaties or purchases from France, Great Britain, Mexico, Russia, and the Republic of Texas. For about 100 years, the federal government attempted to dispose of this land, with the present public lands being areas no one wanted. Various federal agencies took over the management of the lands and now that resource pressures are with us, commercial users want all of them. State ownership and management is the first step to their acquiring the lands. Commercial users of natural resources do not control the U.S. Congress, but they do control most Western legislatures and pressure on them will greatly increase if the lands are state owned.

Much of this recent push to grab public lands is in response to long-needed federal laws designed to better protect and conserve public lands in a balanced multiple use manner. The patriotic cries for unrestricted energy resource exploration and extraction in order to keep our nation secure is only a smoke screen. It is important that we, as citizens and public land users, vigorously resist any actions by special interest groups that would result in a loss of public use of public land.

An excellent case in point is that of the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area in Idaho.

Letters are urgently needed in support of a 600,000-acre Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. Please write your Representative (House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515) and Senators (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510) and send copies to the following people:

1. Senator McClure, Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510 and also Senator Jackson, ranking minority member of the committee.
2. Rep. Mo Udall, Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House Office Building, Washington DC 20515.
3. Secretary of the Interior James Watt, Dept. of the Interior, Washington DC 20240

Designation of the Birds of Prey Area would protect the densest known population of birds of prey in North America. It would also allow grazing, National Guard use, recreation, and existing mineral and geothermal leasing to continue. Only agricultural development under the Desert Land Entry and Carey Acts would be prohibited. This area should remain in multiple use. A lock up of the land for agriculture would not only be detrimental to the birds, but would interfere with other present uses and would require electricity rate increases.

THE WHITE STARLING!?

Although most people enjoy watching swans because of their grace and beauty, you may not be aware of the potential problems created by the introduced mute swan. Native to Great Britain and Europe, these swans were brought to this country to "enhance" private ponds primarily on the east coast. However, a few escaped and now the Chesapeake Bay area supports a population of over 700 birds. In the Great Plains region over 250 have been counted as free flying birds.

The mute swan is non-migratory, feeding year-round on vegetation that normally needs a summer recovery from native migratory swans, so optimum winter forage can be obtained. Further, the mute swan is highly territorial and aggressive in North America. During the breeding season, they may exclude all other species of waterfowl from nesting on "their" pond. As a result of these habits, our native whistling and trumpeter swans and other waterfowl are being impacted on the wintering and breeding grounds.

While we do not yet have a problem here in Washington state, 14 mute swans were reported on our CBC in December. What impact these feral swans may have on our wintering trumpeter and whistling swans is not well known. However, in other areas of the country, the effect has been significant.

It may be difficult to believe that something as beautiful as a mute swan could be so detrimental. I am sure that the people who introduced starling in our country felt their bird just as wonderful.

This year, at the Trumpeter Swan Society's annual meeting, the problems of the mute swan were discussed. Representatives from many state, federal and provincial agencies were present. Generally, most felt that some form of control is necessary before irreparable damage to our native waterfowl occurs.

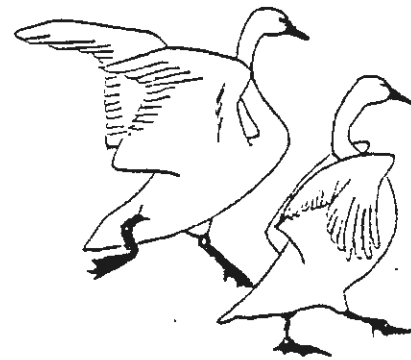
Currently answers are being sought and programs to deal with the problem are being formed to deal with this fairly recent situation of - the white starling.

For further information please contact Martha Jordan, 775-0137

BOOKS-

A really outstanding checklist of the flora and fauna of Washington's Long Beach Peninsula has been compiled by Ralph S. Widrig and will be welcomed by Pilchuck Auduboners who like to explore Pacific County's wildlife areas. Entitled "The Birds and Plants of Long Beach Peninsula", it nevertheless includes also a complete section on mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

This excellent publication may be obtained from Ralph S. Widrig, Box 43, Ocean Park, WA 96640. The cost is only \$1.50 postpaid.



BIRD SIGHTINGS -

Marjorie Williams reports a Northern Harrier at her bird feeder, a Bald eagle nab a fish out of Lake Stevens, and a flock of Canadian geese on the lake. Joyce Kelly saw a snowy owl at the Skagit flats, and a red-tailed hawk was being harassed by crows near Bothell.

Martha Jordan and Keith Estes observed over 100 bald eagles at Klamath Wildlife Refuges near California, as well as over 1500 whistling swans on a flooded field near Uppler Lake Klamath on their recent trip to a bald eagle symposium.

If you have unusual or just regular bird sightings please send your newsletter editor a note or give your sightings to the field trip chairperson at the monthly meeting. We need your assistance to help make this item better.

We Move to Join a Lawsuit To Support Andrus Order

In one of his last acts as Secretary of the Interior, Cecil D. Andrus designated 482,620 acres of federal lands in Idaho as the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (see *Leader* 12/5/80). A group of plaintiffs headed by Sagebrush Rebellion, Inc. has filed suit against the government to overturn his order. Now Andrus has been replaced by James G. Watt, an avowed supporter of the Sagebrush Rebellion, who may lack enthusiasm for defending his predecessor's action. So National Audubon Society has moved to enter the case. With the support of all of Idaho's Audubon chapters and virtually all other conservation organizations in the state, the society has filed for permission to intervene in the suit as defendant. That would put us on the side of the government, together with Watt, defending the Andrus designation.

Legal support for the case is only one reason for the society's action. In addition, the involvement of Idaho's entire conservation community can help demonstrate that the Birds of Prey Area has wide citizen support, and that the opposition is being led by special interest groups—particularly land speculators—who would like to see the government undertake a costly irrigation project in this desert.

Biologists have counted 582 pairs of eagles, falcons, and various other hawks nesting there, making it by far the largest known raptor nesting area in the world, both in density and in diversity. Andrus, whose interest in protecting these birds began while he was Governor of Idaho, issued his order November 24th, 1980.

The new designation does not halt any traditional uses of these lands. Ranchers can still graze cattle on the National Conservation Area, and the National Guard can continue to hold its training drills there. The lands were already owned by the government, so there is no significant cost involved. It is true that the designation kills some ranchers' hopes for an irrigation project in the area, but that would be a costly alternative conservationists say is unjustified for many reasons, particularly economic ones (see *Leader* 5/9/80).

In the lawsuit, Sagebrush Rebellion challenges the Andrus order on various legal grounds, including a claim that the environmental impact statement for the order is inadequate and procedurally defective.

The lawsuit is not the only threat to the conservation area. The law under which Andrus issued his order gave Congress the right to override it within 90 days, counting only days when Congress is in session. It is expected that there will be an attempt to override. The *Leader* will alert its readers when and if any such measure is introduced.

Membership Sets Record. National Audubon Society had 422,625 members at the close of 1980, largest membership in the society's history, and up 13,000 from the end of 1979. ... The number of Audubon chapters also stood at an all-time high: 453. That figure includes three newly chartered chapters, the Cheat Mountain (Elkins, West Virginia), East Ozarks (Farmingington, Missouri), and San Juan Islands (Friday Harbor, Washington) Audubon societies.

Uproar Over Watt Proposal

Secretary of the Interior James G. Watt has proposed sale of offshore oil and gas drilling leases at four sites which his predecessor, Cecil D. Andrus, had ruled out on the grounds they offer too little return to be worth the risks to wildlife, tourism, recreation, and local economies. The sites, in total, cannot be expected to yield more than 400 million barrels of oil—about a three-week supply for the United States—and could well contain less than half that amount, according to U.S. Geological Survey estimates. The support facilities and activity on shore could mar such scenic areas as Big Sur, Point Reyes, and Mendocino, and a spill could smear beaches, destroy sea otters and other marine life, and damage sport and commercial fisheries.

In California, where the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill has not yet been forgotten, the announcement brought an immediate outcry. Local community and county officials along the coast, the governor, and the state's Congressional delegation were virtually unanimous in their opposition. Watt said the decision was not final, and that there would be a 60-day period for comments.

\$5,000 Reward Offered

Two conservation officers of the Idaho Fish and Game Department, William H. Pogue and Wilson Conley Elms, Jr., were shot to death last month while investigating a report of a poacher killing deer and bobcats in the rugged high-desert country of the southwestern corner of the state. A 30-year-old man with a record of poaching, Claude Dalles, is suspected of the crime. A murder warrant has been issued and he has been the object of a widespread air and ground search.

National Audubon Society has offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the murderer. Additional reward pledges may be sent to Jerry M. Conley, Director of the Idaho Fish and Game Department, Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707; (208) 334-3700.



BALD EAGLE CENSUS RESULTS

This year's bald eagle census has been a resounding success, according to Rick Knight, State Game Department biologist and supervisor of the project.

The census took place between 2-16 January and is part of the National Wildlife Federations program to discover where the country's major bald eagle populations are and what types of habitat they prefer.

For the past two years, Washington State has reported the highest eagle population in the country. This year's preliminary count of 3,197, exceeds 1980's record sighting of 2,564 eagles.

The number of volunteers participating in the census also was up to 799 compared with 638 last year.

The final results of the survey should be available in March or April.

A note of praise--

The February issue of Sunset magazine carries a brief article praising the community action which resulted in saving the blue heron marsh near Auburn. It was the preservation of this marsh which inspired the formation of the Rainier Audubon Chapter, and we join other Audubon members throughout the state in congratulating our Audubon neighbors for their accomplishments.

HOT-LINE

1-800-562-6000

You can call the capitol for free on the Legislative hot-line: given above.

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.



BY ANY OTHER NAME IT'S STILL THE...

Recently, I became aware of the name changes for three birds found in our area. The are as follows:

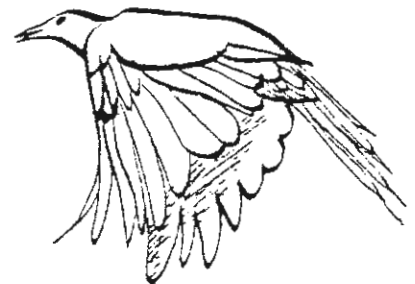
Long-billed marsh wren is now
MARSH WREN

Short-billed marsh wren is now
SEDGE WREN

Marsh hawk is now
NORTHERN HARRIER

Do not worry if you forget and call them by their old names, I recently heard a top ornithologist make just such a misnomer.

Happy birding.



PAS BOARD

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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 _____

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TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

___ Individual (\$20.00 per year)

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Pilchuck Audubon Society

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