

Pilchuck

Audubon Profile

November 1981

Volume X No. 3

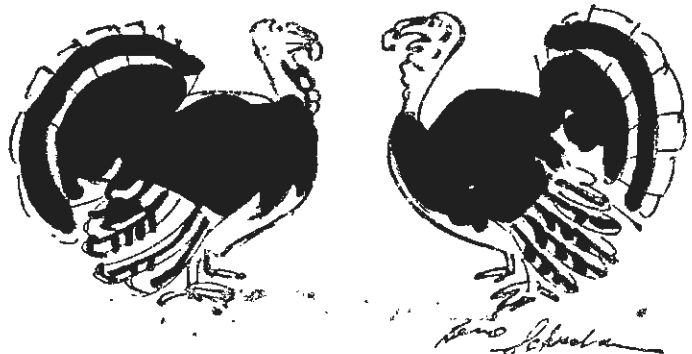
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- November 7 Saturday. Field trip to Washington Park near Anacortes. Meet at the Bank Building at Smokey Point exit 206 on I-5 at 9:00 a.m. or at Skyline Marina in the parking lot by the restaurant at 10:15 a.m. Bring a sack lunch and warm coat. Leader: Steve Loerch 659-6901.
- November 20 Friday. Regular meeting. Meredith Pfahl will present a program on trumpeter swans at Barney Lake and Nookachamps watershed. Meredith has long been known for her active participation in preservation of the Nookachamps watershed and the trumpeter swans of the Skagit Valley. Everett Community College, 7:30 p.m. in room 308.
- November 21 Saturday. Field trip to Beorge C. Reiffel Game Refuge in British Columbia. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Bank Building at Smokey Point exit 206 on I-5. For further information contact the trip leader Steve Loerch 659-6901.
- December 6 Sunday. Field trip to Everett Sewage Lagoon. Meet at 11:00 a.m. at the Everett Community College, lower parking lot on the east side of the college. During the hunting season, many varieties of waterfowl will often seek shelter in the sewage lagoon lakes. An assortment of noisy gulls and a few hawks are generally present. A good place for a leisurely stroll and bird watching. Family and friends are welcome. Leader: Steve Loerch 659-6901.
- December 27 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT -- Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Bank Building at the Smokey Point exit 206 on I-5. See article inside. A Potluck Dinner Extravaganza will follow to celebrate the first decade of Pilchuck Audubon Society.

ON WILDERNESS...

I am me!
Take me as I am
And change me not,
In change I am forgotten
Forget me not.

Sukeforth



"Speak slowly. You know I don't understand gobbledygoek."

Cartoon: Saturday Review

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This month marks National Audubon's Citizen Mobilization Campaign as described elsewhere in this newsletter. It thus seems a good time to try for a Chapter mobilization campaign as well. Your Chapter is really only as strong as the people in it. There are many activities available for our members and more can be available if we know what you want and can get more help doing some of the work.

Like all volunteer organizations, we need to depend on volunteers to get the work done. NO--NO-- Don't go away! I know you may have volunteered to help and not been taken up on it. I think that what we need is a coordinator of volunteers. Our problem in the past has been - one member of the chapter has a job with which they need help, it may be as little as typing a few labels or making a small sign or two--or it may be a need for some special expertise--a question of legality or tax expertise, etc. Our problem is often just getting the necessary help to the person needing the help. Thus we need someone to coordinate the names of people willing to help with those needing the help. The jobs may be finished in a week or two or may last longer. Please let us know how much time you can provide.

Come to meetings or on field trips. Then we can get to know you better and you can get to know us better so we are more apt to call on you for help. Also, feel free to come to the PAS Board meetings. They are open to all members and are held on the fourth Monday of the month. This is where our work is really done. Here is where the jobs are and the Chapter activities determined--if we do not hear from you--how do we know what you want?

Jan van Niel

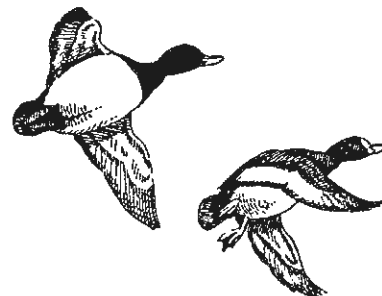
PRIORITY GOALS OF PAS CHAPTER SET

At a special meeting of the Executive Board of PAS, the following were established as priority goals and objectives for the Chapter during the 1981-82 year:

1. Start preparing an atlas of environmentally sensitive areas within Snohomish County.
2. Work toward habitat protection for sensitive areas--especially trumpeter swan habitat and Protection Island.
3. Monitor conservation issues within the county to the best of our ability.
4. Increase the involvement of our membership in Chapter affairs such as meetings, field trips, educational experiences, input, etc.
5. Increase membership.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Snohomish: Carolyn Phillips
Edmonds: Tom & Marilyn Cuncell
Lynnwood: Mike Thoreson
Camano Island: L.A. Kringle
Transferred into PAS
Snohomish: Tom & Marilyn Shreve



ATLAS OF SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS

The committee to work on the Atlas for Snohomish County met at the van Niels, October 5 to get organized. They will be meeting again November 2 with Ron Hirshey of the State Game Department who helped write the one for Kitsap County. Other meetings of the committee are planned and we would like more help. For further information contact Sally van Niel 778-7568.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Jennings Park, Deering Wildflower Acres, and Snohomish Sewage Lagoon. The series of short trips with 22 adults and 7 children enjoyed the sunny weather. At Jennings Park we saw or heard 15 species of birds including Bewick's and winter wren, ruby-crowned kinglet, and killdeer. We went on to Deering Wildflower Acres, a mushroom expert would have been nice to have along to help identify the many different kinds of fungi found during our trip. At the Snohomish Sewage Lagoon, a Cooper's hawk flew directly over our head about 15 feet up. We also saw a common snipe, American kestrel, Arctic tern, and ring-necked duck, and two barn swallows (rather late in the season to see these birds).

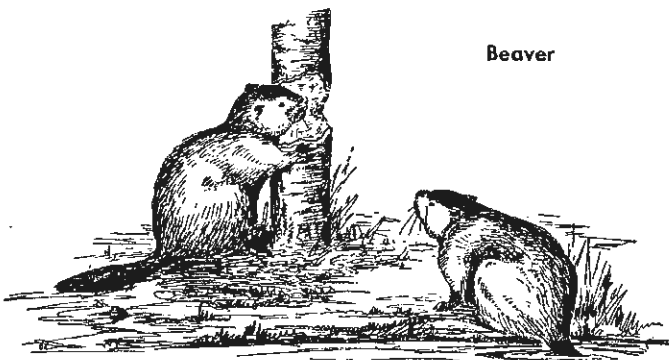


BIRD SIGHTINGS

This month not many people reported their sightings, therefore this column will be brief.

A Golden Eagle flew within 20 feet of Judy Atkins while she was visiting the Northern California coast in mid-October. Large flocks of 100+ pinesiskins are regular visitors to the lawn of Martha Jordan. The birds are feeding on the large crop of dandelion seeds. House finches, dark-eyed juncos, rufous-sided towhees, black-capped and chestnut-backed chickadees are regular visitors to her feeder. Good news for snow geese--the numbers are higher than in previous years with a large percentage of juveniles - 37%. Perhaps this will be the beginning of an up turn for the health of the Wrangel Island population as a whole. The trumpeter swans are beginning to show up in our state with a few in the Skagit Valley and reports of other single birds scattered from the border of Canada to Oregon.

Please, if you have bird sightings to report please send them or call me: Martha Jordan 775-0137 P.O. Box 1618, Everett, WA 98206.



TRUMPETER SWAN

In 1953 Stanley Jewett in Birds of Washington reported that there had been no recent records of Trumpeter swans anywhere in the state of Washington. Last year 436 of them, including 131 juveniles, wintered near Barney Lake, north of Mt. Vernon in the Skagit Valley. Other growing flocks, though smaller, have been sighted in northwest Washington. Trumpeters were identified in Whatcom County near Everson, around Wiser Lake, and at the mouth of the Nooksack River. Other areas of the state reported increasing numbers of the swan, especially on the Olympic Peninsula near Lake Ozette, Quinalt Lake, Grays and Willapa Bays, and in the Black River Valley south of Olympia. Not only are their numbers increasing, but the birds are expanding their range, in some cases spreading into saltwater habitats such as Hat Slough and the mouth of the Nooksack River.

Identification of these birds is especially difficult because they are very similar to the whistling swan whose range overlaps that of the trumpeter. Both are large, all white birds. Both species may have rusty stains on their heads from the water where they feed, and each flies with neck held straight.

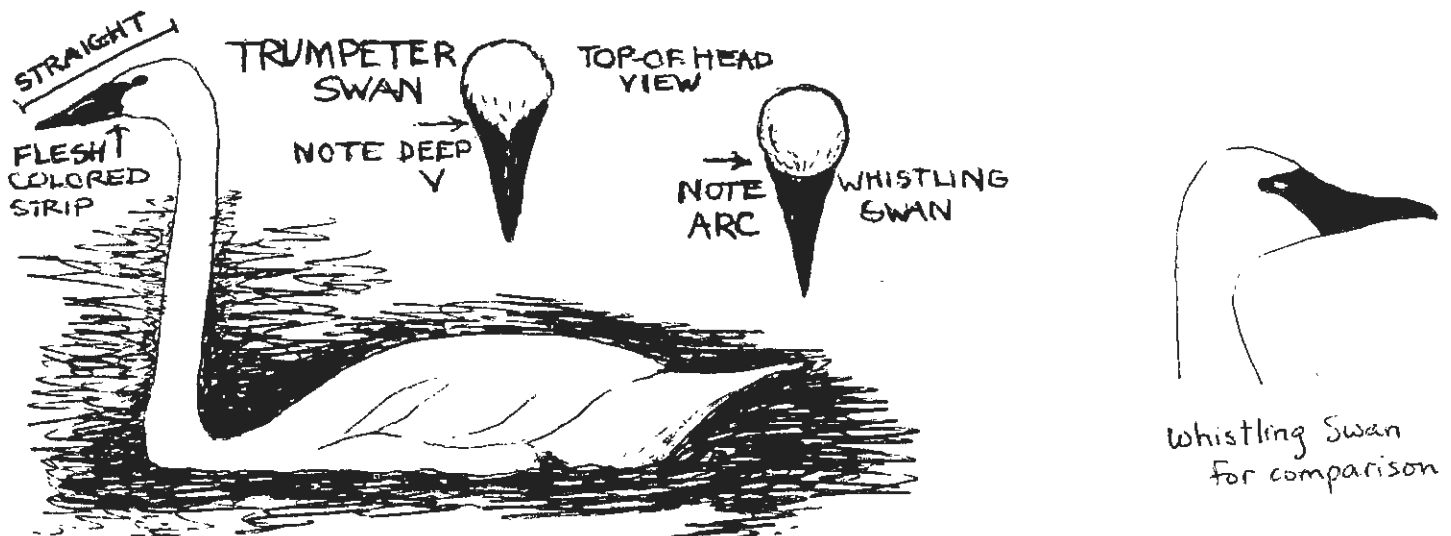
Trumpeters are slightly larger than whistlers. The average wing span of the trumpeter is 58.5 to 72 inches, the whistlers is between 47 and 58 inches. However, when observed from a distance the size difference is

not readily noticeable. Differences in the shape and coloring of the bill may be more helpful, although this is not an infallible method. Most, but not all whistling swans have a yellow spot on their lore (just in front of the eye on the bill). This is never found in the trumpeter. The trumpeter bill is all black, except for a narrow red border on the bottom of the upper mandible. The red line may also be present on some whistlers. In profile the trumpeter has a longer bill, with the line from the top of the head to the tip of the bill nearly a straight line. Whistlers have a slight concave curve to the head profile. From the front and top a difference in the borderline between the bill and the head feathering is apparent. The trumpeter feathering makes a deep V, while the feathering on the whistler is a gently curved arc from eye to eye.

None of these visual field marks are easily visible or completely reliable. The best method of identification between the species is by voice. The trumpeter makes a low-pitched resonant bugle--a trumpet; the whistling swan has a musical honk or yap--a whistle.

The trumpeter swans will be arriving soon. However, the best time to observe these birds at Barney lake is late December through mid-March when the largest number of the swans are present in the Skagit Valley.

Information for this article was taken in part from Northwest Birding by Katy Batchelor of North Cascades Audubon, and Martha Jordan of Pilchuck Audubon.



Whistling Swan
for comparison

Drawing by Katy Batchelor

PROTECTION ISLAND

Last month PAS announced its pledge to purchase a lot on Protection Island for \$1500 or less. To date PAS has received \$156 from 14 people in our Chapter. However, we still need \$900 to complete our pledge. So, if you have not yet sent in your contribution, or pledged the amount you wish to be billed for please do so as soon as possible. The funds are due in December. We can reach our goal if every member contributes as little as \$3.00 per person. Remember, this is a tax deductible contribution.

Send you donation to: PAS, P.O. Box 1618, Everett, WA 98206.

Thanks for caring.

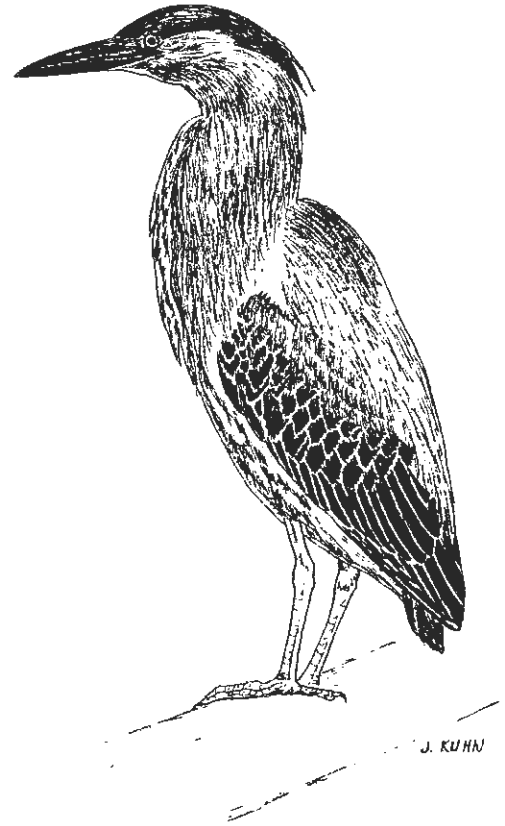
Full Delegation Backs Protection Island

The entire Washington State congressional delegation is supporting a bill to designate Protection Island as a National Wildlife Refuge. The 400-acre island at the mouth of Puget Sound is the breeding place of almost three-fourths of the seabirds that nest in the sound and adjoining straits. The species include rhinoceros auklets, tufted puffins, glaucous-winged gulls, pelagic cormorants, pigeon guillemots, and black oystercatchers.

The nesting sites are threatened by real estate development, and Admiralty Audubon Society of Port Townsend has been a leader among the local organizations which have joined in a coalition to protect the island and urge the federal government to take it over as a refuge.

A bill to authorize \$5 million for this purpose, H.R. 1486, has been introduced in the House by Don L. Bonker, and an identical bill, S. 327, has been introduced in the Senate by Henry M. Jackson, with the co-sponsorship of Slade Gorton. A hearing on the measure has been scheduled for October 15th in Washington, D.C., before the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. Among those slated to testify in favor of the bill are representatives of Admiralty and Seattle Audubon societies. They ask their fellow Audubon members around the country to back them by writing to the subcommittee chairman, John B. Breaux, in support of the bill. Write to Breaux at the subcommittee, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515, and ask that the letter be included in the hearing record.

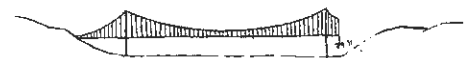
from Audubon Leader



PAS BOARD ACTION

On October 26, the Board met in Everett. The following are actions of not taken by the Board:

- * Unanimous vote for the Chapter to endorse the establishment of the Mt. St. Helens National Monument.
- * the special fee to have the newsletter mailed first class to a members home has been increased from \$2.00 to \$4.00. The cost of the newsletter subscription delivered 3rd class remains at \$5.00.
- * an order for printed envelopes will be placed with Idea Printing. The cost is \$50.00 for 2000 envelopes.



The Right to Write

Hon. MORRIS K. UDALL

Surprisingly few people ever write their Congressman. Perhaps 90 percent of our citizens live and die without ever taking pen in hand and expressing a single opinion to the man who represents them in Congress — a man whose vote may decide what price they will pay for the acts of government, either in dollars or in human lives.

Mail to a modern-day Congressman is more important than ever before. In the days of Calhoun, Clay, Webster and Lincoln, Congressmen lived among their people for perhaps nine months of the year. Through daily contacts in a constituency of less than 50,000 people (I represent ten times that many) they could feel rather completely informed on their constituents' beliefs and feelings. Today, with the staggering problems of government and increasingly long sessions I must not only vote on many more issues than early-day Congressmen but I rarely get to spend more than 60 days of a year in Arizona. Thus my mailbag is my best "hot line" to the people back home.

Some suggestions that apply to all congressional mail:

(1) **Address it properly.** "Hon. _____, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515" or "Senator _____, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510."

(2) **Identify the bill or issue.** About 20,000 bills are introduced into each Congress so it is important to be specific. If you write about a bill, try to give the bill number or describe it by a popular title ("truth in lending," "minimum wage," etc.).

(3) **The letter should be timely.** Sometimes a bill is out of committee or has passed the House before a helpful letter arrives. Inform your Congressman while there is still time to take action.

(4) **Concentrate on your own delegation.** All letters written by residents of my district to other Congressmen will simply be referred to me for reply, and vice versa.

(5) **Be reasonably brief.** Every working day the mailman leaves some 150 or more pieces of mail at my office. It is not necessary that letters be typed — only that they be legible — and the form, phraseology and grammar are completely unimportant.

(6) **Student letters are welcome.** Their opinions are important to me.

(7) **Write your own views — not someone else's.** A personal letter is far better than a form letter or signature on a petition. I usually know what the major lobbying groups are saying, but I don't often know of your experiences and observations, or what the proposed bill will do to and for you.

(8) **Give your reasons for taking a stand.** I may not know all the effects of the bill and what it may mean to an important segment of my constituency.

(9) **Be constructive.** If a bill deals with a problem you admit exists, but you believe the bill is the wrong approach, tell me what the right approach is.

(10) **If you have an expert knowledge, share it with your Congressman.** I can't possibly be an expert in all fields; many of my constituents are experts in some of them. I welcome their advice and counsel.

(11) **Say "well done" when it is deserved.** Congressmen are human too, and they appreciate an occasional "well done" from people who believe they have done the right thing. I know I do. But even if you think I went wrong on an issue, I would welcome a letter telling me you disagreed; it may help me on another issue later.



Some don't's:

- (1) Don't make threats or promises.
- (2) Don't berate your Congressman.
- (3) Don't pretend to wield vast political influence.
- (4) Don't try to instruct your Congressman on every issue that comes up. Don't be a pen pal.

In conclusion: During the two-year life of this Congress, the House clerk will record my votes on more than 250 issues. But in a very real sense these will not be my votes, they will be yours too.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT * * * * *

December 27 is our annual Christmas Bird Count. We hope all of you will participate so this count will be the most productive ever. Not only is this a good opportunity to have a good time birding, but it also provides data on population trends of birds throughout the country. Our count area is a 7.5 mile radius circle centered about the Smokey Point I-5 exit 206. The count circle is divided into six areas each one needing groups to survey the areas. We need YOU!

This year, as in years past, National Audubon has collected a participation fee to help defray the ever growing cost of compiling the massive amount of information generated during the count period. All the information is published each year in the July issue of *American Birds*. It takes that long to compile and proof and print all our work. The fee this year is \$1.50 per person participating.

In past years, Pilchuck Audubon has paid the fee for all participants. Because both the fee and the number of people participating have increased steadily, the amount paid out each year by PAS has gone up and is now in excess of \$50. Our Chapter plans to continue financial support of participants this year, however, PAS will gladly accept your \$1.50 on count morning. By contributing your CBC fee, PAS saves money to support other equally important environmental issues and program such as our Protection Island land acquisition.

We need and want your participation in the CBC whether or not you choose to contribute the fee. SO, COME ALONG and do not forget the potluck extravaganza to celebrate our 10th anniversary at the end of the day at Jennings Barn in Marysville. You may bring any dish you choose, but be sure to bring your own place settings.

TO SIGN UP FOR THE COUNT EARLY AND GET THE AREA OF YOUR CHOICE CALL: Martha Jordan, 775-0137.

Christmas Count Report

A record number of birders, 33,802, took part last winter in the 81st annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count, and they tallied the species and numbers of birds in 1,358 count areas from the Arctic Circle to Venezuela. The results are reported in a 766-page issue of the society's journal, *American Birds*.

The highest count, 319 species, was turned in by the Atlantic Canal Area, Republic of Panama. Highest in the United States was Freeport, Texas, with 214. Stamford-Greenwich, Connecticut, had more birders than kinds of birds—its 217 participants found 109 species.

Some disappointments: The Washington, D.C. team had hoped to cap its list with a snowy owl that had been frequenting the Department of Justice building, but the bird disappeared just before the count day and didn't show up again until the day afterward. The Bethel, Alaska, team also had a no-show. Bethel reported two species—192 common ravens and 3 pine grosbeaks—but the snow bunting sighted in the area was nowhere to be seen on count day.

from Audubon Leader



CITIZEN MOBILIZATION CAMPAIGN

The Citizen Mobilization Campaign has been started by National Audubon to inform members about the serious attack on environmental protection and to advise them how they, as individuals, can help counter this attack. To help inform members there will be a series of mailings of brief, timely reports about what is happening in Washington, D.C. and what individual citizens can do to help. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting for members to join the campaign, or you can call Sally vanNiel at 778-7568. There will also be an information meeting at Olympia, Saturday, December 5, with a variety of outstanding speakers.

Three issues that require immediate attention are:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is under attack and is threatened with being cut in half by 1984. This is the agency responsible for cleaning up the air and water, regulating pesticide use and hazardous waste disposal and regulating 70,000 chemicals in use and others being introduced. Write Rep. Swift and Senators Jackson and Gorton, House or Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 (House), and 20510 (Senate).

The use of Compound 1080 to kill coyotes and other animals suspected of preying on sheep has been requested by the National Woolgrowers Association. While 1080 was being used thousands of bald and golden eagles, hawks, badgers, foxes, racoons, and other "non-target" animals were killed along with the coyotes. Write President Reagan and urge him to continue the ban on 1080.

Mitchell-Chafee Bill (S.1706) would reduce the destruction of aquatic life by curtailing a principal source of acid-rain---the industrial emissions of sulfur dioxide. The Traxler-Hillis Bill (HR.4400) was introduced on behalf of the auto industry and would double the permissible levels of carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides as well as increasing the permissible hydrocarbon levels. This would endanger the health of millions of Americans. Write your Senators and Representatives.

Remember--identify your issue. Discuss one issue per letter and why you are concerned. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THE COMPANION ARTICLE- The Right to Write.

ON POACHING AND SNOW GEESE

Many times last year there were violations by so called hunters on the Skagit Flats who were out after waterfowl. Such is the case again this year. Joyce Kelley and Beth Anderson witnessed an incident near Warm Beach that left many snow geese crippled. A few of the dead birds were retrieved by the so called hunters, but others were left. No attempt was made to locate cripples even though a dog was present. The land on which they hunted was posted No Hunting.

What they saw was clearly a violation of the law. If you should witness a poaching incident (for any species of animal under WDG jurisdiction) you should report it at once to the Poaching Hotline. However, you will need to obtain some evidence in order for the WDG to do anything about the incident.

- 1) Get the license number, make, and color of the car.
- 2) A description of the people involved, including how many.
- 3) Know the time, place, and what the violators have done.
- 4) Report this information to the toll free number as soon as possible, the sooner they (WDG) gets the information the more likely they can act effectively on the problem.

One juvenile snow goose was picked up by Joyce and Beth. It currently is recuperating at a bird farm near Bothell. although it will not be able to fly again because of a broken wing.

HELP STOP POACHING
TOLL FREE POACHING
HOTLINE

1-800-562-5626
(FOR VIOLATION REPORTS ONLY)

Administration Launching Massive Attack on EPA

The Reagan administration is planning to cut the Environmental Protection Agency's staff by more than a third and its budget by more than half during the next two years. The agency is the principal coordinator and enforcer of the nation's environmental laws. Weakening it would undercut environmental protection across the board, from air and water pollution control to pesticide regulation and the government's newly undertaken war on toxic substances.

The delays and disruption that will be caused and the momentum and know-how that will be lost if these budget reductions are permitted could cripple EPA and the nation's environmental programs for many years to come.

Agency directives that have been leaked to the press—directives which an official spokesman contended are still "preliminary"—call for dismissal of at least 3,200 of EPA's 10,380 employees by the fall of 1983. The dismissals would be in addition to the 6 percent-a-year loss in staff that would be expected through normal attrition.

EPA's projected operating budget for the 1983-84 fiscal year, according to the leaked reports, has been set at \$700 million. That is roughly half of what President Carter had asked for this year. And Carter was talking 1980 dollars. Inflation could reduce EPA's spending power by 10 percent this fiscal year and another 5 to 10 percent the following year, notes William Drayton, who was chief budget officer of EPA during the Carter administration.

"In other words," says Drayton, "after Reagan's first 20 months in office, EPA will not be able to purchase 60 percent of the staff, research, and aid to state programs and enforcement it formerly could."

Morale in the agency is plummeting. Anne M. Gorsuch, who heads EPA, more than once has declared publicly that she feels the "entrenched bureaucracy" is fighting her "at every turn." A career staffer in pesticide regulation, however, retorted that the top echelons of the agency "never talk to us unless it is to ask for numbers to justify a decision already made."

Audubon Society members are urged to write their senators (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) and representatives (House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515) and protest the proposed cuts.

Western Birds. The Society's Western Education Center is building a collection of slides of western birds, and will offer copies at minimal cost to Audubon chapters and others. For a catalogue listing the slides already available for purchase, and for a list of species needed to complete the collection, write: Birds of the West, National Audubon Society, Western Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, California 94920.

from Audubon Leader

Endangered Status Asked For Woodland Caribou

The only woodland caribou herd in the United States—it is the only caribou herd of any kind south of the Canadian border—is a remnant population that wanders through the Selkirk Mountains that stretch through parts of Idaho, Montana, Washington and British Columbia, Canada. National Audubon Society has petitioned the Interior Department to declare these caribou endangered. Without the special protection possible under that designation, our petition declares, the herd is doomed to extinction.

The herd has been decreasing in size since the turn of the century and is down to about 25 animals. It has been losing habitat because of timbering in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, and has suffered losses from poaching and road kills.

During the past three years, five timber sales have occurred in or near the old growth spruce-fir forest that provides critical winter forage for the caribou. Two more sales are now being planned. The Forest Service has made attempts to minimize the effects of each individual cut, but the cumulative result has been an increasingly serious loss of critical habitat.

A problem in protecting these animals is that not enough is known about their habits. Unlike the barren ground caribou of Canada and Alaska that make great seasonal migrations, the woodland variety appears to follow a complex pattern of movements between various habitats at different altitudes, following sources of food as the seasons and weather change.

The appointment of a recovery team and plan, our petition points out, would be a start toward collecting the necessary information. And formal endangered status would grant federal officials authority to give the herd appropriate priority in land management decisions.

Oil to Japan? When the Alaskan oil pipeline was first proposed, it was defended on the basis the nation needed oil. Some conservationists charged the oil companies planned to sell substantial amounts of the oil to Japan, and Congress passed a ban on such exports. Now, according to press reports, a White House study group has recommended the export ban be lifted. The higher prices received by exporting the oil would mean increased profits for oil companies, greater tax revenues for the federal government, and added funds for the oil companies to invest in exploration for more oil, according to the study group.

PAS BOARD

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 (If you would like first class postage
 send \$4.00 to PAS. This applies to all
 members.)

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 below and send to PAS.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone _____

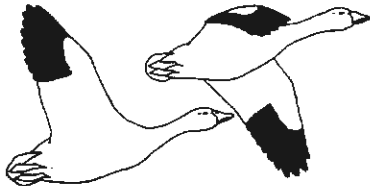
Type of Membership:

____ Individual (\$25.00 per year)

____ Family (\$32.00 per year)

____ Other (ask our membership chairperson)

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER
 IS THE PAS BOARD MEETING DATE.



Pilchuck Audubon Society

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