

Pilchuck Audubon Profile

APRIL 1982

VOLUME X NUMBER 8

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 5TH, MONDAY

Meet at the van Niels, 4404 - 222nd St. SW at 7:30. Committee meeting for the Atlas of Environmentally Sensitive Areas.

ATLAS OF SENSITIVE AREAS

APRIL 10TH, SATURDAY

Everett Community College Bookstore Auditorium, 10:00 a.m.

FIRST ANNUAL RECYCLE FAIR

APRIL 13TH, TUESDAY

Meet at the van Niels, 4404 - 222nd St. SW at 7:30. A program to study issues of environmental concern in the state and county will be set up so we can issue position papers based on information gathered.

CONSERVATION COMM. MEETING

APRIL 16TH, FRIDAY

Everett Community College, Room 308, at 7:30 p.m. Beneath Puget Sound by Michael Kyte. See article on page 5.

MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETING

APRIL 17TH, SATURDAY

Leader: Joyce Kelley, 568-5974. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Snohomish Safeway. Easy walk on a dike around the lagoon. Hawks, song birds, and many species of ducks are often seen. Bring your binoculars or spotting scope and join us for a morning of bird watching.

FIELD TRIP: SNOH. SEWAGE LAGOON

APRIL 18TH, SUNDAY

Leader: Curt Howard, 652-9619. There is still room available, even if you don't own a canoe. Make reservations by calling Curt Howard.

FIELD TRIP: SKAGIT CANOE TRIP

APRIL 26TH, MONDAY

Location to be announced, at 7:30 p.m. Call Jan van Niel, 778-7568 for location.

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

APRIL 30 - MAY 2, WEEKEND

An informative and fun weekend in the sunshine for all Audubon Members. For additional information see article on page 2.

ELLENSBURG CONFERENCE

MAY 9TH, SUNDAY

Leader: Terri Spencer, 652-6481.

FIELD TRIP: SUNDQUIST MARINE LAB

MAY 15TH, SATURDAY

Start getting your slides together for our annual members slide show.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MAY 23RD, SUNDAY

Leader: Martha Jordan & Michael Kyte, 775-0137.

FIELD TRIP: ROSARIO BEACH

FIELD TRIP TO PAUL DYE'S

Forty eight lucky people toured Paul Dye's Northwest Waterfowl Game Farm and Sanctuary. We observed Australian shell geese, South American black-necked swans, mandarin ducks, emperor geese, and many others. We were treated to courtship displays by several species, including smews, bufflehead, golden-eyes, and hooded mergansers.

Paul has won several awards and received worldwide acclaim for his breeding successes. He was the first to breed smews, one of only two aviculturists to breed canvasbacks, and one of only three to breed buffleheads in captivity.

Paul Dye and Catherine Dennison (Catherine and her husband are the caretakers) led us on a guided tour. They explained the operation of the 40 acre farm, what the various birds were fed, and identified the many exotic waterfowl.

After our tour of the waterfowl breeding farm, some of us were guided through the adjacent 160 acres that Paul donated for a State Game Refuge. He serves as manager of the refuge and has made many improvements to the habitat which benefit the native and migratory birds and wildlife which use the area. Several species of ducks were taking advantage of habitat improvements Paul has made by building several ponds and a large swamp.

While Paul was explaining that hemlocks often grow out of an old stump because the rotting stump provides rich nutrients, the tree he was discussing, served as an example of another lesson. Conifers provide cover for certain birds. As if to prove this point a screech owl sat snuggled close to the hemlock's trunk!



We finished our walk through the woods, and as we reached our cars, the wind came up and the rain came down. It was perfect timing! Thanks to Paul and Catherine for their hospitality and for giving us a list of plants that have been planted on the farm to provide food and cover for wildlife. Many of us will surely follow Paul's lead and landscape our yards to benefit wildlife.

ELLENSBURG CONFERENCE

The spring Audubon Regional Ellensburg Conference will be held April 30 to May 2 at Central Washington University Conference Center. The general theme will be current Audubon concerns in the state of Washington.

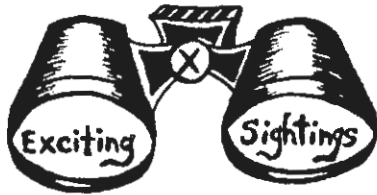
For those arriving Friday evening there will be a slide presentation on bluebirds at 8:00 p.m. The main conference begins Saturday at 9:00 a.m. continuing through Sunday noon.

Speakers will include: Dick Martyr of the Audubon Western Regional office, Les Line the editor of the National Audubon magazine, Helen Engle a National Audubon Board member from Tacoma, Dr. Ruth Weiner a professor at Western Washington University, Brian Boyle the Commissioner of Public Lands who will speak on the policies and practices of DNR, Pam Crocker Davis the Washington State lobbyist for Audubon who will give a legislative report.

Lodging and meal packages are available through the conference center. There are also motels in the local area (meals are available separately on campus). You may register for the conference (Courson Hall) when you arrive.

Contact Marianne McKnight (337-4777) for additional information or registration forms.

GOOD NEWS!!! The photograph of killer whales on the cover of the November 1981 issue of Audubon was judged by the prestigious magazine American Photographer to be one of the ten best magazine photographs published in that year. And the picture of polished stones on the cover of the March 1981 issue was selected by the American Institute of Graphic Arts as one of the 50 best covers of the year.



Waterfowl are continuing their northerly journey with fewer ducks and geese observed in the Skagit-Port Susan Bay areas. The number of trumpeter swans is slowly declining as they leave for their breeding areas. However, a sandhill crane was observed landing amidst a flock of trumpeters in the field east of Barney Lake on 13 March (JK). A woodduck was seen at Steamboat Slough off Ebey Island (LF). Several species of waterbirds are reported using Good Hope Pond in Pine Ridge Park, Edmonds, including bufflehead, shovelers, gadwall, red-breasted merganser, great blue heron, and red-winged blackbirds (GS). Anyone having information about this pond should contact me at the (bird sightings) number listed on the back page.

Bald eagles have been sighted numerous times throughout the county. One was seen flying over Saratoga Passage and another has been at Ebey Island for over a week (LF, DT). The nesting season in Washington has begun so resident birds are already paired and on their nesting territories. Those birds that breed north of here are in migration.

Passerine activity is increasing with the onset of spring. A swallow, the first observation for the year, was seen in Snohomish on 7 March (FB). The evening grosbeaks, up to 25, are still visiting feeders in the Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood area (J&SvN, MJ). A flock of 30 adult and immature western meadowlarks was seen at Island Crossing at the end of February (TS). A short-eared owl was observed 2 miles east of this location (SH). Varied thrush have been around all winter but are now beginning to sing throughout the county from Granite Falls to Camano Island (PW, K&DT). Woodpeckers are also becoming more visible. Six downies and one hairy were observed in the Dubuque Highlands area near Snohomish, and a pileated has visited daily for the past week (FB). A goshawk was spotted cruising over a chicken yard near Snohomish (JR).

Other feeder activity in central county has produced reports of Bullock's oriole, black-capped and chestnut-backed chickadees, Stellar's jays, red-winged blackbirds, house sparrow, dark-eyed juncos, house finches, and an occasional sharp-shinned hawk (EB, MJ, SvN).

Observers: Eda Bear, Fred Bird, Lorene Franz, Steve Howard, Martha Jordan, Joyce Kelley, Jan Richards, Geoff Short, Teri Spencer, Kay & Dave Thoreson, Jan & Sally van Niel, and Paula Wellnitz.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Through the kindness of Mr. Bert Vanderwilt, we recently received the Jay A. Kempkes Memorial Collection of slides, photographs and articles pertaining to birds and related matters.

Mr. Kempkes, a long-time teacher at Everett High School, was known for his illustrated talks on birds.

The collection consists of hundreds of glass lantern slides in the three by four inch format. Many were hand colored at the Asahel Curtis Studios in Seattle during the 1920s. Included in the collection is a projector for showing the slides. The articles collection consists mostly of wildlife articles from the National Geographics of the 1920s and 30s.

We thank Mr. Vanderwilt for his generosity in adding this fine collection to our files.

Evan and Joan Lucas manned a booth for Pilchuck Audubon Society at the Everett Mall on Saturday, March 13th. Because of a late confirmation, there wasn't time to contact other members to help. Thanks to Evan and Joan for saving the day.

Jan van Niel

GOOD NEWS!!! Fish and Wildlife research biologists have reported that eggshell thickness and reproduction are improving in eagles, osprey, and brown pelicans, and that the numbers of sharp-shinned hawks and Cooper's hawks are increasing dramatically. Researchers now agree that DDE, a persistent breakdown product of DDT, was responsible for eggshell thinning, reproductive failure, and population declines.

EXPLORING

By Steve Loerch

What's your pleasure? A stroll through a stark winter landscape or a snooze in the grass on a hot summer day? The solitude of an isolated beach or a family gathering? Whatever your mood or interests, Washington Park has something for you.

A short drive from Anacortes city center, Washington Park has picnic shelters, a playground, a few camping sites, and a boat launch. These facilities are clustered near the entrance on a small cove.

Much of the rest of the park is in its natural state and may be seen from the numerous wooded trails or on a two and a half mile one way loop road. A bit more than a half mile along the road, there are grass covered bluffs with a sweeping view across Rosario Strait to the San Juan Islands. Many species of sea birds may be seen from here. If you are driving, be sure to park and walk out to the water's edge.

The road eventually emerges from the dense forest atop an exposed bluff. A pull out allows drivers to stop for the spectacular view south towards Burroughs Island and Mount Erie. Several gnarled and dwarfed trees cling to the bluff, shaped by the nearly constant wind.

The loop road passes a monument to T. H. Havekost, the farsighted and generous pioneer who donated his land to Anacortes for this park. The road returns to the park entrance in a little less than a half mile.

You can expect to have the park nearly to yourself during the winter. This is an especially good time to view the wide variety of seabirds, including all three species of scoter; red-necked, horned, and western grebes; loons; old squaws; marbled murrelets; and harlequin ducks. During all seasons, the forest offers hairy woodpeckers, brown creepers, red-breasted nuthatches, golden-crowned kinglets, and chestnut-backed chickadees. Watch the sky for bald eagles soaring overhead,

Other wildlife at the park includes deer and squirrels. If you watch the saltwater carefully, you may see a harbor seal, whale or dolphin.

The park is also known for its wildflowers in the spring, mushrooms along the trails in the fall, and an underwater park for scuba divers. The scenery, wildlife, and sunsets invite the photographer. For year round exploring and bird watching, try Washington Park.

To get there, take Anacortes-San Juan Ferry exit (#230) from I-5. Head west on Highway 20 through Anacortes following the signs for the San Juan Islands Ferry. Stay to the left when the road curves to the right and down to the ferry docks. Follow the road straight (about one mile due west) to the park.

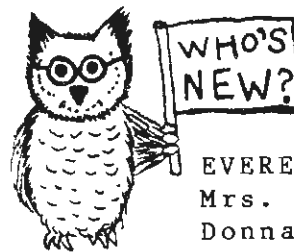
CHEERS!!! NATURE PRESERVE

On March 19, 1982 the University of Washington Regents accepted 34.6 acres on Shaw Island in the San Juans from Fred Ellis, a retired college professor.

Ellis has given the University over 400 acres on Shaw Island. This latest gift included over 1500 ft. of waterfront and is valued at \$345,000. It is located on Point George across from the University's Laboratory at Friday Harbor.

The land use must be held in perpetuity as a wildlife reserve. Ellis said, "Society takes, takes, and takes but gives little to nature in return. The planet won't sustain mindless and uncontrolled growth. Too many pristine areas have been savaged by developers."

The land is now populated by deer, herons, eagles, otters, seals, and a number of marine organisms under study.



EVERETT: S. K. Komesu Family, Mrs. H. Wathen. LYNNWOOD: Donna J. Cameron, Randy P. Gray, Mr. & Mrs. W.D. McQueen, William & Diana Schmiett. MARYSVILLE: Bob & Freda Loerch, Paul D. Phillips. MOUNTLAKE TERRACE: Yvonne Maxwell, B. Price. MUKILTEO: Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Wagner. SNOHOMISH: Karen Dudean, Ival L. Salyer.

LORD'S HILL

The Lord's Hill Committee, composed of people who live on Lord's Hill, representatives of the Department of Natural Resources, sportsmen's groups, Pilchuck Audubon, and the owner of the quarry on the hill, has been meeting monthly to try to come up with a long range plan for the future of Lord's Hill.

The last three meetings have been spent trying to reach an agreement on a management plan for quarrying. The options discussed are unlimited quarrying, no more quarrying and quarrying restricted to a very few areas, as contiguous as possible. For further information call Sally van Niel (778-7568).

CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Looking ahead, 1982 is an election year. The entire House of Representatives and a third of the senators will face the voters in November. This means that the Congress will be an "entirely different body," predicts House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill, an old pro in the political arena. The "first law of politics is survival," he explained, so in 1982 House members are going to be listening harder to their constituents than to their party leaders.

In short, conservationists' letters and calls to their legislators helped to blunt some of the administration's assaults on environmental protection last year, and there is reasonable prospect of doing better this election year.

BENEATH PUGET SOUND

Michael Kyte, a consulting marine biologist, will present a brief photographic overview of common marine plants, invertebrates, and fish that live in Puget Sound. Many of these are common in the intertidal zone and will be seen on the field trip of May 23rd to Rosario Beach at Deception Pass State Park.

THE AUDUBON ARK is coming July 7th to 11th at the Alderwood Mall. It carries the story of America's endangered plants and animals across the country.

KEEP IT CLEAN

Major industries and the administration are trying to weaken the Clean Air Act. The "Dirty Air Act, HR 5252 would allow the postponement of clean air deadlines until 1987 or 1993, relax current emission standards for new cars and relax emission control requirements for new industries in dirty air areas. On the other hand, HR 5555 would continue current emission standards for cars, clean up dirty urban areas, install advanced pollution controls on new sources in dirty air areas and protect our national parks and wilderness areas. This bill would take the first step toward halting acid rain and controlling toxic air pollutants that cause cancer. To voice your opinion contact Rep. Al Swift or Rep. Joel Pritchard, House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20575 and urge them to support Clean Air with HR 5555.

Also, the Senate Environment Committee, of which Senator Gorton is a member, is now considering amendments to the Clean Air Act. Senator Gorton is sponsoring weakening amendments. You may write or call him and ask him to support a strong Clean Air Act. His Seattle office is 206-442-5545. His Washington office is in Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510.

HELP! ESB 4831 The Chicago Bridge and Iron Bill would enable CBI to ignore the Shorelines Management Act to construct an oil rig assembly plant at Cherry Point in Whatcom County. Governor Spellman has until April 9th to make a decision. Please write urge him to veto this bill.

HB 1087 would appropriate \$5 million of Fisheries bond money for restoring and enhancing native salmon runs. The bill passed the house, and was on the Senate calendar when the session ended. A call to your representatives could revive the bill.

GOOD NEWS!!! SB 4681, the Natural Heritage Program which inventories natural areas in Washington state received 50% of funding - and passed.

GOOD NEWS!!! A bill banning pull tabs on beverage cans in Washington passed.

LET'S TALK ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY

By Hans Falk

What is it? An art? Reporting? For some professional and amateurs it is an art. Cameras, lenses, filters, darkroom equipment and secret tricks are used to create a picture, the same way a painter uses canvas, paint and brushes.

On our field trips we are mostly reporters. Reporting means telling other people what is going on...writing or showing in pictures a situation, event, occurrence or adventure; the facts of reality.

Most of us are amateurs. What is an amateur and what does the word mean? "Amateur" comes from the Latin word "amare" meaning love. An amateur does something out of love. Love has to do with your heart. It was once said that, "If you work with your hands, your brain, and your heart, you are an artist." In this way photographers are artistic reporters and the work of amateurs is often as good as that of professionals. But there is good and bad reporting as you can see in many publications.

First, let your eyes guide you. A good picture has harmony of line and color. You cannot move mountains, trees, lakes, roads and fences but you can move your focus from right to left, up and down until you obtain the best possible harmony. This is what makes good artistic reporting.

What about color and lighting? You may have to wait a long time or come back another day for brighter sunshine, more clouds, earlier or later in the day.

Then comes picture thinking. What do you want to show? Your point of interest. The point of interest should catch the viewer's attention during the first moment he sees the picture. Consequently, the point of interest should cover a large part of the picture, at least half or more. For example: in a family album I saw this picture: father in his new car, before his freshly painted house, a huge oak tree, a flower bed, and a brand new paved driveway. The whole print was so confusing that I didn't know where to look first. Father in his new car or in front of the car would be enough. The house and the tree could be a second picture; the flower bed with the pavement a third. In other words, always get as close as you can to the point of interest. That's not easy

to do, especially if you photograph birds or animals. You could build a blind or use a telephoto lens. It is always more impressive to show only the bird's head rather than the whole tree and the bird looking like a black speck on a branch.

The intensity of the light we are able to confront with 64, 100, 200, or 400 ASA films must be considered. If necessary, we can "push" the film beyond its normal speed.

Light direction is also very important. Front light gives the brightest colors with an accurate exposure, but not very good detail. The picture may turn out less interesting. Side light is generally best. It shows shape and texture. Overhead light is not advisable for landscapes. It wipes out all details. Everything goes flat and lacks perspective. Back light is the most interesting and effective. It comes very close to achieving a three dimensional effect. Be sure to take exposure from the shade!

Continued next month!

1982 BIRDATHON

The second annual National Audubon Society Birdathon will be held April 24th or 25th.

In a Birdathon, birders who take part as "counters" obtain pledges from "sponsors" who agree to pay a certain amount ---a dime, a dollar, or more---for each different species the counter sights on the appointed day.

Various prizes are offered by National Audubon for the chapters and individuals with the best performances. Additional information, posters, and pledge sheets are available from Keith Estes, 793-1306.

MALHEUR WILDLIFE REFUGE TRIP

Jan and Sally van Niel are leading a trip to Malheur June 19 - 23. The trip is sponsored by Seattle Audubon and will be by van, limited to 20 people, with priority to Audubon members. The present estimated cost for the 5 day, 1300 mile round trip is \$135.00 per person. A \$40.00 deposit is required by June 1, 1982. Send to the van Niels, 4404 - 222nd St. SW, Mountlake Terrace, 98043. Call 778-7568 for more information.

TRUMPETER SWANS

By Curt Howard

The trumpeter swan is an impressive bird. It is the largest waterfowl in North America, with adults weighing between 20-38 pounds. The trumpeter is six feet long in flight and has a wing span of over eight feet. The grace and serenity of this bird - along with its incredibly loud call - are awe inspiring.

Originally wintering as far south as the Gulf Coast, by the 1830's their numbers were already declining. By 1925, the species was considered a "vanishing race" doomed to extinction. In 1932, a census of U.S. Trumpeters turned up only 69, all around Yellowstone National Park. Although a few more were known to exist in Canada, these were dark days for the trumpeter.

Today, the trumpeter has made a remarkable recovery. This increase to about 10,000 birds was the result of protection of the swan and its habitat as well as better survey techniques which assured a more accurate count.

We are fortunate enough to have a wintering population of trumpeter swans near Mount Vernon in Skagit County. Only a few swans were seen in 1935. In 1957, 6 were seen, and by 1963 their numbers had increased to 20. The population continued to grow: by 1972, 94 were counted and in 1982 there were over 400. The trumpeters this year were spread over a wider area than had been noted before.

This dramatic increase in the number of swans is encouraging, but threats to the swans still exist. Trumpeters are sensitive to disturbance by humans. Suburbia is encroaching on their habitat.

As a result, less area is available for them to feed on and more contact with humans has disrupted their feeding habits. One of the trumpeter's favorite foods is grass in dairy pastures and because of increased numbers of swans and decreased habitat, the swans are beginning to compete with dairy cattle for food.

Pilchuck Audubon has established the Habitat Protection Fund for Trumpeter Swans. This fund will be used as needed for the protection of the swans and their habitat. With the help of groups like Pilchuck Audubon and other concerned groups and individuals, the trumpeter's future looks bright.

NOW IS THE TIME!

Our October meeting presentation was on the migratory birds of Bowerman Basin. Now is the time to go see for yourself, the most important habitat for migratory shorebirds south of Alaska's Copper River Delta.

Birds by the thousands during height of migration to Alaska may be enjoyed by all. Species include red knot, long-billed dowitcher, black-bellied plover, ruddy turnstone, black turnstone, endangered peregrine falcon and more.

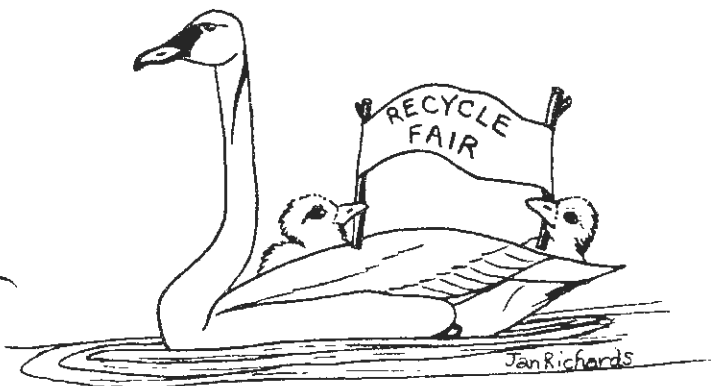
Hoquiam Shorebird Days will be held April 24-25 (Bird-a-thon weekend) at Bowerman Basin which is located west of Hoquiam. Highway 109 borders the northern edge of the basin while Bowerman airport borders the southern edge. No formal sponsor, everyone welcome.

RECYCLING FAIR, PLANT & BAKE SALE

The first annual Pilchuck Audubon Recycling Fair, Plant & Bake Sale will open its doors to the public at 10:00 A.M., Saturday, April 10th at the Everett Community College Bookstore Auditorium. Proceeds will go to the Habitat Protection Fund for the trumpeter swans.

We need you to help operate the Fair, and give donations of garage sale items, plants, or goodies. Solicit your friends and neighbors. For pickup call:

Stanwood	Curt Howard	652-9619
Everett	Jan/Sally van Niel	778-7568
Snohomish	Joyce Kelly	568-5974



PILCHUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

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 V. Pres. Curt Howard 652-9619
 Secretary Joyce Kelley 568-5974
 Treasurer Gerald McKnight 337-4777

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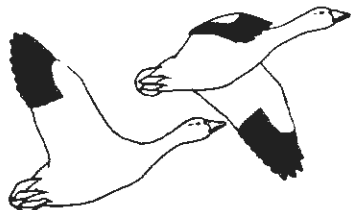
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For additional information contact Eileen Loerch at 659-6901.

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- FAMILY \$32.00 SENIOR CITIZEN FAMILY \$19.00
- STUDENT \$15.00 "PROFILE" SUBSCRIPTION \$5.00

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