

# Pilchuck Audubon Profile

February 1982

Volume X Number 6

Calendar of Events has moved to the inside front page.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thank you! All of you who came to our January program meeting on the Bald Eagles. You made it a resounding success. And my apologies to all of you who could not get in because of the lack of seats. I am very sorry we could not accomodate all of those who came. Our group was the largest to which Dan Taylor had shown "Last Stronghold of the Eagle" in Washington State. He also was impressed by the enthusiasm of the group.

Our Chapter is really getting going. The efforts to improve the operation of your Chapter are continuing. The Board of Directors spent most of a recent Saturday learning how to be more effective at their jobs. It was an enlightening and exciting experience. Thanks go to Polly and Hal Hanson for hosting the work session.

The Conservation Committee is making real progress on establishing the scope and criteria needed to compile the Snohomish County Atlas of Environmentally Sensitive Areas. A committee headed by Vice-President Curt Howard is working hard on our first big fund raising event - the First Annual Recycle Fair and Plant Sale in the spring. If you wish to help or have things to donate call Curt at 652-9619.

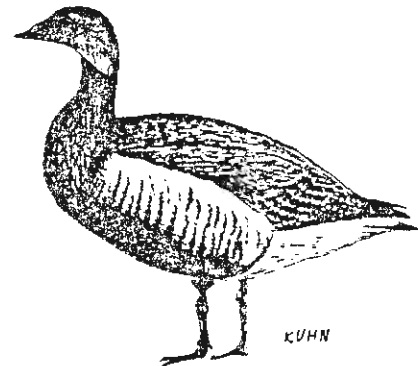
Other fund raising events are also being thought about.

Then this summer the Audubon Ark exhibit on Endangered Species will get top billing at the Alderwood Mall. So there are quite a number of new kinds of activities coming up. Do any of you have talents which you would be willing to share with the rest of us? Do let us know if you do.

Jan van Niel

## BOARD ACTIONS

Due to the snow and ice no board meeting was held in January. A synopsis of the February Board meeting will appear in the next edition of the newsletter. This column will be a regular feature in the newsletter to help keep our members informed as to what the Chapter is doing.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 6 Saturday. Field trip to MARBLEMOUNT EAGLE SANCTUARY. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Bank Building at exit 206 off I-5. Skagit River between Marblemount and Concrete is one of the best places to see the bald eagles in the winter. About 100 of the birds winter in the area drawn by the salmon run. Bring lunch and binoculars. People wishing to join the group farther north contact the trip leader: Steve Loerch 659-6901.
- February 8 Monday. Snohomish County Sensitive Areas Inventory meeting at Sally van Niels. Call Sally for address and directions. Meet at 7:30 p.m.
- February 19 Friday. REGULAR MEETING. Hans Falk will present a slide talk on "Animals Looking at You". Meet at 7:30 p.m., Room 308, Everett Community College.
- \*February 20 Saturday. Field trip to PAUL DYES BIRD SANCTUARY. Meet at Frontier Village in front of the Coast-to-Coast store at 9:30 a.m. Paul Dye has a private bird refuge and breeding farm with many species of birds. Expect to see native and non-native waterfowl, cranes, swans, and songbirds. The birds should be in breeding plumage this time of year. This is one trip you will not want to miss. Boots and binoculars are recommended. Trip leader: Steve Loerch 659-6901.
- \*\*NOTE: the last newsletter gave the wrong date for this trip. This date is correct as stated in the above section.
- February 22 Monday. BOARD MEETING. 7:30 p.m. Call Jan van Niel for place. 778-7568.
- March 8 Monday. Snohomish County Sensitive Areas Inventory. Meet at the van Niels at 7:30 p.m. Call Sally for more information - 778-7568.
- March 13 Saturday. Field trip to WOODLAND PARK ZOO. Meet at 10:30 at ONB Bank parkinglot in the southeast corner of the Fred Meyer parkinglot in Lynnwood (at 196th & 44th St. SW). Animals at the zoo are housed in natural surroundings including a walkthrough marsh and shorebird area. Birds and other animals can be seen close up. Many changes have been made at the zoo over the past year so come with us to share in the award winning displays. This is a good chance to photograph birds close up if you want.
- March 19 Friday. REGULAR MEETING. Lora Leschner of the WDG nongame program. Meet at 7:30 p.m., Room 308 at Everett Community College.
- March 21 Sunday. Field trip to SCRIBER LAKE in Lynnwood. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the ONB Bank building parking lot as described under March 13 trip. This will be a pleasant walk along sawdust paths and boardwalks. The park is being managed for the benefit of wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts. Come see what a great job the City of Lynnwood is doing.

The Deadline for the next newsletter is 22 February. Please have all materials to the editor on or before this date.

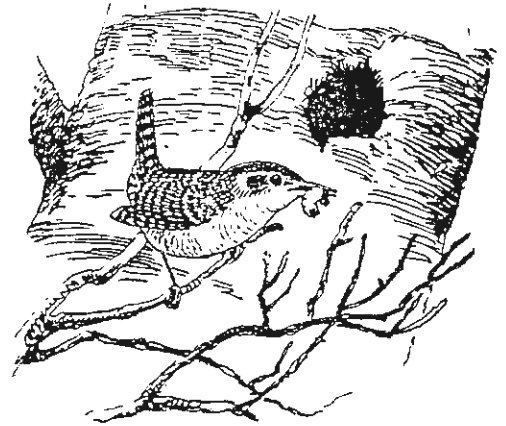
-----  
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Everett - Ralph Brashear, Hazel Ebner, Elizabeth Holland, Robert Moore, Pete Hansen, Gene & Marguerite Weir. Arlington - Virginia Hayes. Monroe - George & Dorothy Keenan, Nancy Sittonglover. Mountlake Terrace - R. Harrell, E. Greene, David G. Picha Family. Lynnwood - Maurice Miller, G. Haller. Mukilteo - Ron Metz. Transfers into our Chapter - Barbara Silliman Family, Col. Jack Schenaker, Becky Alke, Sterling Lantz.

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Conservation Committee met and recommended to the Board the following criteria for areas to be in the Atlas of Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Snohomish County:

1. Areas used by rare or endangered or threatened species
2. Areas used by species of significant commercial or recreational value
3. Unique plant communities
4. Significant wildlife habitats
5. Representative examples of natural plant and animal communities present in Snohomish County
6. Other natural features considered significant because they are diminishing or provide habitat for significant species



If you know of an area that would fit this classification, please contact Sally van Niel at 778-7568. Someone from the committee will come out and survey the site. We will then have information as to location and species present on the site to make the determination if it should be included in the ATLAS.

### OUR AUDUBON LOBBYIST IN OLYMPIA

Pam Crocker-Davis, the Audubon lobbyist in Olympia has arranged to have Audubon volunteers deliver information packets to every Senator and Representative in Olympia. The packet includes a cover letter by NAS Board Members in Washington State, a copy of NAS Issue Priorities, a map of Washington State which defines each legislator's Audubon Chapter and a packet of bird seed. By now the legislators have received the packets and are aware we are out here. We will be arranging telephone trees to get the word out on key environmental issues. Please respond if we call you.

### BIRD SIGHTINGS

The snow and other weather related happenings have provided some unusual bird sightings - at least common birds in new areas. An immature trumpeter swan was seen by David Thoresen at Warm Beach. He also saw 7 knots in the same general area. An immature bald eagle was reported along the Pilchuck River by Paula Wellnitz. Songbirds have been showing up at every feeder. However, evening grosbeaks were seen for the first time at both the van Niels and Jordan feeders. Cedar waxwings (40) were in the pyracantha in North Everett yard of Rick and Carrie McArdle. On Whidbey Island the K.C. Jone's report varied thrush, redwinged blackbird and yellow bellied sapsucker (red race) at feeder. Also 2 rooster pheasants were in their yard. Also reported were other redwing blackbirds at feeders during the snow storm in early January. Woodpeckers are more common in the trees around the house of Ruth Birch near Mukilteo. She also notes that birds are using the more mature conifers that have at last begun to produce cones - Stellar's jay, black-capped chickadee, and a few hawks.

NOTE: bird sightings are very important to all of us. If you have seen an unusual bird or something you note for the first time (large concentrations of birds, first arrival or last departure, etc.) please report them to Martha Jordan 775-0137 or send them to me at 527-212th St. SW, Bothell, WA 98011. We will include them in our newsletter and file them for future reference to assist in identification of important wildlife areas (even your own back yard may be important habitat).

BIRDING NOTEBOOK

Snow Goose  
(Chen caerulescens)

Snow geese, wintering in the Skagit and Fraser River deltas, may be an even more impressive spectacle this year than in the past. Previous counts, taken over the past thirty years, have recorded a high of 48,000 birds. This year, however, aerial surveys have indicated over 70,000 snow geese in the area. This number may include late migrants passing through to wintering grounds in California and Oregon, and the final figures for the year may be lower. However, it appears that a record high will be set.

Snow geese nest at various locations along the arctic shores of western and central Canada and in eastern Siberia. Very few nest in Alaska. The Canadian arctic nesters normally follow either the Central or Mississippi flyways south to wintering grounds along the Gulf of Mexico. The birds that winter in our area or pass through on their way further south, primarily to the Sacramento Valley in California, are from Siberian nesting grounds, and follow a migratory route along the coast of Alaska and British Columbia. Thus, most of the birds that winter in our area breed in Russia, primarily on Wrangell Island off Siberia. In recent years, the Russians have stepped up their efforts to protect these birds. Wrangell Island has been declared a natural preserve, and the reindeer, which destroy the vegetative cover needed by the geese have been reduced in number. These improved nesting conditions for the geese in Siberia probably account for the increased numbers wintering locally.

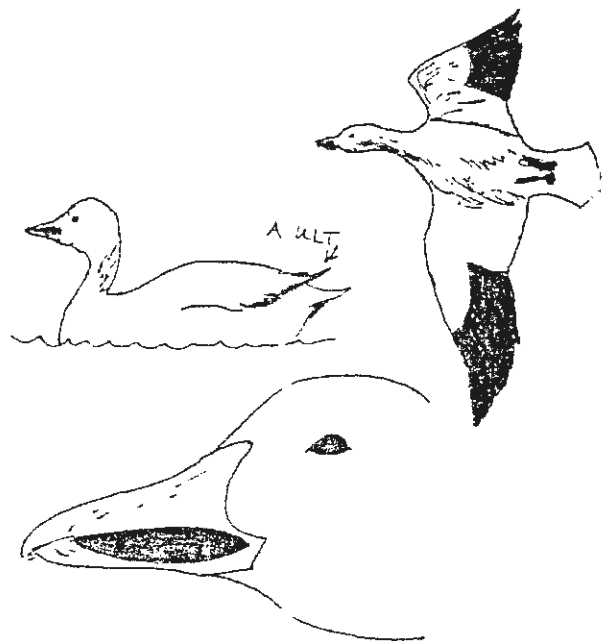
The snow geese arrive in our area rather late in the fall, with their numbers peaking in November. They depart for Siberia in late April. Throughout this entire time, large concentrations are found in the Skagit Flats, the Fraser Delta in British Columbia, and Port Susan Bay. Particularly good locations for viewing them are Reifel Island Preserve in B.C. and the Skagit Wildlife Recreation Area. Smaller numbers and

scattered individuals also visit other tideflats and estuaries, such as the mouth of the Nooksack River, and nearby grain fields. Throughout the winter the birds can be seen flying back and forth between the Fraser and Skagit habitats.

The adult plumage of the local snow goose is white, except for black wing tips. The young are grey during the first year. Some birds may have a rust colored wash about the head and neck, but this is a stain, probably from immersing the head in water high in iron content to feed. The feet and bill are pink. A distinguishing characteristic, which can be seen only at close range, is a dark grinning patch on the side of the bill.

Two distinct color phases, blue and white are found in North America. Previously considered separate species, they were consolidated into one by the AOU in 1973. Many guidebooks still list them separately as the Blue Goose (Chen caerulescens) and Snow Goose (Chen hyperborea). The blue phase, with a dark neck and body, is abundant in the midcontinent. Only two sightings have been verified in Washington, both east of the Cascades.

-----  
This article is from Cascade Audubon in Bellingham and is by Katy Batchelor.



## CLEAN AIR: A YEAR-END UPDATE, WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN 1982

### In the House: A 'Dirty Air' Bill

As Congress worked late into the night on December 17, rushing to adjourn for its Christmas recess, a half-dozen representatives joined in introducing a new comprehensive bill to undermine the Clean Air Act. The new bill, H.R. 5252, is already the focus of a massive lobbying offensive by the Reagan administration and industries with air-pollution problems.

Automobile manufacturers, coal companies, utilities, the chemical industry, a few anti-Clean Air Act unions, and the Reagan administration are pulling out all the stops to present this set of crippling amendments as a moderate revision. They are mounting an effort to reverse the congressional momentum which, because of conservationists' letters and phone calls, had put supporters of the act in a strong position as 1981 ended. To maintain this momentum, it is essential that you let your representative hear from you immediately about H.R. 5252.

H.R. 5252 was introduced by Representative Thomas A. Luken of Ohio, and co-sponsored by Representatives Edward R. Madigan of Illinois, Bob Traxler of Michigan, Elwood Hillis of Indiana, John D. Dingell of Michigan, and James T. Broyhill of North Carolina.

### Unhealthy Air, Acid Rain

If passed, H.R. 5252 would sentence millions of Americans to unhealthy air and increase the problems posed by acid rain. This new "dirty air bill" puts together virtually all of the worst elements of two earlier bills backed by pollution-prone industries—the earlier Broyhill bill (H.R. 3471) and the "old" Traxler-Hillis Bill (H.R. 4400). While H.R. 5252 does include a few positive modifications of these earlier bills, it remains basically a major cutback in air pollution controls and standards, a radical rewrite of the current clean air law. Because it is cosponsored by some powerful representatives, H.R. 5252 is a profound threat to clean air.

### What the Bill Would Do

H.R. 5252 would drastically weaken the program that forces states to clean up unhealthy air, the Non-Attainment program, by:

- ✓unnecessarily extending the deadlines for cleaning up unhealthy air, even in areas that can meet earlier deadlines,
- ✓dropping the requirement that new factories in unhealthy areas use the best clean-up technology available—the Lowest Achievable Emissions Rate requirement (LAER), and
- ✓weakening the requirement that pollution from new plants be offset by reductions from existing plants.

It would cripple the program that keeps clean air areas clean, the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program, by:

- ✓permitting intermittent periods of emission of pollutants upwind of national parks and wilderness areas (PSD Class I areas); this could substantially reduce visibility and interfere with the view future visitors would have at such prized scenic areas as Grand Canyon National Park.
- ✓allowing more pollution in those parts of the country that currently have air cleaner than the minimum required under the national health standards; the current law aims at preventing the air in the nation's rural areas from becoming as polluted as that in the big cities, and
- ✓lowering the requirement that new plants in clean air areas be built with the best available pollution control technologies.

It would double automobile pollution by:

- ✓doubling allowable emissions of carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide,
- ✓virtually eliminating the warranty program that guarantees that emissions control equipment is fixed at the auto manufacturers' and not the consumers' expense, and
- ✓weakening the enforcement tools EPA needs to insure that cars meet even these weaker standards.

It would:

- ✓do nothing about acid rain, and
- ✓do nothing about improving control of pollutants that cause cancer.

PAS BOARD

- President: Jan vanNiel (778-7568)
- V. Pres: Curt Howard (652-9619)
- Secretary: Joyce Kelley (568-5974)
- Treasurer: Gerald McKnight (337-4777)
- Program: Marianne McKnight (337-4777)
- Conservation: Sally vanNiel (778-7568)
- Newsletter:
- Publicity: Joan & Evan Lucas (252-1684)
- Membership: Eileen Loerch (659-6901)
- Hospitality: Carolyn Ringer (568-2302)
- Mailing: Judy Atkins (353-6491)
- Field Trip: Steve Loerch (659-6901)
- Education: Pete Kaiser (652-6191)
- Bird-a-Thon: Keith Estes (793-1306)
- Member-at-large: Pauline Hanson (774-9887)

To subscribe to the Profile, send \$5.00 to Pilchuck Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1618, Everett, WA 98206. (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)



**Pilchuck Audubon Society**

P.O. Box 1618, Everett, Washington 98206

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Marysville, WA 98270 Permit #66
--

TIME VALUE MATERIAL