



Pilchuck

Audubon Profile

January 1982

Volume X Number 5

Calendar of Events has moved to the inside front page.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This month Pilchuck Audubon starts its eleventh year of existence. It was just ten years ago that we had our very first meeting. In that first year of our tentative existence the small number of active members worked hard to recruit the necessary new memberships required before we could be recognized as a Chapter. We now have over 10 times this number of members. We also were hard pressed to find the money to mail our few newsletters each month. So, in ten years PAS has come a long way. We are now the proud owners of Lot #63 of subdivision 1 on Protection Island. Another accomplishment is that our chapter area has been selected as one of only 150 places in the country which the National Audubon Ark will spend a week. It is currently being scheduled to be at one of the shopping malls in Snohomish County from 7 - 11 July 1982. The Ark is a traveling exhibit on endangered and threatened species put together by the education section of NAS and is accompanied by two NAS staff members. More information on this will appear in future newsletters.

The Chapter has also played an active role in the development of both the Snohomish County and City of Everett Shoreline Management Master Plans, the Snohomish County Growth Management Plan, in testifying on other local land use decisions throughout the county, and in a number of education and conservation projects both locally and on the State or National level. We are really quite an exciting group. Why don't you double check our Calendar and make a point of coming out and joining us for some of our activities.

Jan van Niel, President PAS

WE OWN A PIECE OF THE ROCK!!!! - Protection Island

Good news - but don't relax yet!

As has been mentioned, we have now bought a lot on Protection Island in the name of Pilchuck Audubon Society. Contributions have been made to cover over one third of the cost of the lot, but our treasury covered the rest. This has seriously depleted our treasury and further contributions to the cost of the lot would be greatly appreciated.

The U.S. House of Representatives voted to authorize \$5 million for the creation of Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge. The bill did not make it through the Senate but will be acted upon (we hope!) fairly early in the session in January. Please let your Senators know your opinion on this important issue. Remember - Protection Island is important as a nesting site for the rhinoceros auklet and tufted puffins, as well as a whelping site for harbor seals. In addition, two pairs of bald eagles nest on the island.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 9 Saturday. BALD EAGLE SURVEY sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Bank Building at Smokey Point exit 206 off I-5 or 12:30 p.m. at the south end of Deception Pass Bridge. Bring a sack lunch. We will be covering North Whidbey Island and the Stilliguamish River from Arlington to Hat Slough. Because our areas are not the same as last year, two groups of counters will be needed. These will be established the morning of the count.
- January 11 Monday. Special meeting on Snohomish County Sensitive Areas Inventory that our Chapter is conducting. We need your help in various aspects of assistance. Meet at Sally van Niel's at 7:30 p.m. Call for details 778-7568.
- January 15 REGULAR MEETING. Dan Taylor of Western Regional Office will present the spectacular Audubon film "Last Stronghold of the Eagles" at 7:30 p.m. Room 308 at Everett Community College. Plan to be there for a special program.
- January 24 Sunday. FIELD TRIP to Skagit Wildlife Recreational Area. Meet at the Bank Building at Smokey Point exit 206 off I-5 at 9:30 a.m. See last month's newsletter for narrative on trip. Leader: Steve Loerch 659-6901.
- January 25 Monday. BOARD MEETING. Call Jan van Niel for place - 778-7568. All members welcome to attend.
- January 30 Saturday. TRUMPETER SWAN MID-WINTER SURVEY. The first annual trumpeter swan survey sponsored by the Trumpeter Swan Society (a North American group), in cooperation with the USFWS and WDG. We will be surveying the Snohomish County area lakes, rivers, fields, etc. We need your help so meet us at the Bank Building, exit 206 off I-5 at 9:00 a.m. Bring a sack lunch and spotting scope if you have one. For more information contact the leader Martha Jordan - 775-0137.
- February 6 Saturday. 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. Trip leader: Steve Loerch 659-6901.
- February 8 Monday. Snohomish County Sensitive Areas Inventory meeting at Sally van Niel's. Call Sally for address. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at her house.
- February 15 Friday. REGULAR MEETING. Hans Falk will present a slide talk on "Animals Looking at You". 7:30 p.m. Room 308 at Everett Community College.
- February 21 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.

AUDUBON OLYMPIA LOBBYIST

The National Audubon Society hired a lobbyist to work in Olympia during the forthcoming legislative session. The new lobbyist is Pam Crocker-Davis. If any of you have heard her speak on toxic chemicals, you know how effective she can be. She does her homework and gives factual presentations that make a believer out of most anyone. Your Chapter (PAS) has agreed to help support this lobbyist through financial donations.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>1981 TOTAL</u>	<u>YRS SEEN</u>	<u>PREV HIGH</u>
Winter wren	14	8	36
Bewick's wren	7	5	9
Long-billed marsh wren	2	4	4
American robin	<u>1,680</u>	8	486
Varied thrush	118	7	173
<u>Western flycatcher</u>	1	1	-
<u>Townsend's solitaire</u>	1	1	-
Golden-crowned kinglet	<u>380</u>	8	244
Ruby-crowned kinglet	20	8	134
Cedar waxwing	<u>15</u>	3	1
<u>Bohemian waxwing</u>	1	1	-
Starling	<u>4,692</u>	8	4,551
Townsend's warbler	4	3	10
<u>Yellow-rumped warbler</u> (Audubon's variety)	6	1	-
House sparrow	29	8	231
Red-winged blackbird	174	8	699
Lewer's blackbird	641	7	2,406
Brown-headed cowbird	<u>70</u>	5	25
Evening grosbeak	29	5	67
Purple finch	7	7	15
House finch	48	8	141
Pine siskin	170	8	800
American goldfinch	5	6	77
Rufous-sided towhee	41	8	152
Dark-eyed junco	970	8	894
White-crowned sparrow	1	6	16
Golden-crowned sparrow	4	6	12
Fox sparrow	13	7	18
Song sparrow	59	8	203
<hr/>			
Observers	17		37
Species	100		93
Number of birds	51,247		20,176

1981 CBC -- The best yet!

This year's count was the most productive in Pilchuck's CBC 8 year history. Although only 17 people participated, in the count more species and more birds were seen than in previous years. The weather was better than in the previous 4 years -- cloudy but mostly dry with only light winds. There was no snow within the count area although some had fallen in areas south of Everett.

Eight species new to the CBC were observed: Arctic loon, European wigeon, Golden eagle, Semi-palmated sandpiper, Western flycatcher, Townsend's solitaire, Bohemian waxwing, and yellow-rumped warbler. An abundance of waterfowl and shorebirds were present this year primarily due to the relatively mild weather. New high totals for 17 species were established. This breaks all previous records for record breaking for new high totals. We also saw 100 species, a new high number, and saw 51,247 birds, also a new high. On this and the previous page is a summary of the 1981 CBC including species and numbers seen this year, number of years out of 8 the species has been seen, and the previous high count for that species. New species and new high counts are underlined.

Thank you to all the participants who showed up to assist in the count.

The potluck celebration was spectacular-- the decoration were well done, and the 3 cakes Marianne McKnight created were absolutely beautiful - each had birds done in icing. Thank you to the hospitality committee for the CBC.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

December 6 - Everett Sewage Lagoon

About half a dozen people braved the weather to see 20 species of birds including 1000 ducks such as pintails, ruddy ducks, wigeon, mallards, scaup, bufflehead, shoveler. Coots were also seen. A very large flock of dunlin was observed accompanied by a few western sandpipers. Raptors seen included a red-tailed hawk and Northern harrier. In spite of the weather the trip was very worthwhile. For those of you who couldn't make it we hope to see you next time.

1981 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>1981 TOTAL</u>	<u>YRS SEEN</u>	<u>PREV HIGH</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>1981 TOTAL</u>	<u>YRS SEEN</u>	<u>PREV HIGH</u>
Common loon	8	7	8	Swainson's hawk	2	5	2
Red-throated loon	1	8	3	Cooper's hawk	<u>2</u>	2	1
<u>Arctic loon</u>	3	1	-	Bald eagle	7	7	7
Western grebe	41	7	245	<u>Golden eagle</u>	1	1	-
Horned grebe	<u>25</u>	8	15	American kestrel	<u>8</u>	5	4
Pied-billed grebe	2	7	13	Peregrine falcon	1	2	1
Red-necked grebe	11	5	18	Ruffed grouse	1	5	4
Pelagic cormorant	1	3	2	American coot	31	8	367
Dbl.-crested cormorant	<u>36</u>	4	28	Killdeer	62	6	95
Cormorant sp.	9			Least sandpiper	<u>1,380</u>	2	50
Great blue heron	22	8	54	Western sandpiper	<u>3,000</u>	2	28
Canada goose	226	6	400	<u>Semi-palmated sandpiper</u>	15	1	-
Snow goose	<u>17,000</u>	8	6,000	Spotted sandpiper	<u>2</u>	2	1
Mallard	223	8	567	Dunlin	1,322	7	1,706
Pintail	<u>4,871</u>	6	162	Common snipe	1	5	55
Black duck	<u>7</u>	3	2	Glaucous-winged gull	361	8	894
Gadwall	<u>49</u>	3	8	Herring gull	950	3	1,112
American wigeon	<u>6,512</u>	8	1,980	Thayer's gull	1	4	50
<u>European wigeon</u>	7	1	-	Ring-billed gull	2	4	157
Shoveler	<u>16</u>	3	6	Mew gull	<u>1,938</u>	6	200
Green-winged teal	14	6	17	Bonaparte's gull	18	4	20
Ring-necked duck	4	6	35	Gull sp.	1,023		
Greater scaup	1	2	2	Band-tailed pigeon	18	4	49
Lesser scaup	<u>75</u>	8	55	Rock dove	327	6	692
Common goldeneye	37	8	86	Barn owl	1	3	1
Barrow's goldeneye	8	8	40	Belted-kingfisher	8	8	9
Bufflehead	69	8	310	Common flicker	32	8	35
White-winged scoter	2	6	10	Pileated woodpecker	1	6	2
Surf scoter	30	8	58	Hairy woodpecker	1	7	4
Duck sp.	12			Downy woodpecker	6	5	6
Common merganser	<u>193</u>	7	130	Stellar's jay	11	8	30
Red-breasted merganser	<u>21</u>	5	11	Crow (all species)	2,052	8	1,053
Hooded merganser	3	8	11	Black-capped chickadee	89	8	117
Sharp-shinned hawk	1	5	2	Chestnut-backed chickadee	6	8	7
Northern harrier (Marsh hawk)	<u>13</u>	8	6	Common bushtit	82	7	175
Red-tailed hawk	20	8	30	White-breasted nuthatch	1	2	5
				Brown creeper	2	7	7

Toxic Waste Program Is Being Scuttled

The Reagan administration is scuttling the laws for controlling toxic wastes and is holding back some of the Superfund money available for cleanup of hazardous chemical waste dumps, Audubon President Russ Peterson told the House Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Agricultural Research, and Environment at a hearing last week.

Peterson recited some alarming facts and figures: 77 billion pounds of hazardous wastes are being produced each year in the United States—about one pound per person per day—and about 90 percent of these chemicals are being disposed of by improper burning or are being dumped into landfills that are unsecured and often blatantly illegal. Groundwater, which furnishes about half of all U.S. drinking water, is particularly susceptible to contamination from such dumps and, in the case of many of these chemicals, as little as one ten-thousandths of a pound can have a harmful effect on a human being. He noted that:

✓The Environmental Protection Agency, which is responsible for protecting the public from dangerous chemicals now in commercial use, has cut its staff and budget approximately in half and its research effort even more.

✓For the current fiscal year, EPA has budgeted only \$200 million of the \$298 million collected from the oil and chemical industries for the special Superfund to finance cleanup of abandoned chemical waste dumps.

✓EPA has proposed suspension of standards for currently operating facilities that burn or store hazardous wastes; meanwhile, the standards are not being enforced.

✓Regulations scheduled to go into effect last summer—which would have required hazardous waste facility operators to take out insurance for recompensing victims of water-supply contamination—have been postponed to April of next year.

✓EPA has reversed its position on permit requirements and is now allowing expansion of toxic dumps by 50 percent without requiring a permit. And the agency is granting lifetime rather than limited-term permits to hazardous waste facilities.

✓The agency has sanctioned a further two-year delay of regulations for landfills—regulations originally due in 1978. Meanwhile, landfills are subject only to weak interim requirements.

This lowering of standards and minimizing of enforcement of the regulations of the toxic substances control program “is being done in the misguided contention that environmental regulations are stifling the economy,” Peterson said. “This is simply not the case. There are no facts to support that claim.”

“Environmental controls have added only a fraction of one percent to the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index—while the pollution control industry has created many investment opportunities and hundreds of thousands more jobs than it has displaced. Moreover, it is far less costly to society—in terms of human sickness and suffering, in

property damaged and destroyed, in man-hours of work lost—to deal with environmental problems head-on today, rather than retreat from these problems as the Environmental Protection Agency is now doing.”

Radioactive wastes are not covered under the federal Toxic Substances Control Act because Congress decided this issue should be taken up separately. But Peterson noted that “this is the most serious toxic waste problem of all.”

“Though we are in the early phases of the nuclear era, as projected by its promoters,” he said, “we have already accumulated a frightening array of wastes, including mountains of uranium mill tailings, billions of cubic feet of low-level radioactive wastes, high-level wastes now held in dozens of locations around our country, and abandoned radioactive facilities that stand under guard awaiting the nation’s decision to spend almost as much to dispose of them as it did to build them.”

Eagles’ 200th. Next year will be the 200th anniversary of the designation of the bald eagle as the national symbol of the United States. A resolution is pending in both houses of Congress, declaring 1982 as the Bicentennial Year of the Bald Eagle and June 20th—the actual anniversary date—as National Bald Eagle Day. Audubon Society members are urged to write their representative (the House Zip Code is 20515) and senators (Zip 20510) and urge them to become co-sponsors of the resolution.

No Action This Year. The only Clean Air bills pending in Congress—measures to control acid rain and to relax standards for automotive emissions—are bogged down so deeply there is no chance of any substantive changes in the Clean Air Act this year. It will be an election-year issue.

MORE GOOD NEWS!

The Union Oil Company has donated 23 acres of marshland to the City of Edmonds for use as a wildlife sanctuary. A condition of the gift is that the land is to remain as undeveloped open space. There are quite a few birds that use the area for nesting.

Two possible changes that are being investigated are: establishing a salmon run in a creek that runs through the freshwater marsh, and establishing a path or walkway around the perimeter of the park so people won’t go into the marsh and disturb the wildlife.

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: Martha Jordan (775-0137)
 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 _____

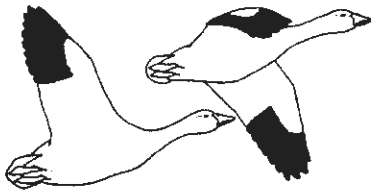
Type of Membership:

_____ Individual (\$25.00 per year)

_____ Family (\$32.00 per year)

_____ Other (ask our membership chairperson)

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



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

98204-13
 Gerald A. McKnight
 3526 - 113 Pl. S.E.
 Everett, WA 98204

4-82