

Pilchuck Audubon Profile

MARCH 1982

VOLUME X NUMBER 7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 8th, MONDAY

Snohomish County Sensitive Areas Inventory Committee meeting at the van Niels at 7:30 p.m. Call Sally for more information, 778-7568.

SENSITIVE AREAS MEETING

MARCH 13th, SATURDAY

Leader: Steve Loerch, 659-6901. Meet at 10:30 in the Old National Bank parking lot (corner of 196th & 44th St. SW, Lynnwood). This is a good way to see birds and other animals close up. Animals are housed in natural surroundings including a walk through marsh and shorebird area. Many changes have taken place 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. Bring a sack lunch. Zoo admission is \$0.50 to \$2.50 for adults.

FIELD TRIP: WOODLAND PARK ZOO

MARCH 19th, FRIDAY

Everett Community College, Room 308, at 7:30 p.m. Lora Leschner the non-game biologist with the Washington Department of game will tell us about the non-game program and also have a slide presentation of "Marine Birds of Washington".

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MARCH 21st, SUNDAY

Leader: Jan van Niel, 778-7568. Meet at 1:00 p.m. in the Old National Bank parking lot (corner of 196th & 44th St. SW, Lynnwood). Walk along sawdust paths and boardwalks. The park is managed for the benefit of wildlife and wildlife lovers. See what a great job the city of Lynnwood is doing.

FIELD TRIP: SCRIBER LAKE

MARCH 29th, MONDAY

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

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

APRIL 10th, SATURDAY

Everett Community College Bookstore Auditorium, 10:00 a.m. Details on page six.

FIRST ANNUAL RECYCLE FAIR

APRIL 16th, FRIDAY

Everett Community College, Room 308, at 7:30 p.m. Michael Kyte will give a presentation on the Intertidal Zone.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

APRIL 17th, SATURDAY

Leader: Joyce Kelley, 568-5974. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Snohomish Safeway.

FIELD TRIP: SNOH. SEWAGE LAGOON

APRIL 18th, SUNDAY

Leader: Curt Howard, 652-9619. Mill Creek access to South Fork of the Skagit. This trip is limited to 12 people. Pre-register with the trip leader.

FIELD TRIP: SKAGIT CANOE TRIP

SIGHTINGS

The wet weather has left many lowland areas flooded creating shallow water feeding areas for ducks. Flocks of pintail, widgeon and mallard have been observed using flooded fields throughout the county, especially between Stanwood and Warm Beach (MJ, RC). A few shovelers were seen in a flock of pintail along Norman Road south of Stanwood (MK). A pied-billed grebe was observed in a flooded field in the same general area (MJ).

Trumpeter swans near Mt. Vernon have been using the area around Gardiner Road near Burlington more frequently. Approximately 390 trumpeters were in the area this winter season, but fewer may be seen now as some of the swans may be moving north. A small group of trumpeters were frequently seen in the Hat Slough tide-flats throughout the season (RC, TM).

A pair of bald eagles was observed near the mouth of Pigeon Creek at Forest Park in Everett (PM). An adult bald eagle was observed flying from east to west about eight stories up near the Wall Street Building in Everett during early February (PW). Another bald eagle was seen being chased by a gull over Lake Stevens (Mrs. PW).

Shorebird activity appears to be down due to the high water, however, dunlin are still seen in the fields where waterfowl are abundant.

One mountain chickadee in association with black-capped and chestnut-backed chickadees has been present all winter in Edmonds at a feeder (GP). Townsend's solitaires have also been seen in the Edmonds area this winter (PH). Evening grosbeak have been seen again at feeders in Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace, and another red-winged blackbird was reported from the Bothell area.

Observers: Russell Canniff (RC), Pauline Hansen (PH), Martha Jordan (MJ), Grace Patrick (GP), Paul Marshall (PM), Mr. & Mrs. Parker Williams (PW), Tom Miller (TM), Michael Kyte (MK), Jan & Sally van Niel, and O. N. Clary.

Report all bird sightings to Martha Jordan at 775-0137.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT ENDANGERED

The Endangered Species Act has become the target of powerful economic interests, such as forest products and utilities industries, American Mining Congress and the Western Water Resources Council. Forces within the Reagan Administration are also trying to weaken the Act.

If industry amendments are adopted, bald eagles, grizzly bears, Everglade kites, and sea otters will lose their protection under the Act. Habitat of endangered species will be subject to modification without restriction.

Write your Representatives and Senators to support a strong and effective Endangered Species Act that

1. Protects local populations of bald eagles and other species needing protection.
2. Protects foreign species, plants and invertebrates.
3. Protects species from Federal activities and private takings as provided in the current statute.
4. Protects species listed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.



IMPACTS

The Shorelines Management Act is under attack from a variety of sources. SB 4831 passed the Senate and is currently being heard by the House Labor and Economic Development Committee.

This bill creates a "shoreline of statewide economic significance" and will allow economic considerations to take priority over environmental concerns. The Chicago Bridge and Iron property (CBI) near Bellingham is the only one designated so far, but others could soon follow.

The fill that would be allowed under this bill will be harmful to the herring spawning grounds and thus impact the fishing industry. Urge your representatives to vote against this bill. If it has passed the House by the time you receive this, contact Governor Spellman.

SHB 914 would impact and weaken the Shorelines Management Act. This would limit review of local permits by the Shoreline Hearings Board to the record of the local decision if a hearing was held. Since local hearings are often informal and incomplete, this means much information would be omitted.

Under this law, the Shorelines Hearing Board would be unable to call witnesses or gather additional information to make a good decision. Urge your legislators to retain the Shorelines Management Act as is.

SHB 1011 would define and limit the appearance of fairness doctrine. This doctrine has been developed by the courts to prevent conflicts of interest and back-room deals by local officials. SHB 1011 would make it more difficult to disqualify local officials from ruling on land use decisions when they have a conflict of interest. Passed the House, now is in the Senate.

SHB 1014 would prohibit local government fees and taxes on new construction or subdivision of land for development. It would also limit local governments' ability to require developers to dedicate land to public purposes such as parks and schools. It will force existing homeowners to subsidize urban sprawl.

Developers and homebuilders say the ban on development fees will encourage homebuilding. Passed the House, now is in the Senate.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has requested \$164,000 to continue the Natural Heritage Program. This program attempts to preserve unique components of Washington's ecosystems by identifying, cataloging and protecting unaltered natural areas around the state. The bill has passed out of Senate Ways and Means with 50% of its necessary funding. It is now in Senate Rules. Express your support and request it be moved to the floor for debate and additional funding.

SSB 3033 (GOOD BILL!!!) would allow cities, counties, and municipal corporations to finance and operate centralized heating systems using waste heat, geothermal heat, co-generation, or wood waste for fuel. Passed the Senate, now is in the House Energy Committee.

HOTLINE 1-800-562-6000

You may use this number to:

1. Leave a brief message (1 or 2 sentences) for 1 - 5 legislators.
2. Ask a bill be sent to you---but you MUST have a number or short title.
3. Ask for status of bills.
4. Request times and agendas of Committee meetings.

This toll free number operates 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday; 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday.

STATE LEGISLATORS

10th District	21st District
Sen. Jack Metcalf	Sen. Susan Gould
Rep. Joan Hochen	Rep. Walt Sprague
Rep. Sim Wilson	Rep. Gary Nelson
38th District	39th District
Sen. Larry Vognild	Sen. Diane Woody
Rep. Dick King	Rep. Jim Mitchell
Rep. John Martinis	Rep. Gary Scott

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is with regret that I have accepted the resignation of our Newsletter Editor, Martha Jordan. She has edited the newsletter for over two years. Fortunately we will not lose her services to the chapter or the board of directors, since she has taken over the job of keeping our bird sightings in order and acting as coordinator for bird count activities. In addition, she will be expanding records of bird sightings. Again, Martha, many thanks.

The Biennial Western Regional Audubon Conference at Asilomar Conference Grounds at Pacific Grove, California, will be held April 3-6. See your latest copy of the quarterly Regional Newsletter, Actwest, for details. Due to budgetary and time restrictions, no board members will attend this year. If you are planning to go on your own, please contact me to discuss the possibility of representing our chapter.

Jan van Niel

SNOW GEESE

The Snow geese are back in the Skagit ...calling, flying, beautiful...and eating up the forage in the farmers' fields!

This year wildlife people estimate 47,000 geese are in residence, 10,000 more than last year. International treaties now being negotiated with Russia and other Pacific rim countries are intended to raise the number to 120,000.

For farmers raising summer crops, geese and swans are no problem. But dairy farmers who crop and use their fields 12 months of the year, find that geese are able competitors for the forage intended for cows.

Right now the answer seems to be scaring off the geese. Study of this situation and some long range planning seems in order.

WELCOME!

The newsletter staff wishes to welcome Jan Richards. She will be contributing art work as well as lending her previous newsletter editing experience.

DID YOU MISS THIS TRIP?

Trumpeter swans, bald eagles, abundant marsh hawks and a spooked American bittern, were the highlights seen by 30 people on the January 24th trip to the Skagit Wildlife Recreation Area Headquarters.

The walk on this partly sunny day in the mid-40's also revealed dark-eyed juncos, red-winged blackbirds, a great blue heron, a pied-billed grebe, female buffleheads, American coots, a marsh wren, common goldeneyes, a red-tailed hawk, mallards, golden-crowned kinglets, black-capped chickadees, and bushtits.

Snow geese were searched out and found in fields on a drive. A field full of black-bellied plovers and dunlin were spotted further along.

Following a tip from some people from Seattle, approximately 8 trumpeter swans were spotted near Mt. Vernon and later another group of 14 swans were viewed with the aid of a spotting scope. HOPE WE SEE YOU AT THE NEXT FIELD TRIP!

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.



20 BOXCARS OF SEED!!!

You may like this paperback edition of HOW TO ATTRACT, HOUSE AND FEED BIRDS, by Walter E. Schutz, as a practical guide to attracting birds to your yard. Divided into five sections on Ecology, Bird Watching, Food, Water, Shelter and Miscellaneous Hints, it will tell you how to build feeders and houses, what to plant in the way of shrubs and trees, and some tips on providing for wildlife in winter. Step-by-step instructions are illustrated with both drawings and photographs. But this is more than a "how-to" book.

Included is an enlightening table of percentages compiled by the Department of Agriculture which shows the diets of 50 species of birds. For example, it shows the worm-eating robin actually consumes more vegetable foods such as holly, berries and seeds which make up 58 percent of its diet.

Schutz touches briefly on the ecology of birdlife. He includes interesting facts on the important work our feathered friends do to consume harmful weed seeds and disease scales, and to reduce insect populations. Referring again to a Dept. of Agriculture study of more than 13,000 birds, he writes: "...It was found that each bird ate about one-fourth ounce of seed each day...if we estimate that there are only 10 sparrows in each square mile...and that the season covers only 200 days of the year, we find that these few birds consumed 1,750,000 pounds of seeds!...equivalent to 20 boxcars of seeds."

HOW TO ATTRACT, HOUSE AND FEED BIRDS, by Walter E. Schutz, published in 1974, is available through J.K. Gill for \$5.95 (reviewed by Joan Lucas).

GOOD NEWS!!!! Two National Audubon films produced by Carol Lee Taylor have won top honors at the 18th Annual National Outdoor Travel Film Awards contest. "Project Puffin" was judged best ecology documentary and "Last Stronghold of the Eagles" won best of show. The film "Eagles" was shown by Dan Taylor of Western Regional at our January Membership meeting.

EASEMENTS PROTECT BALD EAGLE NESTS

In late December the Washington Field Office of The Nature Conservancy accepted conservation easements protecting three bald eagle nests on two Puget Sound islands. One agreement protects a productive bald eagle nest on 20-acre Jack Island, northeast of Guemes Island in Skagit County. The second covers 10 acres of old growth forest on Anderson Island in Pierce County. Two bald eagle nests are located on the latter property, although only one is occupied annually. Such "alternate" nests are common occurrences among bald eagles, but it is less common to have the nests so close to each other.

In both cases the owners have agreed to forego all development on the easement properties in an effort to enhance the eagles' chances for successful breeding. The easements are perpetual, binding future owners of the property, and allowing the Conservancy to prevent any inconsistent use. Since the refuges remain private property they are not open to the general public.

While the Anderson Island easement is the Conservancy's first bald eagle protection project in south Puget Sound, the organization now manages three nests in the north Sound area, comprising 10% of the known, productive nesting sites in that region.



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.

Our planning is finished, but 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

WERE YOU WITH US?

There was a good turnout February 6th for the field trip to see the Bald Eagles on the Skagit River. The brilliantly sunny weather resulted in excellent conditions for both viewing and photographing the eagles.

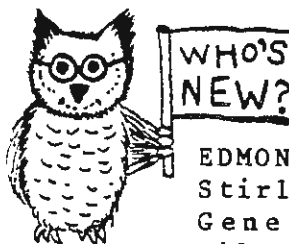
Near Rockport we were treated to a "tongue lashing" by one eagle who sat across the river from our group. The high pitched gull-like call seemed out of place from such a large bird.

Further up the river, we were able to observe a mature bald eagle at quite close range for nearly a half hour. Those of our group with cameras were able to get some nice pictures. In all, we saw 32 eagles.

We returned to Concrete along the south side of the Skagit. Our group enjoyed breathtaking views of the North Cascades, especially Mount Baker. On the trip home through Mount Vernon, the McKnights had the good fortune of seeing 200 trumpeter swans in a field.

A TREE LEFT TO GROW IS WORTH \$196,250

In 50 years a tree produces \$62,500 in air pollution control, \$37,500 in water recycling and humidity control, \$31,250 in wildlife shelter and \$2,500 worth of protein in the leaves and bark consumed by wildlife, according to American Forests magazine!



EDMONDS: Susie Schaefer, Stirling Lantz. EVERETT: Gene & Marguerite Weir, Tiffany Barnes, Marguerite Wiltfong, Kathy Green Family. LAKE STEVENS: Gordon Griggs. LYNNWOOD: Grace Patrick. MARYSVILLE: Eva Bare. MONROE: Marcia Richards Family, Joe & Dorothy Keenan. MOUNTLAKE TERRACE: Judy Davis. SNOHOMISH: Ramona E. Curtis. STANWOOD: Frank Coyman.

LOPSIDED STAFF

Eleven of the top 16 officials of the Interior Department have worked for the five major industries regulated by the department, according to WHO'S MINDING THE STORE?, a guide prepared by Common Cause. Ten of them reported conflicts of interest which they had to resolve--by selling large holdings of stock or by other measures--before they could legally take office. The 80-page guide is available for \$4 from Investigative Studies, Common Cause, 2030 M Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

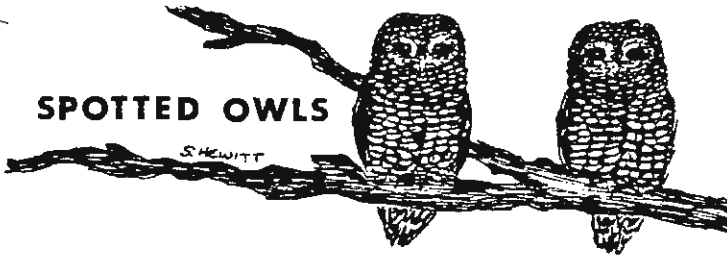
GOOD NEWS!!!! Cathy Johnson, D.V.M., of Cascade Veterinary Clinic in Marysville, now has a license to treat sick or injured birds and wildlife. Dr. Johnson specializes in birds and small animals and recently treated both a screech owl and a rare boreal owl. There is no charge for treatment of WILD animals. The Clinic's phone number is 659-2323.

RHINOCEROS AUKLETS NEED YOUR HELP

Almost the total population of Rhinoceros Auklets in Washington, more than 17,000 pairs, nests in underground burrows on Protection Island. This is one half the entire population in the contiguous United States.

Contact Senators Gorton and Jackson to urge support for the Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge. Senator ... ; Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

SPOTTED OWLS



"I know he is watching us.", said Diana Russell of the Forest Service. She again imitated the barking call of the spotted owl. We looked and listened for any sign of our quarry.

All we saw was a Steller's jay hopping from branch to branch. He stopped hopping momentarily and peered into the forest as if he saw something. The jay then sailed through the woods, shouting his raucous call.

Although we could no longer see him through the thick vegetation, we still heard him. Then, out of the gloom of the old growth forest, we heard the "woo, woo-woo, woo" of the spotted owl. He was soon mobbed by a dozen more jays.

In an attempt to escape the jay's harassment, he flew in front of us and landed in a nearby tree. It was my first encounter with a spotted owl and I was spellbound. His range of vocalization was impressive, from a "whistle" to a "hoot" to a "bark."

We enjoyed the "concert" of the spotted owls in the "conifer amphitheater" for about 10 minutes and determined there were two owls. We then left the owls alone to begin their night time foraging.

The spotted owl is a nocturnal hunter of the old growth forest, feeding mostly on flying squirrels, wood rats, bats, small birds, moths, and crickets. A medium size owl, the brown and white spotted owl stands 16 inches tall and has a wing span of 42 inches.

This owl is rare and becoming rarer, due mostly to the destruction of its old growth forest habitat. The spotted owl is an "indicator species". This means it has adapted to a specific habitat, in this case the old growth forest, and its presence may be indicative of the quality and integrity of the ecosystem.

Are you interested in learning more about the owls and possibly calling spotted owls? If so, there will be a meeting at the Mt. Baker - Snoqualmie Technical Center in Sedro Wooley, March 26th at 7:30 p.m. Diana Russell will explain the Forest Service's spotted owl program. Call Eileen Loerch, 659-6901 for directions and carpooling.

Thanks to Sally Hewitt, staff artist for Earthcare Northwest, for use of her illustration of the spotted owl.

By Eileen Loerch

RECYCLE AND HELP PILCHUCK AUDUBON

Members (and non-members also) are encouraged to bring recyclable items to J. C. Recycling, requesting the proceeds go into the Pilchuck Audubon account. All moneys received from recycling will go into our general fund.

J. C. Recycling is located at 7800 Evergreen Way, Everett, just north of K-Mart and Clyde Revord Motors. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 to 5. Acceptable items are: aluminum cans, glass, aluminum foil, cardboard, newspaper, tin cans, etc.

1982 BIRDATHON

The second annual National Audubon Society Birdathon will be held April 24th or 25th. The Birdathon is a fund-raising event in which the proceeds are divided equally among the participating Audubon chapters and affiliates, the society's regional offices, and the society's national headquarters. More than 150 chapters and affiliates took part in the first Birdathon last year, raising \$92,000.

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 is available from Keith Estes, 793-1306.

PILCHUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

President	Jan van Niel	778-7568
V. Pres.	Curt Howard	652-9619
Secretary	Joyce Kelley	568-5974
Treasurer	Gerald McKnight	337-4777

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

GENERAL	Eileen Loerch	659-6901
PRESIDENT	Jan van Niel	778-7568
CONSERVATION	Sally van Niel	778-7568
NEWSLETTER	Marianne McKnight	337-4777
FIELD TRIPS	Steve Loerch	659-6901
BIRD SIGHTINGS	Martha Jordan	775-0137
RECYCLE FAIR	Curt Howard	652-9619
BIRD-A-THON	Kieth Estes	793-1306

BOARD MEMBERS

Judy Atkins	Steve Loerch
Keith Estes	Evan Lucas
Pauline Hanson	Joan Lucas
Martha Jordan	Marianne McKnight
Pete Kaiser	Carolyn Ringer
Eileen Loerch	Sally van Niel

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Marianne McKnight (Ed.)	Joan Lucas
Pauline Hanson	Gerald McKnight
Eileen Loerch	Jan Richards

***** DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF COPY FOR NEWSLETTER IS THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH *****

Please enroll me as a member of Pilchuck Audubon Society and National Audubon Society. I will receive the Pilchuck Audubon "PROFILE" and "AUDUBON" magazine for one year.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

For additional information contact Eileen Loerch at 659-6901.

ADDRESS _____

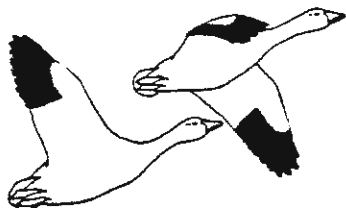
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| <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> "PROFILE" SUBSCRIPTION \$5.00 |

Check type of membership desired. Make your check payable to National Audubon Society and mail to Pilchuck Audubon Society, PO Box 1618, Everett, WA 98206.

Pilchuck Audubon Society

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