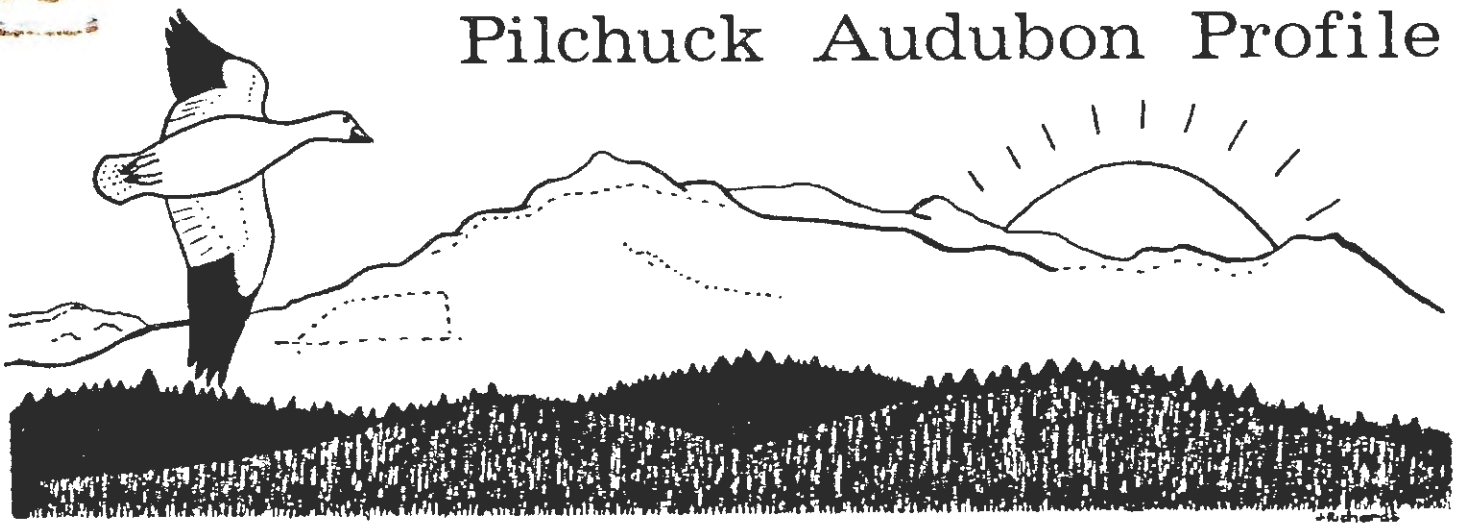


Pilchuck Audubon Profile



NOVEMBER 1982

VOLUME XI NUMBER 3

PILCHUCK AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 7th, SUNDAY

Leader: Steve Loerch, 659-6901. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Old National Bank parking lot (corner of 196th and 44th Street SW, Lynnwood). An oasis of open fields and marsh surrounded by a heavily urbanized area, the Mountlake fill attracts a wide variety of migrating shorebirds, songbirds, and waterfowl, often including rarities. Eurasian wigeons and Eurasian teal have been seen in the past. After exploring the fill, we will go to Foster Island near the Museum of History and Industry and stroll along a floating trail through a marsh bordering the Lake Washington Ship Canal. Bring a lunch, warm clothes, and binoculars if you have them.

FIELD TRIP: MOUNTLAKE FILL

NOVEMBER 15th, MONDAY

Meet at 7:30 p.m. at 4404 - 222nd St. SW, Mountlake Terrace. For the group working on the Atlas of Environmentally Sensitive Areas. Further information, call Sally van Niel, 778-7568.

ATLAS MEETING

NOVEMBER 19th, FRIDAY

Everett Community College at 7:30 in Room 605. Woodland Park Zoo "Project Babe." See page 5 for details.

MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETING

NOVEMBER 20th, SATURDAY

Leaders: Steve and Eileen Loerch, 659-6901. See page 3? for details.

FIELD TRIP: REIFEL ISLAND

NOVEMBER 29th, MONDAY

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 11th, SATURDAY

Leader: Jan Richards, 334-2781. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the lower parking lot on the east side of Everett Community College.

FIELD TRIP: EVERETT SEWAGE LAGOON

DECEMBER 19th, SUNDAY
See page 6 for article.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

JANUARY 15th, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP/POTLUCK: CAMANO ISLAND

JANUARY 21st, FRIDAY

MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETING

JANUARY 29th, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: MARBLEMOUNT

FEBRUARY 5th, SATURDAY

Special bus tour with Extension Naturalist John Munn. See page 6 for more information.

FIELD TRIP: N.W. TREK/OAK CREEK

Before Election Day, remember that our elected officials make the laws which effect our environment. Last session two of the most outstanding battles included the Northern Tier Pipeline and Chicago Bridge and Iron's efforts to get a special law favoring their filling in Bellingham Bay. To refresh your memories of how incumbants voted, check back to your May 1982 Profile. Your vote can and does make a difference.

Also on the ballot is Initiative 414 - the Refund and Recycling Initiative or the newest version of the Bottle Bill. If Initiative 414 passes, it will:

REDUCE LITTER Refund and recycling systems have reduced beverage container litter by 83% in Oregon, 80% in Vermont, 86% in Maine, 80% in Michigan and 77% in Iowa. In each state total litter was reduced by 35% to 45%.

INCREASE RECYCLING States with refund and recycling systems have increased their container return rate to over 90%. Washington's current rate is less than 25%.

CONSERVE ENERGY AND RESOURCES Recycling aluminum saves 95% of the energy required to produce aluminum from raw materials. Cleaning and refilling bottles uses less energy and resources than making new containers.

Jan van Niel

REAGAN REBUFFED. A federal judge has ordered the administration to staff and fund the Solar and Conservation Bank, an agency to encourage energy conservation and use of solar power. The program was approved late in the Carter administration and was just getting started when Carter's term ended. The new administration didn't approve of the idea, fired the bank's newly appointed staff, and cut off all funding. Now, in response to a lawsuit to which National Audubon was a party, the President has been ordered to carry out the congressionally mandated program.

An **ORIOLE'S NEST** has been found in the Lake Stevens area. It is 18-20 inches long hanging in a fir tree. If you would like more information or to view it, please call Floyd Bauer, 334-4417.

We in Audubon are interested in nature. Birds, animals and plants. Even on a small lot there is much that can be done to encourage wildlife. Achieving such a goal can be easy or challenging. A quick and simple attraction? Plant a *Pyracantha* (Firethorn). They have red or orange berries and provide two of the basic requirements--food and shelter.

Want a challenge? Work a mulberry tree into your landscaping. They grow 20-45 feet. A solution to the size problem is to share the tree with neighbors at a common corner. The challenge is in finding a mulberry that will fruit in Western Washington. Don't believe all those glowing descriptions in catalogs and reference books. Western Washington is great, but it is unique. What holds true for Milwaukee or Little Rock or Portland does not necessarily hold true for us. We do not have the summer heat accumulation for some plants to produce fruit, berries or whatever.

But don't give up. Like humans, individual plants vary considerably in their performance. Your co-worker or his friend may have or know of a mulberry that fruits here. Now you have to get a "start" of his (that is the editorial "his", no sexism intended) mulberry. If you have one or know of one, let me know. I am interested. We will work on the propagation. I have heard of just such a fruiting mulberry from someone on a field trip.

I am told the mulberry is as attractive to humans as to birds. That probably isn't true, though, for I have not heard of humans nesting in them. Mulberries should attract those birds that like soft fruits: thrushes, jays, grosbeaks, blackbirds, grackles (if you have those I would like to know that too!), band-tailed pigeons, etc.

Mulberries are fast growers, accept poor soils and are drought resistant, but their fruit stains concrete and wood.

Sounds good, doesn't it? What more can you ask for, except smaller size and fall color? In that case, try a Callery pear (Bradford pear). Half the size, but the fruit is inedible for humans. Can't have everything, you know.

A special "Thank You" to the Recci Family for allowing us the opportunity to visit their unique farm and the diversity of life it holds.

UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR OBSERVED

by Eileen Loerch

A pair of **RED CROSSBILLS** exhibiting bizarre behavior were seen on the beach at Ebey's landing by Marianne McKnight and Eileen Loerch. The male hopped along the beach, picked up a crab leg and appeared to eat a bit of meat from inside it. The female hopped up to a few barnacle shells on a piece of driftwood and ate a few of the shells.

According to Audubon's Encyclopedia of North American Birds, red crossbills are attracted to salt impregnated soils and will sometimes pick mortar from brick walls for the calcium. Apparently these crossbills were attracted to the saltiness of the crabmeat and the calcium and salt of the barnacle shells.

The **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE** is currently studying the Shorelines Management Act so that we will have a fundamental understanding of the Act by the time the Legislature meets. We are also studying the issue of commercial clam dredging in Port Susan Bay and the Problem of damaged fish in Port Gardner Bay. If you are interested in participating, please call Sally van Niel, 778-7568.

Sept. 27th PAS Board meeting highlights. The treasurer reported an operations fund balance of \$1206.52. A new membership brochure was discussed and an artwork contest planned. The board approved a new masthead for the newsletter, authorized payment of our supporting membership dues in The Nature Conservancy, and authorized payment of the remaining pledge to National Audubon Society for the Audubon lobbyist in Olympia.

NOVEMBER 20th REIFEL ISLAND TRIP

The George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary in the Fraser River Delta of British Columbia is one of the field trip highlights of the year. Waterfowl that can be seen at very close range include snow geese, white-fronted geese, redheads, scaups, canvasbacks, wood ducks, pintails, and many others usually only seen at a distance. As we walk along the dikes between the many ponds, we will see shorebirds, songbirds, and raptors. This is a great place to see rarities. In the past a spotted red shank and a stint (birds of Asia) have been seen. Photographers will have a field day on this trip.

For novice birders, Eileen Loerch, education chairman, will lead a group through the sanctuary and assist in identification of the numerous birds and answer questions. Children will enjoy feeding grain (available for a small fee at the entrance) to the waterfowl. As you can see, Reifel Island has something for everyone.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point exit 206 off I-5 or at 9:15 a.m. at the northbound rest stop off I-5 about 13 miles north of Bellingham. Bring warm clothes, identification for crossing the border, \$1.50 entrance fee, and lunch.

For further information contact Steve or Eileen Loerch at 659-6901.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

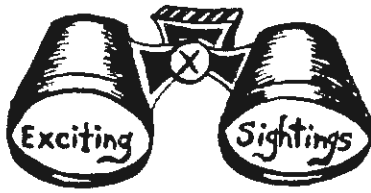
To the surprise of environmentalists, the 1982 reauthorization of and amendments to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) won House and Senate approval with ease. National Audubon spokesman Kenneth Berlin termed the three-year reauthorization "one of the most important environmental victories since the Reagan administration took office." Mr. Berlin attributes the positive response by Congress to strong public outcry.

In addition to the lengthy reauthorization, which Secretary of the Interior James Watt opposed, Congress also adopted some strengthening clauses. New species and critical habitat listings under the ESA no longer would require economic impact statements; rather, biological evidence alone would govern the listing process. And the Department of the Interior would face stricter time limitations when deciding on proposed listings.

At the same time, however, industry concerns won approval of their request for expedition in acquiring exemptions for development projects.

A bill combining the House and Senate versions must now win the joint approval of the Congress before the ESA in its final form receives President Reagan's signature. Despite the overall victory for environmentalists, critical cuts in staff and budget under the current administration could impede effective implementation of the new ESA.

ACID RAIN A "primer" on acid rain is available free from the National Wildlife Federation, Department 40, 1412 Sixteenth Street N. W., Washington, D.C. 20036.



Sept. 17-19 Several flocks of **CEDAR WAX-WINGS** (20 or so) visited the Mountain Ash tree in the backyard. The berries are now depleted! (McKnights)

Sept. 18 Aside from the beautiful weather and delicious potluck following the field trip to Penn Cove, Rosario Beach, and Ebey's Landing, other highlights included many **COMMON TERNS**, some at close range sitting on the beach, **RED-THROATED LOONS**, **BLACK TURNSTONES**, **SURFBIRDS**, **GREATER YELLOWLEGS**, and **HEERMANN'S GULLS**. A highlight for several people returning from the potluck was a large blacktailed buck deer and two does. The buck had at least four points on each antler.

Sept. 20-26 On a trip to Central California a **WHITE-TAILED KITE** and many **LESSER GOLDFINCH** were observed. (Eileen Loerch)

Sept. 26 Three **CALIFORNIA QUAIL** were a surprise sight near Ernst at Alderwood Plaza. (Terri Spencer, Steve Howard)

Sept. 26 A **SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** was spotted in a flock of **PECTORAL SAND-PIPERS** in a field near Port Susan Bay. (Joyce Kelley)

Sept. 26 A **BOBWHITE QUAIL** was seen east of Machias. (June Prentice)

Sept. 26 **LITTLE GULLS** were reported at the Everett Sewage Lagoon. (SAS Hotline)

Sept. 28 A **SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** was seen casually flying low over an intersection in north Lynnwood. (S. Howard)

Sept. 28 A **PILEATED WOODPECKER** was on a lightpole in the front yard. (McKnight)

Sept. 28 An immature **BARN OWL** has taken up residence in the barn in the last few weeks. Migrating **WESTERN MEADOWLARKS** were seen in the fields near Arlington Hwy 530. (T. Spencer, S. Howard)

Oct. 1 A **RAVEN** was observed near Soper Hill on Hwy 9 in the morning and one on Best Road on the Skagit Flats in the afternoon. (S. Howard)

Oct. 2 From the top of Mt. Erie a moving white spot was observed with field glasses. In a small lake at the base of the mountain, with the help of a 50 power spotting scope, it turned out to be a **BALD EAGLE** taking a bath. It was on a semi-submerged log in the middle of

Whistler Lake. At first there was concern it might be injured, but after several minutes realized what it was doing. By moving around on the log it was able to sink into the lake for a near perfect dunking. After preening for a few minutes the eagle flew off. (G. McKnight)

Oct. 2 On a walk through The Northwest Waterfowl Game Farm and Wildlife Sanctuary near Lake Cassidy, a **BEAR** was observed tearing apart a stump with a hive of upset bees inside. Large populations of **RUFFED GROUSE** have been observed this year. They have been feeding on High-Bush Cranberry and Autumn Olive plantings at the Sanctuary. (Paul Dye)

Oct. 2 A **BARRED OWL** family is still residing in the ravine at Discovery Park. (SAS Hotline)

Oct. 2-3 On a short birdwatch while at the Ellensburg Council several raptors including two **KESTRELS**, six **RED-TAILED HAWKS**, two **MARSH HAWKS**, lots of **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS**, and several **FLICKERS** were seen while driving on the Vantage Highway. **WATER PIPIT**, **MARSH HAWKS**, and **WESTERN MEADOWLARKS** were observed on Sunday. (E. Loerch, T. Spencer)

Oct. 5 A **PIED-BILLED GREBE** has returned to Silver Lake for the third year in a row. (Could it be the same bird?) (M. McKnight)

Oct. 6 A **WHITE-TAILED KITE** flying over the Stillaguamish River near Arlington was a real delight to see. (Sally van Niel)

Oct. 7 The first **SNOW GEESE** were seen near Warm Beach. Maybelle has been watching them for years and says they are a few days early this year. (Maybelle Nichols)

Oct. 9 At the Everett Sewage Lagoon several **WHITE-FRONTED GEESE** and **FRANKLINS GULLS** were reported. (SAS Hotline)

Oct. 9 A perfect day to birdwatch enhanced the field trip to Ricville Farms and the Snohomish Sewage Lagoon. Bird highlights of the farm were a **BALD EAGLE**, an immature **MERLIN**, **RED-TAILED HAWK**, **SHARP-SHINNED HAWK**, **MARSH HAWK**, **WOOD DUCKS**, two **COMMON SNIPES**, **WESTERN MEADOWLARKS**, a flock of **CANADA GEESE**, **STELLER'S JAY**, **BELTED KINGFISHER**, **MARSH WREN**, **BARN SWALLOWS**, **FOX AND SONG SPARROWS**. We heard a **SORA** and some chickadees. A V-flock of approximately 100 **SNOW GEESE** were seen flying high in the blue sky. At the Snohomish Sewage Lagoon we saw **PIED-BILLED GREBE**, **WESTERN GREBES**, **MALLARDS**,

RUDDY DUCKS, RING-NECKED DUCKS, HORNED GREBE, NORTHERN SHOVELER, REDHEAD, AMERICAN WIGEON, BUFFLEHEAD, BONNAPARTE'S GULLS, some MEW GULLS and at least three FRANKLINS GULLS who are not supposed to be here. We came upon three GREATER YELLOWLEGS who obliged us taking close-up pictures. Also seen were a SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, RED-TAILED HAWK, and MARSH HAWK.

- Oct. 9-10 Reported at Leadbetter Point were a family of WHITE TAILED KITES, several BROWN PELICANS and a SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER. (SAS Hotline)
- Oct. 10-11 A GREAT-HORNED OWL was seen in the Dubuque area. (Jan Richards)
- Oct. 12 Five SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS were reported at Twin Rivers Park in Arlington. (Fred Bird)
- Oct. 13 A COOPER'S HAWK was seen flying over a residential area near Silver Lake. A flock of 30-40 CANADA GEESE were flying South over I-5 at Eastmont. (M. McKnight)
- Oct. 13 A RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER was observed in the Dubuque area. (F. Bird)

Please report sightings to:

Terri Spencer/Steve Howard 652-6481
 Fred Bird (Arlington Times) 435-5757
 Jan Richards 334-2781
 Seattle Audubon Hotline 1-642-2854

Or send your sightings to:

Terri Spencer/Steve Howard
 2431 SR 530
 Arlington, WA. 98223

NOVEMBER 19th PROGRAM MEETING

"Project Babe", Woodland Park Zoo's project to return injured birds of prey to the wild will be the subject of a slide program presented by Wayne Buchanan who has been with the program for three years. Despite the fact it is a federal offense to injure or kill eagles, the zoo is continually receiving injured eagles and other raptors. Over the past 11 years, the zoo has rehabilitated more than 30 bald and golden eagles and over 200 hawks, owls, and falcons. Come and learn the treatment of injured eagles and how researchers continue to learn from eagles after their release by tracking their movements. Everett Community College at 7:30 in Room 605.



- ARLINGTON: Mrs. Bruce Bartlett
 Lloyd A. Doty.
- CAMANO ISLAND: L. A. Kringle.
- EVERETT: Eunice Allan.
- EDMONDS: Tom and Marilyn Councell.
- LYNNWOOD: Orval Drinkuth.
- MOUNTLAKE TERRACE: Phyllis Myers.
- MONROE: Dr. and Mrs. Hans Dankers.
- SNOHOMISH: Lisa Jakobowski
 Noah Carraher.

TRUMPETER SWAN PROJECT
 by Martha Jordan

Washington State has the largest number of trumpeter swans in the lower 48 states, with the largest wintering concentration of trumpeters being near Mt. Vernon. However, trumpeters occur throughout our state in smaller groups. Therefore, this winter season the Trumpeter Swan Project will again be collecting information on swans in Washington. Within Washington, we want to determine the distribution and habitat needs of the trumpeter. The Project needs your help as an observer looking for trumpeters and other swans. No special effort is required, just while you are out birding if you note swans, especially trumpeters, please take the time to note some details.

Identification between trumpeter and whistling swans may be difficult to distinguish. If you are uncertain of the species please provide any details observed such as markings on bill (adult or juvenile), shape of head profile, and voice call (if any). For all sightings we would like to have as exact a location as possible on the swans and their activity.

You can assist us by reporting your swan sightings to the Trumpeter Swan Project: (206) 775-0137 or sending them to Martha Jordan, 527-212th St. SW, Bothell, WA 98011.

GOOD NEWS!!! President Reagan signed the PROTECTION ISLAND REFUGE BILL on Friday, October 15th. As soon as appropriations are approved, action can be taken to protect the nesting habitat for over 70% of the marine birds in the state.

A bus tour to N.W. Trek and to the Oak Creek Feeding Station with Extension Naturalist and photographer John Munn is planned for Saturday, February 5th.

Northwest Trek, east of Tacoma, is a unique wildlife park. A 5.5 mile tram tour takes visitors through 600 acres of free roaming bison, caribou, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, deer, moose and elk. An easy walk for young and old passes other animals in their natural surroundings, including bear, timber wolves, otter, beaver, mink, raccoon, and marten. Many species of birds may be seen from the tram and nature trails. The Snowy Owls, Golden and Bald Eagles perching near the entrance allow close up viewing of these birds (rehabilitated residents).

We will continue on to the Oak Creek Feeding Station near Naches where hundreds of elk gather each winter to munch on the alfalfa hay spread out for them. The bulls have their antlers until about March, so this is a great time to see and photograph the elk.

The fee is \$20.00 per person (includes admission to N.W. Trek). Make checks payable to "Elk Tour" and send to John Munn, 3001 Rockefeller, Everett, WA 98201, before January 1st. Pilchuck Audubon members will receive a price break until then.

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Forest Park in Everett. Bring enough lunch for 2 meals, warm clothes, camera, and binoculars. For more information call Steve Loerch, 659-6901.

ATTENTION: ALL ARTISTS Pilchuck Audubon needs some new art work for our membership promotion (membership brochures, flyers, T-shirts).

Your drawings should be suitable for black and white or one-color reproduction. Your material can be approximately 8 x 10 or any part thereof, preferably a panel 8 by 3.5, 8 by 5, or 8 by 7, vertical or horizontal design, or as fillers to be integrated with narrative.

Winning drawings will be selected by the Board Members of PAS. All entries will become the sole and exclusive property of PAS. Prizes will be announced next month.

So come on all you idea people, bring your completed entries to one of our meetings or mail, by February 15, 1983, to PAS, P.O. Box 1618, Everett, WA 98206, Attention: Marge Wiltfong. Any questions? Call Marge, 353-1847.

The annual Christmas Bird Count will be held Sunday, December 19th from dawn to dusk. It will be followed by a potluck at Curt and Bonnie Howard's new home.

The Christmas Bird Count is held each year within a two week period. It was started in the Northeast and was timed to coincide with the time when the trees were leafless.

The idea of the annual count is to find out if birds are disappearing from certain areas, or to see if other birds have migrated into new areas. This was one of the methods used to track the westward expansion of starlings. It is also used as an indication of impacts of different activities of humans, such as clearing of land and the use of pesticides.

Pilchuck Audubon is charged a \$2.00 fee per person to participate in the bird count. This fee helps defray the cost of computer time in compiling the report and the cost of publishing the annual July edition which contains the compilation of all bird counts from across the country. Those who are able may donate money to help cover the cost of Pilchuck's participation in the bird count.

Plan on joining us for a fun day in the field and help contribute to the collection of scientific data. We have had flood conditions, freezing cold and glorious days.

KCTS/9 NATURE PROGRAMS

SUNDAYS 8:00 p.m. NATURE

A major new thirteen-part pictorial survey of our planet's great environmental mysteries. November programs feature diverse topics such as the Serengeti Plains, Caribbean Islands, Costa Rican Rain Forest, and Animal Behavior.

THURSDAYS 8:00 p.m. WILD AMERICA

From fearsome grizzlies to cuddly baby raccoons, Marty Stouffer presents a fascinating discovery of wildlife in our own back yards.

SATURDAYS 8:00 p.m. SURVIVAL SPECIAL

Programs in November will feature Gentle Giants of the Pacific, Elephants, Orangutans, Big Game Animals of the Serengeti Plains.

PEREGRINE POSTER A free 16 by 25 inch full color poster designed to assist in the identification of the Peregrine Falcon is available from the Publications Unit, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

FALL AUDUBON COUNCIL

The meeting, held in Ellensburg October 1st through 3rd, was one of celebration. We were celebrating the passage of the Protection Island Refuge Bill and the passage and signing of the Mount St. Helens National Monument bill. As part of the celebration, Rep. Don Bonker flew in to speak to the group and received a standing ovation. Both the Refuge and the Monument were in his district previous to redistricting.

Don Shuey, President of the Washington Environmental Council, spoke on the plans for WEC for the coming year. We were urged to contribute money or time to the WEC political action committee. If we want to see good environmental legislation pass, or prevent the passage of damaging legislation, we must be willing to contribute.

Lynn Corn, of Rep. Mike Lowry's staff, explained to us how a bill moves through congress. The complicated appropriations and budget process was also detailed. She encouraged Audubon and other environmental groups to become more involved in this process, since budget and appropriation decisions can drastically alter the effectiveness of legislation. She used as an example the Alaskan Lands Bill. Because of budget cuts, there is one person to manage and check enforcement for every 2 million acres of federal land. These budget cuts are effectively gutting the intent of the Alaskan Lands Bill.

There was a slide show on Integrated Pest Management given by Sharon Collman of the King County Extension Service. Integrated Pest Management is the control of insect pests by a combination of many techniques, including biological means and the judicious

and timely use of approved pesticides. Those of us who attended also received a handout on butterflies of the Puget Sound region and how to attract them to our gardens.

Pam Crocker-Davis, Washington State Audubon Lobbyist, spoke on what to expect in the coming legislative session. She explained that the role of the lobbyist should primarily be as a coordinator, keeping the chapters informed about what is happening in Olympia and secondarily actively lobbying bills. Pam also announced plans for a legislative workshop for Audubon members in Olympia in January.

In a meeting of the Conservation Chairs, it was decided that the top priority for the state should be wildlife, followed by water and water quality.

An update was given on current environmental issues in the state such as State game department funding, Sequim Bay Marina and endrin usage in the state.

Do you want to learn more about Audubon and environmental issues? Would you like to meet people who care about the health of our planet? Then come to the next Audubon Council in Ellensburg next Spring!

1982-83 PAS BOARD

PRESIDENT	Jan van Niel	778-7568
V. PRESIDENT	Curt Howard	652-9619
SECRETARY	Joyce Kelley	568-5974
TREASURER	Gerald McKnight	337-4777
CONSERVATION	Sally van Niel	778-7568
MEMBERSHIP	Marge Wiltfong	353-1847
EDUCATION	Eileen Loerch	659-6901
NEWSLETTER	Marianne McKnight	337-4777
FINANCE	Susie Schaefer	771-8165
FIELD TRIPS	Steve Loerch	659-6901

M 11

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 _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

For additional information contact Marge Wiltfong at 353-1847.

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.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL | \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL | \$17.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY | \$32.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN FAMILY | \$19.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING | \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORTING | \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTING | \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DONOR | \$500.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE | \$1500.00 |

"PROFILE" SUBSCRIPTION (Please make checks payable to Pilchuck Audubon Society) \$5.00

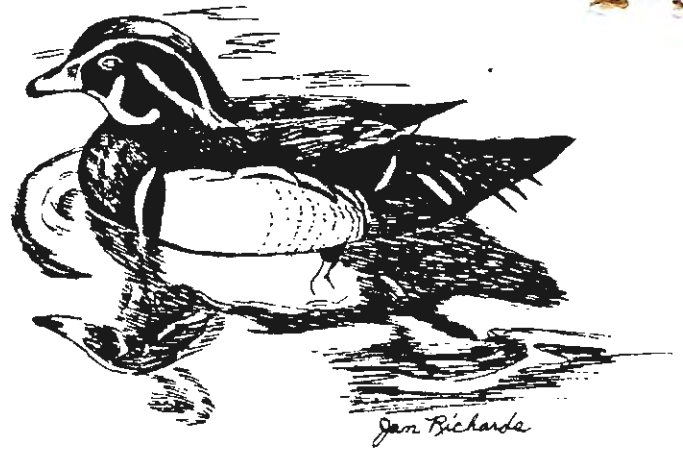
WOOD DUCKS
by Eileen Loerch

The male wood duck is considered by many to be the most beautiful duck in North America. His orange-red eye and pink and orange bill contrast sharply with his crested purple and green irridescent head. The purple-brown chest neatly dotted with white, the beige sides and the greens, purples, and blues of the wings and back add to this bird's near gaudy appearance. To attempt to accurately depict this bird in a painting or photograph is a supreme challenge; to describe it in words is impossible. This exquisite bird can only be fully appreciated by seeing it with one's own eyes.

The wood duck lives in marshes, ponds, and sluggish streams in wooded areas. A "dabbling" duck, the wood duck feeds by tipping its tail in the air and reaching plants and small invertebrates on the bottom. They may also feed on plants which float along the surface of the water. Some of their favorite foods include duckweed, smartweed, water lily seeds, pond grass and grass seeds, tubers, coontail, and skunk cabbage. They will also eat aquatic insects and are especially fond of spiders. Wood ducks also eat more nuts and berries than any other American duck. Acorns are apparently a "duck delicacy." One wood duck that was shot had 56 acorns in its throat and crop!

Wood ducks court and pair during fall and winter. The male and female select a cavity in a tree 10 to 50 feet high for a nest. The greyish-brown female is responsible for the 30 days of incubation of the 10 to 12 eggs she lays.

When the young hatch, the female calls to the ducklings from the ground. The duck-



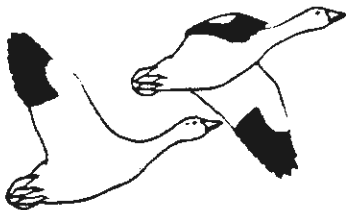
lings, equipped with sharp clawed feet, climb out of the nesting cavity and jump to the ground, an amazing feat, considering the nests are at times 50 feet high. Wood ducks prefer nests near water, although they will nest up to a half mile from water. Nests which are higher or over water experience higher nesting success, probably because predators find these nests more difficult to reach.

In the early 1900's, wood ducks were threatened with extinction due to destruction of habitat, nesting trees, and over-hunting. Hunting for wood ducks was prohibited from 1918 through 1941. Today, wood ducks have increased in numbers so they are not threatened with extinction at this time. However, destruction of their habitat could change their status in the future. Wood ducks not only nest in tree cavities, they will also use nest boxes. If you live near a pond, marsh, or stream, you might want to build a wood duck nesting box. Instructions to build a nest box will be in next month's Profile.

***** NOVEMBER 20TH IS DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER *****

Pilchuck Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1618, Everett, Washington 98206



Gerald & Marianne McKnight
3526 - 113th Pl SE
Everett, WA

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

98204