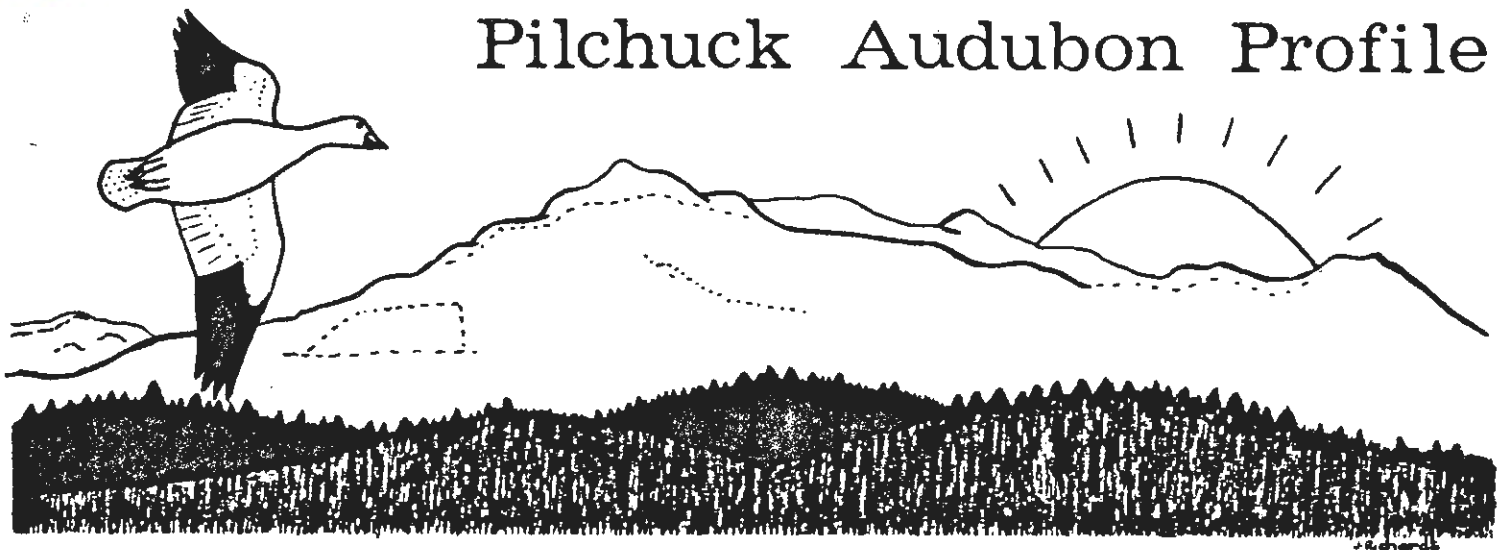


# Pilchuck Audubon Profile



DECEMBER 1983

VOLUME XII NUMBER 4

## PILCHUCK AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

### DECEMBER 10th, SATURDAY

#### FIELD TRIP: SAN JUAN FERRY/ WHALE MUSEUM AT FRIDAY HARBOR

Leaders: Curt and Bonnie Howard (652-9619). Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point exit 206 off I-5. We will take the 8:40 a.m. ferry out of Anacortes as foot passengers. Fare is \$4.40 round trip, half fare for seniors. An amazing assortment of bird life can be seen in comfort from the Washington State Ferries. We will get off at Friday Harbor and visit the Whale Museum (admission \$2.00, \$1.00 for children and seniors). We will return on the 1:25 p.m. ferry, arriving in Anacortes at 3:15 p.m. Bring walking shoes, warm clothes, lunch (food available on the ferry and at Friday Harbor) and binoculars.

### DECEMBER 31st, SATURDAY

#### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT/ FIELD TRIP AND NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

Leaders: Sally and Jan van Niel (778-7568). Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5. Bring a lunch, binoculars, and warm clothing. A potluck will follow at Bonnie and Curt Howard's at 5:00 p.m. See article on last page.

### JANUARY 8th, SUNDAY

#### ANNUAL BALD EAGLE SURVEY

Leaders: Sally and Jan van Niel (778-7568). Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5. This is our annual bald eagle count sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. Our report is given to the Washington Department of Game who compiles the data for the state. This in turn is put into a national report. Bring a sack lunch, binoculars and warm clothing.

### JANUARY 9th, MONDAY

#### BOARD MEETING

Meet at 7:30, McKnights (337-4777). Open to all members.

### JANUARY 14th, SATURDAY

#### FIELD TRIP: SKI TOUR, STEVENS PASS

Leader: Curt Howard (652-9619). An easy ski tour (cross country) for the beginning skier. We will choose several areas along the Stevens Pass Highway and, depending on snow conditions that day, pick the best spot for an approximately 4 hour easy tour. If you don't have your own skis, rentals are available in the Everett area. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the lower parking lot at Everett Community College. If you have any questions about difficulty of the tour, rentals, etc. call Curt.

### JANUARY 20th, FRIDAY

#### MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETING

Everett Community College at 7:30 p.m. in room 605.

### JANUARY 21st/22nd, SATURDAY & SUNDAY

#### FIELD TRIP: MARBLEMOUNT EAGLE SANC.

Details next month. Reservations required this year, call Bonnie Howard (652-9619).

PRESIDENT'S CORNER  
By Curt Howard

Random notes and chatter. The Snow Goose population appears to be way down this year. Only 6,000 birds were counted by October 23. The last report shows about 24,500 geese are in the area (Skagit Flats). Of that number there are only 5 or 6 immatures. Since Snow Geese start to breed in their third year on the nesting grounds, the low number of immatures this year bodes ill for the future population.

The poor hatch on Wrangel Island has been reported by the Soviets, and is a result of late July snow storms on the nesting grounds.

The Washington State Game Department reports they are closely monitoring the harvest and feeding habits of the geese. If cold weather drives them into the fields, they report, it is likely that the open season will be subject to an emergency closure.

Slides. PAS has frequent opportunities to present programs to other organizations. This is one of the many ways the Education Committee, with Jane Erickson as Chairperson, has of spreading information about us and our goals. To do this we need some of those super slides you the membership have taken. These slides would also be used for our identification series at the beginning of each program meeting. To share your slides, see Jane or myself, we accept outright donations or will have a duplicate made.

I am also looking for the use of some of those super slides of Washington State scenery, birds, plants and wildlife to use during a 20-minute presentation to the public on January 19. Please see Curt.

Pilchuck Audubon needs a librarian to evaluate, catalog, store and circulate the many books, pamphlets, documents and other accumulated information. This is a good chance to establish a new function within PAS. I have lots of ideas to talk over. If you are interested, see Curt.

There is reportedly a new counting device for determining the number of birds in a large flock. The report says this new federal counting scheme is experiencing two problems which seem inherent in the system. Census takers are getting skewed results from failure to divide by two and by experiencing difficulty in getting the birds to turn their head. The new scheme count the number of eyes and divides by two.

See you at the Christmas Bird Count and Potluck --- and at the Eagle Count. Have a happy holiday season!

SLUDGE SYMPOSIUM - NOVEMBER 18TH  
By Anne Grubb, Conservation

A symposium entitled "The Cost of Clean Water, The Value of a New Resource", was held at Battelle Northwest in Seattle on November 18th. It was funded by the WA State Department of Ecology and sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Washington and the Washington Environmental Council. Its purpose was to present to invited "opinion makers" some practical and innovative approaches to recycling wastewater residue, or SLUDGE, and to promote discussion regarding the problems and solutions to its use and disposal.

Keynote speakers and panelists included: Dr. Dale Cole, College of Forest Resources, University of Washington; Elliott Roosevelt, author of The Conservators; Dr. Charles A. Sorber, College of Engineering, University of Texas; Bob Bastian of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Ernesta Barnes, EPA Administrator, Region 10 (WEPA); Dr. John Beare, Health Director for Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS); and John Spencer, Deputy Director of the WA State Department of Ecology (WDOE).

Panel discussions brought out many public concerns regarding the definition and characteristics of sludge. These included the potential health hazards involved with its land application, i.e., heavy metals and other inorganic contaminants, bacterial and other organic pollutants. Other concerns were of limiting its use in recreation areas and on or near clean water systems.

Proponents of sludge as a recyclable resource, and there are many, while acknowledging that more research must be conducted in this relatively new field, cited numerous case studies which demonstrate the feasibility of using sludge, in different forms, as nutrient-rich fertilizer in agriculture, forestry and in land reclamation projects.

According to the WDOE, WEPA, and DSHS, criteria, guidelines and standards have been developed and established for site selection, and application, "acceptable" health risks and for the monitoring of all phases of operation of a sludge application program.

Representatives of these agencies stressed the importance of public awareness of sludge as a recyclable resource and emphasized their willingness to share "state of the art" information with all of us.

If you are interested in additional information on sludge, please contact Anne Grubb at 668-4462 (Evenings).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 15

- Oct. 9 A GREAT EGRET was seen in southwest Washington near the mouth of the Palix River. (Joyce Kelley)
- Oct. 10 Hundreds of WATER PIPITS were observed sitting on wires in the Potholes area of Eastern Washington. This is typical migrating habit for them. (Curt and Bonnie Howard)
- Oct. 14 A BROWN CREEPER and two GOLDEN-CROWNED KIGLETS were seen at a residence in Edmonds. (E.G. Burrows)
- Oct. 15 An injured COMMON POORWILL was found NE of Burlington. It is being rehabilitated in a veterinarian's office. (Joyce Kelley)
- Oct 16 A PILEATED WOODPECKER was heard and then observed flying along the woods' edge at Terri Spencer's residence.
- Oct. 16 - Nov. 2 The immature SANDHILL CRANE seen near Island Crossing, Arlington, stayed for three weeks feeding and resting before continuing its journey southward. (T. Spencer)
- Oct. 17 Eight RED-TAILED HAWKS were seen sitting on fence posts between the south end of the Everett Sewage Ponds and the northern side of Steamboat Slough along I-5. This was just on the east side in a 5 minute period of time. (Terri Spencer)
- Oct. 17 A NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD was observed at the Snohomish Sewage Pond. (Fred Bird)
- Oct. 17 RUFFED GROUSE continue to be abundant in the Dubugue area. (Jan Richards)
- Oct. 18 A GREAT BLUE HERON was sitting on the roof of Tom Councill's house in Edmonds watching their fish pond.
- Oct. 18 A TRUMPETER SWAN was observed at the mouth of the Nooksack River near Bellingham. (Martha Jordan)
- Oct. 26 A BALD EAGLE flew over Terri Spencer at her job site. The day seemed much brighter afterwards.
- Oct. 29 A trio of beautiful HARLEQUIN DUCKS and TERNS were seen at Camano Island State Park. (Elizabeth Gustafson)
- Oct. A confirmed GREAT EGRET was observed at the north end of Port Susan. (Larry Brewer, Kristina Nielsen)
- Oct. Six WHITE-FRONTED GEESE were seen at Blackman's Lake near Snohomish. They have been seen there before. This is an uncommon bird to see, so they were probably in migration. (Sylvia Quinn)
- Oct. A RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH was seen in the backyard of an Edmonds residence. (Marilyn Councill)
- Oct. A CATTLE EGRET was spotted in a pasture off Hiway 92 near Granite Falls. (Elizabeth Gustafson)
- Oct. A SHARP-SHINNED HAWK was observed feeding on a songbird on Burrow's Island near Anacortes. (Martha Jordan)
- Nov. 1 A VARIED THRUSH and WESTERN MEADOWLARK were seen on the Skagit Flats. (Steven Howard)
- Nov. 4 A GREAT HORNED OWL was spotted near a residence in the Kackaman Road area near Arlington. (Mary Esther Kelly)
- Nov. 8 A SHARP-SHINNED HAWK flew over Everett Mall Way near I-5. (T. Spencer)
- Nov. 8 A NORTHERN SHRIKE was reported in the Silvana Area. (Fred Bird)
- Nov. 11 Birding from his delivery truck around March Point, Steven Howard saw hundreds of WESTERN GREEBE and BRANT. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER, HORNED GREEBE, BUFFLEHEAD, PIED-BILLED GREBE, a BELTED KINGFISHER, five NORTHERN SHOVELERS and some unidentified LOONS were also seen.
- Nov. 13 A RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE was heard near the residence of T. Spencer.
- Nov. 15 A COMMON LOON was seen on the Snohomish River under the Hewitt Avenue trestle. (Steven Howard)
- Nov. RUFFED GROUSE were spotted at the residence of Curt and Bonnie Howard near Warm Beach.
- ADDENDUM: Last month Fred Bird reported seeing an ALBINO BLACK SWIFT. In fact, after consultation with experts, it was decided to be an immature BARN SWALLOW. The behavior of perching a lot gave the swallow away. Swifts very rarely perch, they only land to nest.
- E.G. Burrows has reported quite a variety of bird life at his feeder, in his yard or eating berries at his residence. He has seen daily RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES (2), BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES (4-5), RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEES (2-4), NORTHERN FLICKERS (2), DARK-EYED JUNCOS (6-10), STELLER'S JAYS (2-4), and HOUSE FINCHES (4-5). On at least one occasion he has had a BEWICK'S WREN, WINTER WREN, DOWNY WOODPECKER, FOX SPARROW, BUSHTIT, and CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE.

## NORTHWEST TREK AND OAK CREEK BUS TRIP

Pilchuck Audubon Society and Snohomish County Cooperative Extension Service with Naturalist John Munn will co-sponsor a bus trip on Saturday, February 4 to Northwest Trek, east of Tacoma, and Oak Creek Feeding Station near Naches.

This was such a successful trip last year that many of you were unable to attend because the bus filled up so fast. This year, make your reservations early. The fee is \$23 per person (which includes admission to NW Trek). Checks should be made payable to "Elk Tour" and sent to John Munn, 3001 Rockefeller, Everett, WA 98201.

We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Lynnwood Park and Ride Lot. Bring enough lunch for two meals. Warm short-order food is also available at NW Trek. Expect to arrive back in Lynnwood at about 9:00 p.m.

Our morning will be spent at NW Trek Wildlife Park. A comfortable, Trek Tram will take us through 5-1/2 miles of adventure. Last year bison, elk, moose, white-tailed and black-tailed deer, wild turkeys, swans, and eagles were seen.

In the afternoon, we will visit the Oak Creek Feeding Station near Naches. This station feeds a large number of elk annually, and this is another great opportunity for the photographer. George Shirndel, Department of Game, who manages this station will give us a short talk.

Call Bonnie Phillips-Howard (652-9619) for additional information.

\$  
\$  
\$ Pilchuck Audubon can get a 1% cash \$  
\$ rebate on all purchases from OLSON'S \$  
\$ FOOD STORES. The money will help to \$  
\$ replenish the depleted general fund. \$  
\$ Send or give your cash register \$  
\$ slips to Hal Hanson, 925 Walnut, \$  
\$ Edmonds, WA 98020. \$  
\$ \$

## PUGET SOUND WATER QUALITY CONFERENCE Report by Bill Lider

The Puget Sound Water Quality Conference held Friday, September 30th was called to state the water quality problems in the Sound, to suggest possible solutions, and to work for a synthesis of ideas. Represented were the various governmental agencies responsible for setting policies, industrial "users" of the Sound, resource users such as

fishermen, sportsmen, etc., environmental groups, and concerned citizens.

The Conference highlighted the growing concern of "non-point" pollutions. Non-point pollution includes sources such as runoff from agricultural lands, highways and streets, accidental waste discharges, and fall-out from the atmosphere. It appears that a good portion of the problems in Tacoma's Commencement Bay and Seattle's Duwamish River may have been caused by non-point pollutants. Dr. Malins of NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) recently completed a study of sediments in Commencement Bay and the Duwamish River and has conclusive evidence relating cancers in bottom-dwelling fishes to the toxic chemicals present in the sediments. To compare background levels of toxic chemicals, Dr. Malins' group looked at sediments near Mukilteo and Everett and was somewhat surprised to find relatively high concentrations of P.C.B.'s, heavy metals, and many other toxic chemicals. The finger seems to point toward the "non-point" polluters. The NOAA study ended at Everett, but certainly there are other "HOT SPOTS" that will be discovered in the future. Most certainly further studies are needed.

The other major contribution of the conference was the announcement of the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority by Donald Moos of the Department of Ecology. The members of the Authority, appointed by Governor Spellman, represent a diverse slice of interests from Seattle Audubon to ARCO. Brock Evans, vice-president of National Audubon, addressed the conference and related the successful results of a similar authority in the San Francisco Bay Area appointed to improve that bay's water quality. The San Francisco Authority had the means to enforce its decisions. It remains to be seen if the Governor's new commission will have the same powers, or be another bureaucratic paper tiger.

Twenty years ago a similar conference led to a major effort to clean up human wastes. It is hoped that this conference will produce a successful effort to clean up toxic chemical wastes.

### WANTED!

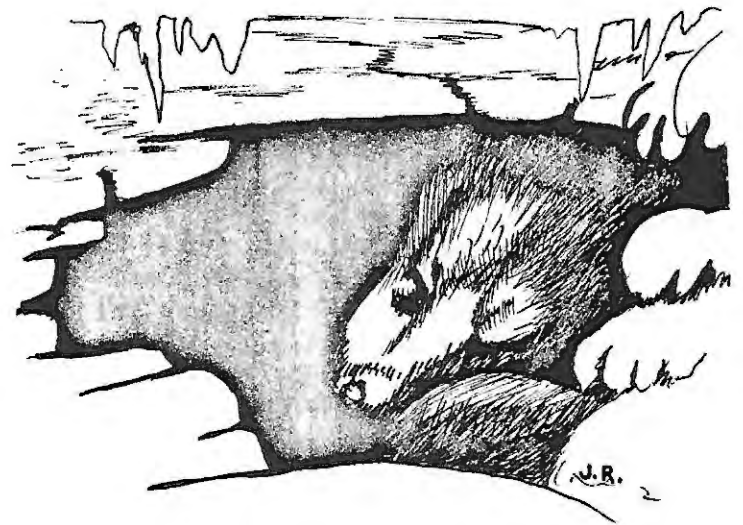
We need a volunteer CPA, accountant or auditor to examine our financial records and make recommendations to the Treasurer and Finance Committee. Please contact Gerald McKnight (337-4777) if you are interested in helping PAS with this.

# Kid's Corner

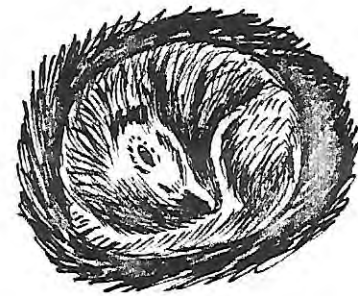


## WINTER-SLEEPING WILDLIFE-HIBERNATION

Some animals need protection from cold and scarcity of food in winter. They pass into the deep sleep of hibernation. Animals that can store up enough body fats are able to hibernate. These animals can lower their pulses and body temperatures. Most grow drowsy in mid-September.



Black bears, grizzlies, polar bears, and Alaskan brown bears sleep through part or all of the winter. They are the only large mammals on this continent that hibernate.



A woodchuck gets very fat before it heads for the highest, driest chamber of its underground burrow system. Possums, skunks or rattlesnakes sometimes try to share the chuck's burrow.

Marmots, cousins to woodchucks in higher elevations, often sleep longer.



Most birds migrate in winter, but a few do hibernate. Poorwills search out crevices and deep canyons in the south. The Hopi Indians called them, "the sleeping ones".

Ruby-throated hummingbirds spend nights in a state of sleep much like hibernation.

Some fishes hibernate. Carp burrow into the mud and become dormant until spring.

LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP

Release by WA State Audubon Office

LET'S START RECYCLING!!!

By Anne Grubb, Conservation

Want to know what important environmental issues your state legislature will be discussing in 1984? Want to know how you can be involved in the legislative process on the issues about which you care? Then attend the workshop offered January 7th by the Audubon Society and the Washington Environmental Council. The workshop will be in Seattle (location to be announced) on January 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Like last years workshop, we will start the sessions with issue briefings. Briefing papers will be available on about 20 legislative issues. There will be a \$2.00 charge for the complete packet of briefing papers. Part of the workshop will be devoted to learning and practicing some of the skills needed to deal with legislative issues. There will be simulations, small group work, and plenty of audience participation.

We will conclude the workshop with what may become a workshop tradition--"Olyopoly". With this specially created board game, we will take a look at how a bill really moves through the legislative process, how "Chance" and other unknown factors aid or impede a bill's progress, how "Go directly to Rules" can pop up at the most inconvenient times, and so on. We are hoping the workshop will be as educational as it was last year and a bit more fun.

If you would like more information about the workshop or about the Audubon Legislative Project, just complete the form below and return to: Audubon Legislative Project, P.O. Box 462, Olympia, WA 98507.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to attend the workshop in Seattle, January 7th.

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm interested but would like more information on the Seattle workshop.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like more information on the Audubon Legislative Project.

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my contribution to the Audubon Legislative Project.

Name

Address

Phone

April, 1984, is Recycling Month and in light of our increasing concerns with garbage incineration and additional landfill needs, we must begin NOW to reorient public thinking to the advantages and incentives involved with recycling many otherwise discarded household items.

With the holidays coming up and the additional paper, cardboard, bottles and cans that are generated, let's begin to get in the habit of setting these things aside for recycling. Keep a couple of grocery bags in a kitchen corner or in the garage for recyclable items; better yet, use one of your garbage cans exclusively for recyclables and another for non-recyclables such as plastics, hazardous materials and "kitchen wastes".

The Volunteers of America have set up recycling centers in Snohomish, Monroe and Lake Stevens. The work of sorting and preparing recyclable materials, as well as the profits that are realized from their sale, provide jobs and independence for many developmentally disabled adults. It is Dave Shea of the VOA who has proposed curbside pickup of recyclables countywide - he needs and deserves our support.

Please take the time to find your nearest recycling center or drop-off bins and give it a try. You will probably find that it is easier than you thought. If your local supermarket does not provide recycling bins, urge the manager to do so.

Pilchuck Audubon and its recycling committee are working very closely with the Recycling Task Force, Snohomish County Council and Volunteers of America to make recycling a way of life in our communities in an effort to alleviate some of our garbage woes. Please help.

Here are some guidelines for recyclables:

Glass need not be sorted by color as long as it is NOT BROKEN. Labels do not have to be soaked off.

"Tin" cans, such as for soup, pet food, etc., must be rinsed out and DRY to prevent rusting. Labels need not be peeled off.

Keep newspapers and magazines separated and please, no "junk mail".

Christmas gift wrap is not recyclable due to the additives that make it shiny, metallic, etc.

## WILD BIRD SEED SALE

Just in time for the winter feeding season, PAS again has Black Russian sunflower seeds available for sale. These sunflower seeds have a softer shell than the white-striped sunflower and therefore easier for small birds to open. They are about 70% kernal as compared to 57% for the white-striped sunflower and are higher in fat content for more energy. Perfect for your winter visitors.

Cost will be \$6.50 (tax included) for ten (10) pounds. Minimum order is ten pounds.

To obtain seed call the nearest depot listed below to arrange for pickup. Delivery to monthly program meetings can also be arranged.

Marysville/Stanwood	Curt Howard	652-9619
Everett	Gerald McKnight	337-4777
Snohomish	Joyce Kelley	568-5974
Lynnwood/Edmonds	Jan van Niel	778-7568

### STATUS REPORT

#### OLIVINE'S GARBAGE BURNING PLANT

By Mike Grubb, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Solid Waste

The Olivine Corporation of Bellingham has submitted a proposal to the City of Everett to construct and operate a municipal solid waste incinerator on Smith Island, on land owned by Buse Lumber Co. north of 28th Place NE and west of Union Slough. The proposed facility would consist of two dual-chamber incinerators, a 12,800 square foot refuse collection building and associated auxiliary components. Olivine has also proposed to use the ash from the incinerator as fill material on eighteen acres of land adjacent to the facility.

The City of Marysville, Rubatino Refuse Removal and Northwest Garbage are the three local waste haulers who have given tentative agreement to supply a total of 52,000 tons of solid waste to the incinerator per year. Incineration would reduce the weight of the garbage 70% and the volume 90%. Steam generated by the incinerator would be piped to the Buse mill to be used for kiln drying of lumber.

Several permits must be obtained by Olivine and an environmental impact statement (EIS) must be completed before the incinerator becomes a reality. At a scoping meeting for the preparation of a draft EIS,

the following environmental concerns were raised by Pilchuck Audubon Society:

1. Deterioration of air quality, by emission of particulate, noxious odors, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and dioxins.
2. Contribution of emissions to acid rain.
3. Problems associated with the disposal of ash on-site, including the potential for leaching of heavy metals which would have an adverse effect on water quality and fish habitat.
4. Potential for flooding at the site.
5. The effect of the burning of garbage on recycling efforts.

All of these issues will be addressed in the EIS. Public hearings will be scheduled in the future, and those dates will be published in the Profile.

If you care to comment or would like additional information on this issue, please contact Mike Grubb, 668-4462 (evenings).

### PORT SUSAN & STANWOOD SEWAGE LAGOON

By Sally van Niel

The field trip to Port Susan Bay and the Stanwood Sewage Lagoon took place in spite of very windy and wet weather. The participants saw 49 species of birds including some rather unusual ones. While we were out overlooking the bay, we saw a bald eagle wheeling overhead. In addition we looked at the shorebirds in a nearby field and saw many dunlin, black-bellied plover, killdeer, and two red knots. On the way back to the cars we were lucky enough to see a red-tailed hawk calmly sitting in a nearby tree, a large flock of pine siskin and ruby and golden-crowned kinglet within 20 feet.

We stopped in Stanwood and saw black crowned night herons roosting in some conifers, as well as one lonely bird sitting in a birch tree. We continued on to Smith Island and saw some snow geese out on the water as well as some meadowlarks in the fields. As we were walking toward the dike, a northern shrike flew off.

On our last stop for the day we saw approximately 6000 green-winged teal resting and sleeping on the water. As we stood there looking for other kinds of birds, we saw three snow geese fly 20 feet overhead. The day ended with another red-tailed hawk fighting the wind and then suddenly swooping down for his prey. When he missed he tried again, to no avail. Our hungry hawk took off as we drove away.

## WOOD DUCK EXPERIENCES

By Harold Reade, PAS Member

Our first observation of a wood duck hatch is a story in itself:

A nest box for flickers was fastened to a tree at the southeast corner of the lawn. The flickers took it but found it too close to the house for comfort and did not stay. The flickers appeared to accept the top of an alder at the northeast corner. To accommodate them I moved the box to the alder, about 40 feet from the corner of the house and 30 feet off the ground.

A wood duck hen decided she wanted it. The hole, big enough for flickers, was too small for her. She would fly to the box and bounce off. I went up to adjust the hole to her size only to find she had forestalled me. The box was floored with duck eggs.

During incubation she would fly down the far side of the tree, through the woods to a pond, get some food, fly back to her nest box and squeeze through the hole.

About 10 a.m. I heard a clicking noise like a squirrel cutting cones. A falling duckling would hit a branch, bounce, hit the ground, bounce, and run over to join mom and the family. The sound was made by the duckling bouncing from branch to branch.

The ducklings did not need a wire screen to climb the inside of their box; nor an elevator to get to the ground.

The hen took her brood away. The family was not seen again although she has been back each year.

I counted 16 wood ducks on the lawn one October morning. Beyond being able to know this years ducks by immature markings from the adult birds from past years, I no longer know who is who.

At an early age the young drake shows a faint white line from back of the eye to the throat that on maturity becomes a white bar joined to the white throat patch. The hen develops the white eye ring only on approaching maturity. Her distinguishing feature is the lack of the white line on the cheek of the drake.

Conditions for observing wood ducks have greatly changed over the years. When we began about eight years ago, we caught glimpses of the ducks in the trees or on the path about 100 feet from the house. Our appearance outside sent the ducks scolding to a pond back in the woods. If we tried for a closer view, the ducks left. After they gained confidence, as many as ten ducks have appeared on the railing next to the breakfast nook five feet from where we sit.

Because I believed that few if any ducklings survived in the woods, I decided to try raising some ducklings where I could feed them. Paul Dye advised that I would find dead ducklings without reason. Three years ago I got six eggs from him and hatched them under a banty, resulting in one infertile egg, one weak duckling and four very lively ones. I dug angleworms with four baby ducks about my feet. Last year we raised four, this year six. Laying mash pellets have proved to be adequate food.

The ducklings were delighted with their swimming pool, a plastic pan about two feet square and four inches deep. I put a piece of two by four for a step into their pool. They soon outgrew the step, skooting over the edge into or out of the pool.

Misinformation in national magazines has been entertaining. One writer stated that the mother lifted her babies to the ground. They don't, their mouths are not big enough. Peg, my wife, watched a brood leaving a tree box about thirty feet from the southeast corner of the house. A baby duck sat in the nest hole with his mother on the ground below him (about twelve feet). The hen flew up into the nest and pushed her infant out. Then the rest followed, one or two at a time, beating the air with their stubby wings and landing about six feet from the tree. With a feeder she had been using at the base of the tree and water about fifty feet away, we anticipated she would rear her brood in the yard. Instead she took them off through the woods and we never saw them again.

Another writer wrote that the ducklings required the drop from nest to ground to activate their instincts. Our banty-hatched ducks proved otherwise. They were hatched on the ground, did not leave the ground until with their own power. Yet, they are natural wild ducks except that they show us an amount of trust.

A wood hen and a couple of drakes give me a thrill by walking up to me when I speak to them.

In the middle of November we are still visited by six wood drakes and hens, which is itself new. Heretofore they have left in mid summer and returned in March.

### THANK YOU PAS MEMBERS!

Thank you to all who have mailed their receipts from Olson's food stores. This fund raiser is going well as PAS gets 1% of these receipts. Hal Hanson, our Olson's receipt person, has received \$35 more making the total gain for Pilchuck \$70 from Olson receipts. Be sure to keep up the good work.



## FAREWELL PAULA

Paula Wellnitz is moving to South Dakota December 1. She says it has been nice knowing all the Pilchuck Audubon people. Also if anyone comes near South Dakota, they can find bed and breakfast with Paula in Eagle Butte. Just ask where she lives at the Catholic Church.

Pilchuck Audubon will miss Paula and wishes her all the best in South Dakota.

## COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE BUS TRIP

The March 31st - April 1st weekend bus trip to tour the Gorge is being finalized. We will bus to the Portland area on Saturday spending the night at the Mencha Retreat Center in the lower gorge area. Mike Sprenger, Marine Resource Specialist, Columbia River, Washington State University, will join us Saturday showing us aspects and features of the river. Saturday evening after dinner we will be treated to a presentation by Mike. Nancy Russell of Friends of the Columbia River Gorge will be our guide on Sunday for a tour of the Gorge.

Call Bonnie Phillips-Howard (652-9619) for reservations.

## REPORT: SKYKOMISH STATE HATCHERY AND HIKE TO WALLACE FALLS By Keith Lehn

The mountains in the east were extremely clear as we left our house and the sun was trying to break through the gray clouds. It was rather cold but a promising day.

By the time we reached the hatchery near Gold Bar, the mountains were lost in mist, the sun had completely disappeared and a brisk wind was blowing.

Nevertheless, more than 200 men, women, and children were on hand for the tour of the hatchery and observed the "round-up" capture (with nets), sorting, and killing of the salmon and the stripping of eggs from the female and then the fertilization. Subsequent to the demonstration of the fertilization process, the facilities were reviewed by all. It was possible to see the trays where the eggs are hatched and tiny fry with large egg sacs still attached. We also saw rearing ponds and the latest type of fish ladder where the adult fish "enter" the hatchery on their return from the sea. Finally, everyone was privileged to feed the fingerlings in the rearing ponds, which was fun for all as the little fish ferociously

attacked the surface of the water seeking the tasty (to them) pellets.

After the hatchery tour, and despite the cold, seven hardy souls went on to Wallace Falls State Park for lunch and a hike. Although very cold at the hatchery, the trees at the park slowed the wind and it felt warm enough for a few of us to eat lunch on the picnic tables.

The hike went well and although we spotted only one species of bird, a flock of kinglets, some of us did capture enough chanterelle mushrooms for a tasty addition to our evening meal.

We hiked along the river trail as far as the first viewpoint of the falls. What seemed to be a mist blowing from the falls turned into a light rain for our return trip to our cars, but no real rain fell until we were safely on our way home.

All in all a very nice day despite the weather.

## PUBLIC HEARING REPORT NAVY TO PORT OF EVERETT By Anne Grubb, Conservation

On Thursday, November 17th, a standing-room-only meeting was held in Everett to allow the public to voice opinions on the proposed Navy base.

The Everett City Council and the Port Commissioners listened for many hours to heated discussion of such concerns as increased crime and prostitution, inability of social services to meet the needs of an increased population, potential competition with local labor unions and loss of natural ocean views by Port Gardner residents.

Proponents of the the Navy base (the majority) cited the benefits of increased employment and revenues for the community, improved real estate markets, business growth, and general concern for national defense.

Unfortunately, while a very small minority voiced concern over possible contamination from the proposed nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, only Pilchuck Audubon Society raised questions about such environmental issues as garbage disposal, harbor dredging and its contamination, loss of wetlands, potential toxic spills and long-term effects on fish and wildlife. Pilchuck Audubon has insisted that an Environmental Impact Statement be prepared before any decisions are made and that these considerations be taken into account.

AUDUBON LEGISLATIVE PROJECT  
Release by WA State Audubon Office

In 1982, Washington State Audubon members embarked on a project almost unique in Audubon history by hiring a legislative coordinator to represent Audubon's conservation concerns in the state capital. Since that inauspicious beginning almost three years ago, the state office has grown and matured into a very effective force in Olympia.

In year one, Audubon's novice Legislative Coordinator, Pam Crocker-Davis, spent a lot of time learning the ropes in Olympia--finding out how seasoned 'white-hat' lobbyists operate, how the legislative system really works, and how to organize and work against environmentally damaging legislation. It was a baptism by fire for Pam and for Audubon and both came through with flying colors. That was the year Chicago Bridge and Iron did not get a permit to build at Cherry Point and Northern Teir did not gain approval to build a pipeline. Most importantly, Audubon discovered that its system of chapters and members in every legislative district made it particularly well suited for effectiveness in Olympia.

In 1983 Audubon returned to Olympia one year older and one year wiser. Audubon chapters and individuals contributed over \$12,000 to the Olympia effort that year. The money allowed Audubon to publish in conjunction with the Washington Environmental Council, the bi-weekly Olympia Bulletin; to have a toll free hot line which conservationists could call for up to the minute information; and to operate a phone tree which, within a couple hours could direct constituent calls to just about every legislator.

That was also the year the legislature approved \$8.8 million to acquire McNeil Island, decided to make reduction and recycling the methods of choice in dealing with hazardous wastes, and approved the 7-digit license plate bill to increase Non-Game income. That was the year Audubon moved from the purely defensive and reactive role to a more aggressive, proactive role.

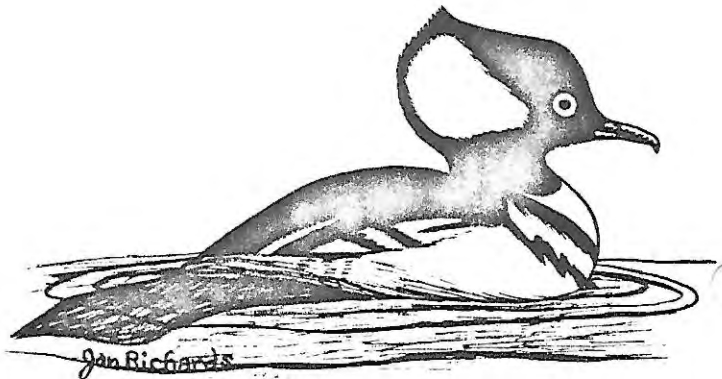
The Legislative Coordinator, along with numerous Audubon volunteers drafted a bill to ban endrin. They lined up sponsors to introduce and fight for the bill, and worked to persuade legislators to vote for the bill. Audubon succeeded in getting that bill through the Senate. The bill died in the House, but only after the head of the Agriculture Department agreed to phase the use of the pesticide out administratively.

The 1984 session is fast approaching, and again, Audubon will be in Olympia both on the defensive, to protect against environmental losses, and on the offensive, working for environmental gains. Audubon will be working on many of last year's important issues - clean air, hazardous wastes, shorelines protection - but in addition, some important gains will be sought in the areas of riparian habitat protection, acid rain, forest practices, and worker/community right to know.

Audubon is able to expand the legislative program in other ways as well. For instance, the Olympia Office opened November 1st, two full months before the start of the session (and two months earlier than ever before!). This extra time gives us the chance to do some things which needed doing badly last year, such as straightening out our mailing list, providing more information to chapters, offering first-rate legislative workshops (see article on page 6), and publishing the Interim Action Report.

The reason Audubon has been able to expand its program this year is simple. National Audubon has agreed to match every dollar we raise in the state with a dollar from National. That makes every dollar from the chapters and from individuals twice as important as it was last year. A direct mail solicitation will be going out from the state office early in December. This will be the only fund-raiser for the coming year and we hope Auduboners across the state will respond as generously this year as they did last year. With the program we have planned for 1984 we will need to raise about \$17,000 in the state. We fell short of that last year but feel confident that Audubon can meet the challenge.

If you would like more information on the Audubon Legislative Project, just write: Audubon Legislative Project, P.O. Box 462, Olympia, WA 98507.



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS & CHAIR POSITIONS FOR 1983 - 1984

\* President: 652-9619  
 Curt Howard  
 7207 Lakewood Road  
 Stanwood, WA 98292

\* Vice President: 776-0247  
 Tom Councill  
 18505 - 83rd Ave  
 Edmonds, WA 98020

\* Secretary: 776-0671  
 Sally Lider  
 2526 - 205th Pl SW  
 Lynnwood, WA 98036

\* Treasurer: H 337-4777, W 342-2397  
 Gerald McKnight  
 3526 - 113th Pl SE  
 Everett, WA 98204

\* Finance: 771-8165  
 Susie Schaefer  
 1055 Edmonds St  
 Edmonds, WA 98020

\* Editor: 337-4777  
 Marianne McKnight  
 3526 - 113th Pl SE  
 Everett, WA 98204

\* Education: 334-4392  
 Jane Erickson  
 2424 - 162nd Dr SE  
 Snohomish, WA 98290

Field Trips: 652-9619  
 Bonnie Phillips-Howard  
 7207 Lakewood Road  
 Stanwood, WA 98292

\* Conservation: 668-4462  
 Anne Grubb  
 16727 - 87th Ave SE  
 Snohomish, WA 98290

\* Membership: 353-1847  
 Marge Wiltfong  
 1202 - 113th SW  
 Everett, WA 98204

\* Programs: 568-5974  
 Joyce Kelley  
 430 Avenue I  
 Snohomish, WA 98290

\* Technical Resource Advisor: 778-7568  
 Sally van Niel  
 4404 - 222nd St SW  
 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98042

Public Information: H 259-7047 W 259-8811  
 Kathy Green  
 1516 Rucker  
 Everett, WA 98201

Protection Is. Representative: 778-7568  
 Jan van Niel  
 4404 - 222nd St SW  
 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98042

Hospitality: 258-1175  
 Lee Minshull  
 2228 Pine St  
 Everett, WA 98201

Nominating:  
 Christmas Bird Count: Sally & Jan van Niel

Librarian:  
 Eagle Count: Sally & Jan van Niel

\* Board Positions

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* Please enroll me as a member of Pilchuck Audubon Society and National Audubon Society. M12\*  
 \* I will receive the Pilchuck Audubon PROFILE and AUDUBON magazine for one year. \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ For additional information \*  
 \* contact Marge Wiltfong at \*  
 \* ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ 353-1847. \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ 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. \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* \_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL \$25.00 \_\_\_ SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL \$17.00 \*  
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 \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* \_\_\_ "PROFILE" SUBSCRIPTION \$5.00 (Please make check payable to Pilchuck Audubon Society) \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* NEODATA: Credit Pilchuck Audubon Society - Y07 SRC-7 \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*

# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

By Sally van Niel

This year we are going to have our ninth annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on December 31. We will meet at the Bank of Stanwood at Smokey Point, Exit 206 at 7:00 a.m. and continue until it is too dark to count. This count will occur regardless of the weather. One year we counted when the warmest temperature for the day was 12 degrees F. Another year many of the roads were covered with water due to flooding, but we found more shorebirds than usual. At the end of the day we will have a potluck and party at Bonnie and Curt Howard's lovely home.

The chapter is asking a donation of \$2.00 per participant. This money is used by National Audubon Society to pay the costs of compiling the report and publishing it in the annual Christmas Count edition of American Birds which is published in July.

The purpose of the CBC is to monitor any changes in bird populations over the years. It is this type of information that is used to determine the effects of various compounds such as DDT on the environment. It is also this information that enabled people to follow the migratory pathway of starlings and to determine just when they first arrived on the West Coast.

The same circle with a radius of 7.5 miles is counted every year and the more people we have participating, the more likely we are to increase our count and the number of species of birds seen. The circle is subdivided into six regions and if you have participated in the count before and wish to cover the same area, please let me know as soon as possible. One advantage of letting me know is that you have a chance to contact people in your area and get permission to get into new areas and thus potentially be able to count more birds. Let's get over 100 species this year!

If you observe any unusual birds on the count, please note the behavior, the field marks, the lighting, the distance you are from the bird and any vocalizations the bird makes. These are required to validate the sighting and any pictures taken will make the case even stronger. Last year we had an unusual bird included in our count--the black ducks that we have seen for years. For more information, please call Sally van Niel, 778-7568, evenings.

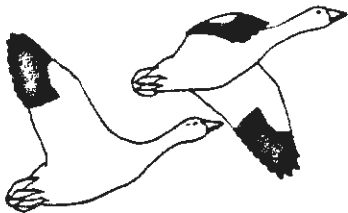
POTLUCK AFTER CBC: Meet about 5:00 p.m. (or whenever it gets too dark to see birds) at Curt and Bonnie Howard's home for a potluck. Hot soup and chile will be provided. Bring French bread, rolls, salad, or dessert to compliment this hot meal. Also bring a bowl, plate, cup, silverware. Coffee, tea and hot cider will also be provided. You are welcome to stay well into the evening for a New Year's Eve get-together. If you feel uncomfortable about driving home late New Year's Eve, just bring your sleeping bag and stay the night.

DIRECTION TO POTLUCK: Take the Smokey Point exit 206 off I-5. Drive west 2.3 miles through Lakewood to the stop sign. Turn right onto 175th Street (Lakewood/Warm Beach Road). Follow this road for 3.8 miles to the Y sign and stay left. Continue 0.6 miles. Watch for a white flag on a green mailbox on the left (the driveway is on the right, you cannot see the house from the road). Parking is limited, so please carpool. If you're lost, call 652-9619.

##### DECEMBER 15TH IS THE DEADLINE FOR JANUARY'S NEWSLETTER #####

## **Pilchuck Audubon Society**

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