



Pilchuck Audubon Profile

APRIL 1984

VOLUME XII NUMBER 8

PILCHUCK AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

APRIL 7th, SATURDAY

**FIELD TRIP: CONSERVATION TRIP
CATHCART LANDFILL**

Leaders: Anne and Mike Grubb (668-4462). Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathcart Landfill Main Office, located on the west side of Highway 9, approximately four miles south of Snohomish for this half day field trip. We are hoping to have John Costa, Director of the facility, as our tour leader. We will have a chance to see all phases of landfill waste treatment as well as plentiful, if perhaps not varied, birdlife. Bring warm clothes and boots. Join us on our first annual conservation field trip.

APRIL 20th, FRIDAY

MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETING

Everett Community College at 7:30 p.m. in room 605. Bob Hamblin will tell us the whos and hows of using the Cornell Bird Songs Tapes. He will tell us how to understand and identify the different types and categories of bird songs - a preliminary to field identification. He will show us a video of Washington state birds in song. There will be an open mini-workshop explaining how to record bird songs in the field. Time permitting insect identification will also be included.

APRIL 21st, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: PORT SUSAN/CAMANO IS.

Leader: Susie Schaefer (771-8165). Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5. This is a "shorebirds in migration" field trip, done in conjunction with our annual "Birdathon". You needn't participate in the birdathon to attend the field trip. We will go to various points in the Port Susan area, both on the mainland and on Camano Island. Expect to see over 50 species. Bring warm clothes, a sack lunch and binoculars.

APRIL 21st & 22nd, WEEKEND

**FIELD TRIP: BOWERMAN BASIN /
NISQUALLY DELTA**

Leaders: Terri Spencer and Steven Howard (435-8602). Overnight trip to this marvelous migratory birding spot on the Olympic Peninsula. See article on page 2 for details.

APRIL 28th, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: STILLWATER WRA

Leaders: Keith and Nancy Lehn (337-0485). Meet in the Lower Parking Lot at Everett Community College (1000 block of Broadway, Everett) at 8:00 a.m. A lovely walk through fields and along the river in this lovely Wildlife Recreation Area near Carnation. Expect to see lots of song birds and waterfowl. Bring warm clothes, a sack lunch and binoculars. An easy and enjoyable walk.

MAY 5th, SATURDAY

**FIELD TRIP: WILDFLOWERS AT
WASHINGTON PARK**

Leader: Grace Patrick (778-5905). Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5. We will explore the Washington Park area for all its wonderful wildflowers, some of which are considered quite rare. See article on page 3.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER By Curt Howard

As part of Pilchuck Audubon's contribution to the community, eight of our members staffed the Channel 9 (KCTS) phones for a fund raising drive, along with Audubon members from East Lake Washington, Rainier, and Seattle Chapters, on Sunday, March 4th from 7:15 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Channel 9 gave us a tour of the studio and plenty of coffee and snacks. Seattle Audubon (the Audubon coordinator) thanked us, Channel 9 thanked us, and I thank the following people: Doris Hall, Dianne Duffy, Bob Joiner, Marianne McKnight, Grace Patrick, Susie Schaefer, and Bonnie Phillips-Howard. If you count the names, you will discover only seven. I was the eighth and therefore thank myself. We have been invited back.

The Corson Research Group started their field activities following the March 3rd field trip to Paul Dye's. Basically we are making an inventory of plant and animal life on the Corson Wildlife Recreation Area (CWRA). We have fourteen people already, but we need more for back-up and weekday birding and plant identification. It's a great way to get out and enjoy a few hours. Come and join us. Contact Curt (652-9619) or Jan Richards (334-2781).

Through the efforts of Paul Dye, PAS was made aware of a Plants of the Wild nursery in Eastern Washington. Paul has shown me a sample of their nursery stock and I was duly impressed. The root systems were superb. I have their plant list of about 100 varieties, some are decorative and some are bird attracting plants, ranging from vine maple to paper birch, Russian olive, honeysuckle and dwarf mountain ash.

If you want plants to attract birds for food or shelter, if you have lots of area to plant, see me, I will try to assemble an order. Plants are one year old and \$0.72 each, if our minimum order is 98 plants, 20 plants per species. Most of the plants that Paul got are now planted in the food plots on the CWRA. The plants PAS bought, provided and planted on CWRA are doing great, only two of the *rosa pomifera* had to be replaced.

ANNUAL ELECTION

The Executive Committee has served as the Nominating Committee this year. Its members are your elected officers, Curt Howard, Tom Councill, Sally Lider, and Gerald McKnight. At the request of your president, all but

Tom Councill agreed to be nominees for the coming election.

The Nominating Committee's candidate for vice president is Bruce Kelly. We will elect people to the office of vice president, secretary, and treasurer at the April 20, 1984 program meeting. The president holds a two year term, ending in 1985.

Nominees from the floor are encouraged.

BOWERMAN BASIN FIELD TRIP

By Terri Spencer

Bowerman Basin's great annual shorebird migration is the place for our overnight field trip on Saturday and Sunday, April 21st and 22nd.

Bowerman Basin is located in the north-east section of Grays Harbor near Hoquiam. There is much controversy over the future of the Basin. The Port of Grays Harbor wants to fill 164 acres of the 550 acre basin. Environmentalists argue that it is the most important habitat for migrating shorebirds south of the Copper River Delta in Alaska. These birds come from as far south as Peru and Chile, heading for the delta tundra to nest. They stop at Bowerman to replenish the fat reserves used for the last long lap of their journey.

At this time a Citizen's Estuary Plan is being incorporated into the Environmental Impact Statement. Both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology have gone on record as opposing any filling of the Basin.

Some of the species that depend on the Basin are Western sandpiper, dunlin, long-billed dowitcher, semi-palmated plover, red knot, black-bellied plover, ruddy turnstone, black turnstone, greater yellowlegs, and the endangered peregrine falcon.

The choice time to see the shorebirds is right before and/or after high tide, when the shorebirds come to the mudflats to feed.

Saturday, April 21st, the high tide is at 6:26 p.m. If you get to the area early, you can take a quick trip to Ocean Shores where 250 species of birds have been identified. Meet at 5:00 p.m. across from Bowerman Basin at the High School (see attached sketch). We may take a look at the sewer lagoon to check on the duck species. Sunday, the 22nd, high tide is at 5:34 a.m. We will meet at 6:00 a.m. at the High School. After watching the shorebirds Sunday morning, we will drive to the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Weather permitting, we may walk the five mile loop.

There are numerous motels in the Ocean Shores, Hoquiam and Aberdeen areas, and Westport is eight miles further, plus several State Parks. The leaders will be staying at Ocean City State Park near Ocean Shores. There is also West Haven near Westport and two others further south. The cost runs \$5.50 per night--a little more for a full hoop-up.

Bring camera, binoculars and rain gear. If you are involved with the Birdathon, we expect to see about 70 species.

If you wish to go only to Nisqually on Sunday, call 435-8602 and I will give you the approximate time to meet. Also, call if you wish to camp or stay at a motel and will be alone. I may be able to help you pair up. Call, too, if any other questions arise. Join us to see millions of shorebirds fly in unison over the mudflats!!

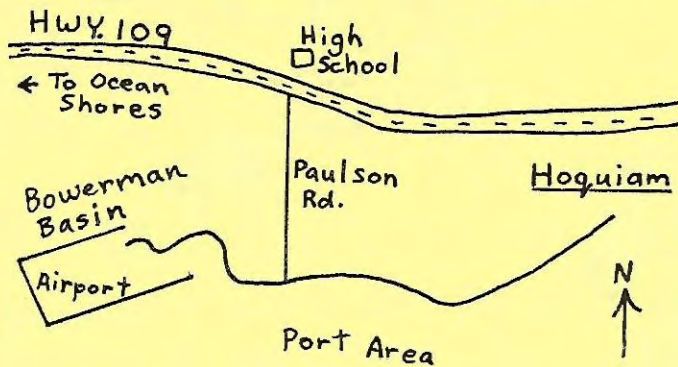
opportunity to more than nominally offer it to other chapters or the general public. Sorry about that, but it is good for us.

We are participating in a Natural Resources Camp and have further entered into dialogs with the Conservation District, the Extension Service and the non-game section of the Game Department. From these activities we are beginning to be considered a resource, such as for a recent TV program on Trumpeter Swans. The Everett "Herald" has been providing expanded and extensive coverage of PAS, its activities and officers.

A new approach to membership recruiting has been moderately successful but has greatly increased our exposure and field trip attendance. We publish and distribute monthly a two-sided flyer containing a list of current field trips, programs, membership information and basic goals. These flyers are distributed to libraries.

We are completely revamping our Christmas Bird Count. The CBC committee will train area leaders, establish contact with land owners and seek extensive coverage with local newspapers. One of our goals is to expand the public awareness of why binoculars with people attached are out there on a cold, windy, rainy day.

Is your annual meeting under-attended, dull and lifeless? This year our annual meeting will run from 9 a.m. Saturday to noon Sunday at Camp Silverton in the Cascade foothills. It will feature seminars on photography; bird, plant, insect, and animal identification workshops, the Canadian Acid Rain film, installation of officers, and just before bedtime, the President will speak. This annual meeting, like much of our emphasis, is aimed at bringing together more of our members, especially more of our family members.



CHAPTER REPORT AT ELLENSBURG

The following is PAS' chapter report, as given at the Spring Ellensburg Conference on Saturday, March 24th.

Our Education Committee has assembled two slide programs that we are offering to other groups. The first one is "A Closer Look", aimed at the young people and dealing with nature and natural things. Photographer and assembler is Grace Patrick. The second program is "An Introduction to Audubon", a collection of slides depicting the natural beauty of our state--a dramatic illustration of what we are fighting for. A preview of this program was given to a garden club in December, and we are now booking that show into 1985. All the slides were from our members and all are fantastic.

We have formed a Corson Research Group to conduct a comprehensive inventory of resources on the Corson Wildlife Recreation Area in Snohomish County.

Our Columbia River Gorge field trip next weekend filled up so fast we did not have an

WILDFLOWERS AT WASHINGTON PARK

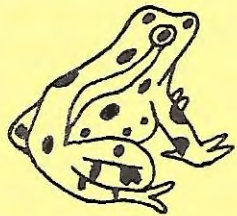
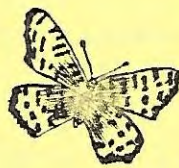
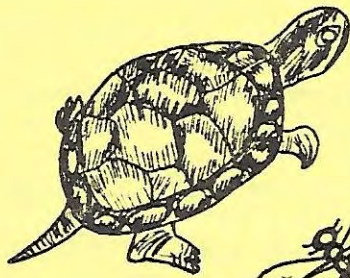
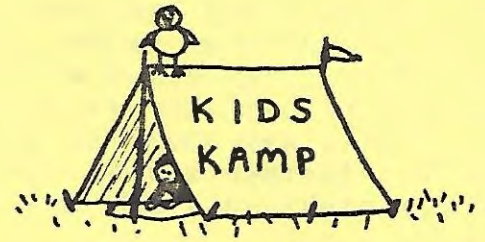
Pilchuck Audubon Society and the Everett Parks Department are joint sponsors. We will explore the Washington Park area for all its wonderful wildflowers, some of which are considered quite rare. There will be a slide show and lecture at Legion Hall in Everett on Wednesday, May 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. to acquaint you with what you will see.

Grace Patrick is a talented photographer and wildflower expert who will graciously share her knowledge with us. It is not necessary to attend the slide show in order to go on the field trip. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5.

A TWO-WORKSHOP WEEKEND

Have fun while learning about the natural world. Your choice of two great workshops are being offered by two great chapters (Pilchuck and Rainier Audubon Societies), the weekend of May 19th and 20th.

Pilchuck is offering a two-day overnight campout at Camp Silverton. Birds, wildflowers, aquatic life, insects, and photography will be of interest to both kids and grown-ups. Also, an evening spaghetti feed, sing-along, and owl prowl are planned. Call Jane Erickson, 334-4392 to sign up or see the registration form on page 5.



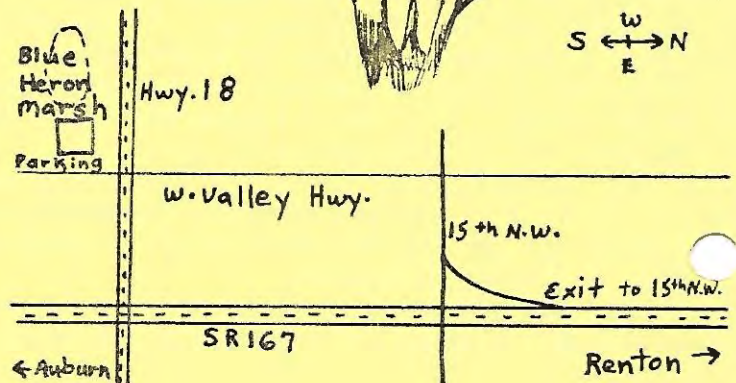
Color us



Rainier Audubon in Auburn is offering a half-day marsh workshop, May 19th, for a fee of \$2.00, payable at the workshop.

The Blue Heron Marsh in Auburn, with its heron rookery, fragile pond and plant life, and unique history, is an ideal site for this workshop. The great blue herons have baby herons in the nests at this time of year and they are easily viewed with a scope that will be supplied by the chapter.

Pre-registering is necessary. Call Camille Wooden at 277-0805. She has spaces open for ten kids or adults from Pilchuck. She can also give directions.



SILVERTON SPRINGWATCH

"Springwatch" is PILCHUCK AUDUBON'S Camp Silverton weekend for enjoying, learning about, and watching nature under the guidance of qualified leaders. It is for everyone: member, non-members, 8 year olds or 80 year olds. The public is invited to join Audubon for this special experience.

Jane Erickson, Education Chair for PAS, is planning workshops in nature photography; wild flowers, shrubs and trees; aquatic plants and animals; hiking to Lake Kelcema; insects - a live bugwatch; an owl prow!; the world through a magnifying glass; and birds; of course.

Jane recently completed her masters degree in botany and will join special guest educators in leading the workshop programs.

Joyce Kelley, PAS Program Chair, is planning the chapter's annual meeting which will be held, along with installation of officers, on Saturday evening as a part of the after-dinner fireside program.

Camp Silverton is the Everett School District's outdoor education facility located east of Granite Falls. The area is surrounded by lush forests and a wide variety of wild life. A branch of the Stillaguamish River skirts the campgrounds beyond

the open-air cabins. Campers sometimes find small garnets in the shallow riverbed.

Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast will be served in the dining/meeting hall. Films, songs and entertainment around the fireplace will highlight the first day's events.

Co-educational cabins with wood-burning stoves sleep 10 to 20 people. Bunks are provided, but "springwatchers" must bring their own sleeping bags or bedding. Families are encouraged to participate, but children under 18 must be accompanied by adults.

Enrollment will be limited to space available. We must have your check for \$5.00 per person no later than April 30th to guarantee you a place. The \$5.00 entitles you to all workshops and meetings, Saturday spaghetti dinner, annual meeting and program, sleeping cabin, and Sunday breakfast.

Reserve early by completing the following form and sending along with your check for full amount to Joyce Kelley. The weekend starts at 9 a.m. Saturday May 19th (registration from 8 to 9) and goes through Sunday noon. If you have questions about any part of "SPRINGWATCH" weekend, you may call Jane Erickson at 334-4392 or Joyce Kelley at 568-5974 (evenings please as they both work days).

Please enter my registration for SILVERTON SPRINGWATCH, May 19th - 20th:

Name(s)			
	Last	First	Last
	Last	First	Last
Address			
	Street	City	Zip
Telephone			

Cost: \$5.00 per person Number of adults _____ Number of children _____
 Please make checks payable to Pilchuck Audubon Society. Amount enclosed \$ _____
 Send to: Pilchuck Audubon Society, PO Box 1618, Everett, WA 98206
 Attention: Joyce Kelley

What workshops would you be most interested in attending?

- _____ Bird Identification
- _____ Wildflower, Shrub, Tree Identification
- _____ Photography
- _____ Insect Identification
- _____ Geology
- _____ Owl Prowl
- _____ Magnifying Glass World (moss, lichens, ferns, fungi)
- _____ Other _____

***** GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN EARLY! SPACE IS LIMITED! *****

1984 BIRD-A-THON

Don't forget the PAS annual BIRD-A-THON on April 21st and 22nd. Both groups (see field trips, page one) are looking for supporters so be sure to join in or mail a pledge or contribution (large or small) to:

Group A Susie Schaefer
1055 Edmonds St
Edmonds, WA 98020

Group B Terri Spencer
23329 - 27th Ave NE
Arlington, WA 98223

If you are going on the field trip, try to sign up as many sponsors as possible. A pledge sheet is on page 11. More are available from Susie Schaefer, 771-8165.

The BIRD-A-THON is one of our fundraisers for the support of chapter activities.

SAMISH ISLAND

By Poncho Muffin

This field trip started out almost as threatening as the last one I wrote about. The sky was filled with dark, ominous clouds. I do believe the windshield wipers were switched on from time to time. The main objective of this trip, hosted by Skagit Audubon, was an examination of a heron rookery on Samish Island.

Pilchuck members and our guests met at the bank building at Smokey Point at the appointed time. There were 20 of us, exactly half were guests from Seattle (alerted to our trip by member Ramona Curtis) and half from Everett.

A number of things on this field trip intrigued me. Is Samish Island an island? I have been there a number of times and while I have looked, I could find no reason for the designation of "island". Perhaps I have found the answer: dikes. Dikes appear to prevent tidal flooding of the flats just south of the island, through which the road runs. Actually the road she does not run, she stays right there with only a quiver now and then.

The other things? I have been to the island numerous times on field trips and have heard of the heron rookery as well as two eagle nests near the Padilla Bay Interpretative Center but had not seen them. Now I have. The rookery is a bit unreal. It presents a scene that would not be out of place in Africa.

And as usual, the threat of rain wasn't fulfilled while I was around. I cut out at noon, while our great host, Skagit Audubon, promised the further treat of going around

March Point. Even without the Point, we saw eagles, hawks, up to 75 great blue herons, and lots of etc's.

FEDERAL ACID RAIN LEGISLATION

From The Olympia Bulletin

While some of the state legislators have been working for acid rain legislation on the state level, Senator Dan Evans has been supporting Acid Rain legislation in the Federal Senate. Senator Evans sits on the committee which is debating Acid Rain amendments to the Clean Air Act - S 768.

Evans supported increasing the amount of sulfur dioxide which must be removed from our atmosphere from eight tons annually to ten tons. He also successfully deleted language that would have allowed smelters to simply curtail their production rather than actually install pollution control devices. We are hopeful he will also oppose language in the bill which would allow smelters to extend their compliance deadlines to 1993.

Please drop him a line at the Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C., 20510. Thank him for what he has done so far and urge him to oppose any weakening of requirements for smelter compliance.

RECYCLING WEEK - APRIL 22nd to 28th

By Anne Grubb

The State Department of Ecology has designated April 22nd to 28th as "Recycling Week". If you are just getting started recycling, haven't started yet but are interested, need more information and/or have questions, concerns or opinions, what better incentive to clear things up than a recycling week.

Take a look at what you toss into the trash; observe the roadsides and curbs and sidewalks! Don't be afraid to pick it out or pick it up! Rinse out those pet food cans and spaghetti sauce jars, gather up the beer cans and bottles after a Sonics or Huskies game and send that yukky broken aluminum patio furniture to its not-so-final reward! Let's keep recycling in mind when we begin the traditional spring cleaning.

You can do it, and to help you do it, Pilchuck Audubon will be distributing information, litter bags and other goodies at our program meeting on April 20th.

Let's do our part to alleviate some of the pressures on our landfill and set a example for our children, neighbors and other communities. Let's make the most of our renewable resources!

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE
By Anne Grubb

OFFICERS & CHAIR POSITIONS
1983 - 1984

It's hard to believe the first year as Conservation Committee Chairman has gone so quickly. There have been times of frustration, and overwhelming feelings of ignorance of issues. People and places to turn to for answers, with little time to get organized. Going to and reporting on hearings and meetings, setting up and "riding herd" on sub-committees, attending to phone calls, correspondence, and reading, while performing many functions for my family and myself. Every frustration along the way has been countered by tremendous support and encouragement from Curt, the Board, membership, non-members, other chapters and the environmentally-oriented community as a whole. What an education! I love it.

A year ago I thought a tomaHAWK was a winged species, I gave little consideration to what went into the garbage pail and would have been horrified at the prospect of standing up and speaking out in public. If this sounds like a pitch to members and non-members alike to become more active and aware of our environmental concerns, you're right! If I can do it, so can you. We care and need you!

The accomplishments of the Conservation Committee this last year have been many and few: we have established sub-committees for Wetlands, Solid Waste Management, Toxic Waste Management, Wilderness, Forest Practices, Recycling and Sensitive Areas; yet, we lack sub-committees for Fisheries, Shorelines, Energy, and Farm/Agricultural Land Management.

Through the National Audubon/Olympia legislative "phone tree" and correspondence to legislators, we have made our chapter's positions heard. We have concentrated many efforts on issues closer to home: recycling, landfill and garbage incineration proposals ("waste management"), the use of Port Gardner Bay as a Navy Base and the protection and preservation of the Glacier Peak and Boulder River Wilderness areas.

The Conservation Committee is in the process of trying to establish a cohesive, broad-base coalition of environmental organizations for the purpose of sharing and expanding our information and resources, political clout and accessibility to the public. Again, while all this sounds impressive, and it is, there is still a great deal to be done. Pilchuck Audubon would like to be considered a first-rate, well-organized and credible organization - we're well on our way but we need your input.

- * 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
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- * Finance: 771-8165
Susie Schaefer
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- * Editor: 337-4777
Marianne McKnight
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- * Education: 334-4392
Jane Erickson
2424 - 162nd Dr SE
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- * Field Trips: 652-9619
Bonnie Phillips-Howard
7207 Lakewood Road
Stanwood, WA 98292
- * Conservation: 668-4462
Anne Grubb
16727 - 87th Ave SE
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- * Programs: 568-5974
Joyce Kelley
430 Avenue I
Snohomish, WA 98290
- Public Information: H 259-7047 W 259-8811
Kathy Green
1516 Rucker
Everett, WA 98201
- Hospitality: 258-1175
Lee Minshull
2228 Pine St
Everett, WA 98201
- Membership Records: 337-4777
Gerald McKnight
3526 - 113th Pl SE
Everett, WA 98204

* Board Positions

LEGISLATIVE REPORT
From The Olympia Bulletin
By Pam Crocker-Davis

In a short amount of time we were able to pass many pieces of positive environmental legislation. Logging in State Parks, Acid Rain, Worker Right to Know, Riparian and Wetlands Protection, Minimum Stream Flows, and Marine Waivers were the six bills that Audubon and/or Washington Environmental Council identified as priorities this session. Only one, Marine Waivers, failed completely. Minimum Stream Flows and Riparian Protection were put into interim studies. The remaining three passed. Not a bad batting average!

A detailed final report on the fate of all the environmental bills this session is being drafted. If you would like a copy, just drop a line to PO Box 462, Olympia, WA 98507.

OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

CLEAN AIR - SB 3193. This bill attempted to bring fines for violations of the State Clean Air Act into line with federal fines. Despite the addition of several very damaging amendments, the bill did pass.

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITING MORATORIUM - HB 1438. This bill placed a moratorium on construction of hazardous waste disposal facilities until DOE has completed the studies to determine the need for and the appropriate type of hazardous waste disposal facilities in the state. The bill passed.

DUCK STAMPS - HB 1309. The bill would have required duck hunters to purchase a migratory waterfowl stamp. Money from the stamps and from sale of the Waterfowl art would go to acquire and enhance wetlands. The bill died.

EAGLE RIGHTS - The original SB 4788 created buffer zones for endangered, threatened and sensitive species. The bill met significant opposition. It was amended to establish buffer zones only for eagles and to establish a commission to analyze protection needs for other species. The bill passed.

MILWAUKEE ROAD - After four years of compromise, the bill passed! The trail is open through the Yakima Canyon with no restrictions, the remainder is usable by DNR permit. John Wayne, Rest in Peace!

NORTHWEST POWER PLANNING COUNCIL - SB 3827. Requires one of Washington State's two members on the Council to be from Eastern Washington. Geography shouldn't dictate ability. This is considered a BAD

BILL and is on the Governor's desk. Write and tell him how you feel about this bill.

MANY THANKS TO...

Many legislators deserve thanks for their help this session. The longer we work in Olympia, the more we realize that a positive vote on final passage of a good bill is only the most obvious expression of support. Legislators who are willing to sponsor bills, work them in committee, and support them within their party caucuses, are the ones who are going the extra mile.

We would like to publicly thank those legislators who prime sponsored the environmental bills we endorsed that successfully made it though the 1984 session. Please take the time to drop these folks a line and thank them for their help. Send to Legislative Building, Olympia, WA 98504.

Rep. Nancy Rust - Acid Rain
Rep. Ken Jacobsen - Logging in State Parks
Rep. Gene Lux - Worker Right to Know
Rep. Joanne Brekke - Hazardous Waste Siting Moratorium
Sen. Phil Talmadge - Right to Know
Sen. Nita Rinehart - Logging in State Parks

BIRD SIGHTINGS



THROUGH MARCH 15

- Feb. 18 A ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was seen flying from Boe Road near Warm Beach. (Terri Spencer)
- Feb. 21 An adult BALD EAGLE was observed flying around the Everett Sewage Ponds. (Steven Howard)
- Feb. 22 Two BALD EAGLES were seen perched on a snag near Arlington. (Fred Bird)
- Feb. 22 Within 100 feet of each other a ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK cavorted in the air and an adult BALD EAGLE sat in a tree near Snohomish. (Jan Richards)
- Feb. 25 A large flock of RING-BILLED GULLS were in a field along Norman Rd. near Silvana. Also seen further north along Norman Rd. were an adult BALD EAGLE, approximately 1000 AMERICAN WIGEON and 36 DUNLIN. Thousands of SNOW GEESE were near Big Ditch Slough flying into

the nearby dairy farmers' fields. (Terri Spencer and Family)

Feb. 25 A GREAT HORNED OWL landed in a tree at nightfall near Highway 2, Monroe. (Jan Richards)

Feb. 28 An AMERICAN KESTREL was perched on a wire along 172nd Ave. in Marysville. (T. Spencer)

Feb. 29 A RED-TAILED HAWK seemed like a dwarf compared to the adult BALD EAGLE it shared the tree with near Snohomish. (Jan Richards)

Feb. 29 Three CANADA GEESE flew over the fields north of the Everett Sewage Lagoon. (T. Spencer)

Mar. 1 Three DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS were seen on Blackman's Lake. (Sylvia Quinn)

Mar. 2 A birding trip to Samish and Skagit Flats produced a first time sighting of a NORTHERN GOSHAWK for Lee and Marianne. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were a first for Lee. An OSPREY along with many AMERICAN WIGEON, BALD EAGLE, NORTHERN PINTAIL, SNOW GEESE, and 100 TUNDRA SWAN were seen. (Lee Minshull and Marianne McKnight)

Mar. 3 A HAIRY WOODPECKER, two COMMON FLICKERS and an EVENING GROSBEAK visited a tree near an Arlington residence. (T. Spencer)

Mar. 4 Two WESTERN MEADOWLARKS, two BALD EAGLES and six NORTHERN HARRIERS were all seen from Mary Esther Kellys' home near Arlington.

Mar. 4 A PILEATED WOODPECKER was seen on a stump in their backyard in Edmonds. (Jim and Betty Morrow)

Mar. 4 A MUTE SWAN was reported seen on Lake Tennant. (Joan and Evan Lucas)

Mar. 5 Two WESTERN MEADOWLARKS were spotted flying around the strawberry fields north of Steamboat Slough. (T. Spencer)

Mar. 7 Two TREE SWALLOWS were seen in downtown Everett, a BARN SWALLOW was heard in South Everett and an adult BALD EAGLE was seen near the Hewitt Avenue Trestle. (S. Howard)

Mar. 10 Three COMMON GOLDENEYE were on the Snohomish River near Thomas' Eddy. (F. Bird)

Mar. 11 One BARROW'S GOLDENEYE and again three COMMON GOLDENEYE were near Thomas' Eddy. Several VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS and a NORTHERN SHRIKE were seen along Short School Rd. near Snohomish. A DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT was seen on the Pilchuck River near Snohomish and on the Skykomish River near Monroe. (Fred Bird)

Mar. 11 A CALIFORNIA QUAIL was seen for the first time at Virginia Clark's home. She also had a BAND-TAILED PIGEON and 15 MOURNING DOVES.

Mar. 11 An adult BALD EAGLE was perched in a tree on the south end of Silver Lake at 8:30 a.m. (Barbara Clements)

Mar. 11 An adult BALD EAGLE was circling near the Silver Lake Shopping Center at 2:30 p.m. Was it the previous bird or another? (Teresa McKnight)

Mar. 13 First sighting of BARN SWALLOWS this year next to Highway 9 south of Snohomish. (J. Richards)

Mar. 15 A DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT flew over the Smokey Point Shopping Mall. (T. Spencer)

Mar. 15 Curt Howard saw his first SWALLOW for the spring season in Stanwood.

Mar. 1-14 An adult BALD EAGLE was seen near Monroe. (Stephen and Kathleen Sallee)

Spring is upon us again. The flowers are blooming, the trees are ready to burst open with leaves and the birds are singing. Now is the time to watch for the ospreys to come back along with the swallows, the warblers and the confusing flycatchers. Spring migration is almost upon us. Keep your eyes and ears open for our spring arrivals.

Some good places to go are the Snohomish Sewage Lagoon west of Snohomish, Port Susan Bay northwest of Marysville, the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge south of Tacoma, and the Arboretum in Seattle. The local parks should also harbor some interesting species.

CALL BIRD SIGHTINGS TO

Terri Spencer/Steve Howard	435-8602
Fred Bird (Arlington Times)	435-5757
Jan Richards	334-2781

SEND YOUR SIGHTINGS TO

Terri Spencer/Steven Howard
23329 - 27th Ave NE
Arlington, WA 98223

1984 PAS BUDGET

The Finance Committee will be preparing the 1984/85 budget this month. All committee budget worksheets should be completed and sent to Susie Schaefer, Finance Committee, 1055 Edmonds St., Edmonds, WA 98020. If you are interested in being involved in the preparation of the new budget and want to be on the Finance Committee, please contact Susie (771-8165) or Gerald McKnight (337-4777).

SIX WEEKS A-BIRDING - PART I
By Jan Richards

In the summer of 1983 my husband and I and our new baby from India, Adri, decided it was time for a needed vacation. Camping for a month with a little one might have been uncomfortable had we not been loaned the luxury of a motorhome. It was not our usual style, but it came in handy. It was a wet summer in most of the west, making normally brown, dry scenery, very green.

Our trip started with a brief visit to Richland and Adri's new uncle. Then on to the Idaho border, our goal being the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area. It was early July and the temperature was over 100 degrees. The birds were quieter than in early spring. Nonetheless, there were plenty of prairie falcons hovering and chasing each other along the rock cliffs that edge the Snake. Peregrines, kestrels, and many Swainson's hawks were present.

Despite the heat, the change of scenery and birds were pleasant. We followed the Snake River throughout most of southern Idaho. It could have been named Pelican River with all the white pelicans along the course. We left the river to go over Teton Pass and into Wyoming. We greeted the Snake again outside of Jackson. The town of Jackson has a pond near the visitor center which held a pair of Trumpeter swans with three fuzzy cygnets. They were being well photographed and were a real treat. We also saw many yellow-headed blackbirds in the area.

As we headed into Grand Teton Park, the temperature dropped to 45 degrees. Jackson Lake was an attraction to many more white pelicans. Our campsite that evening was host to ravens, yellow warblers, nighthawks, yellowthroats, brown creeper, tree sparrows, mountain bluebirds, rufous hummingbirds, and a Lewis woodpecker.

The Grand Tetons are spectacular as they rise out of the surrounding flats. Deer and antelope "playing" in the foreground make them even more impressive. Swainson's hawks and golden eagles seemed to like the view, as well as burrowing owls, mountain chickadees, pinyon jays and red crossbills, to name a few.

On to the north, Yellowstone Park seemed like an exquisite bright green gem due to the previous rains. The park wasn't as crowded as I remembered it in 1965.

Herds of elk and bison enjoyed the sunshine and we managed to find a moose. We were nervous due to a bear's attack on a man

in a tent the previous week. We were safe in our "hard-sided" camper. But we noticed that many people wore jingle bells on their coats when going for walks. We never saw a bear.

We did see hoary marmots and Columbia ground squirrels aplenty. Grey jays, grey juncos, Clark's nutcrackers, and chipping sparrows seemed to think all the campers were interesting.

Yellowstone was more beautiful than I had remembered. We got to Old Faithful in time to see the geyser blow. The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone was breathtaking with the multi-colored walls of sandstone. The swallows there have a fantastic place to call home.

(Part II will appear in May's Profile.)

WESTPORT WHALE WATCH CRUISES
April and May 1984

Westport Whale Watch offers a two-hour cruise into the Pacific aboard safe, comfortable boats, accompanied by a marine biologist or naturalist. Also included is a formal presentation of Gray Whales and other marine mammals. An exciting and informative experience!

Departure times are noon weekdays, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on weekends with a presentation following. Prices are \$21.50 plus tax for adults, \$10.75 plus tax for children under 12 (when accompanied by an adult).

Whales are sighted on more than 90% of our cruises. Occasionally, however, weather or ocean conditions prevent boats from going into the ocean. Should that occur you will be offered an alternate "Estuary Cruise" (where whales are occasionally sighted) and rainchecks permitting each person to return anytime during the 1984 season for a free Whale Watch cruise. Or we will reschedule or refund if you prefer. Rainchecks are provided all guests on any whale watch cruise where whales are not sighted.

For reservations write: Westport Whale Watch, Box 312, Westport, WA 98595 or phone (206) 268-9144 or (206) 268-0169. Reservations are encouraged, and may be cancelled 48 hours prior to scheduled departure with a full refund minus a \$5.00 handling fee.



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MY PEREGRINE'S DEBUT

By Fred Bird

The sleek bird swooped low over several hundred wigeon resting in a flooded field on the Samish Flats, spooking the ducks, sending them skyward en masse. One duck wasn't going to make a successful escape. The wigeon's fate was sealed. The hunter was a peregrine falcon.

The young female falcon, living by her wits and speed, cut one wigeon from the flock and drove it away from safety. The battle lasted about 20 seconds, if that. It would have been shorter but the duck headed across a busy road that momentarily distracted the hunter.

Traveling at speeds that could have reached 90 miles an hour, the falcon hit the duck and literally threw it to the ground. The wigeon died almost instantly, its neck broken by the falcon's powerful hooked beak. Her meal was served but the war was far from over.

Just seeing a peregrine would have been enough for me because the sighting was a personal first, a new bird to add to my "life list". Being witness to the literal life and death struggle and the events that would follow was an added treat.

The field trip that miserable Sunday was the graduation exercises to a hawk identification class offered through the Burke Museum at the University of Washington. Despite the cold, driving rain and heavy winds, we would see over 100 raptors (hawks, eagles, harriers, accipiters and the falcon) that day. But the highlight was the falcon.

Catching and killing the wigeon was only the beginning. Now the falcon had to defend her kill, her meal. Competition is stiff in the real world.

She'd hardly begun to eat, tossing feathers right and left, when she turned abruptly, let out a piercing scream and jumped into the sky to avoid being hit by the first intruder. A male northern harrier (marsh hawk) thumped to the ground, much pleased with the easy meal ahead. The falcon had other ideas.

She dove repeatedly at the harrier until he had to take flight in order to defend himself. Though substantially smaller than the harrier, her speed alone is deadly. Their combat continued in the air with the harrier sensing the falcon's diving assaults and turning upside down at her approach to face her attack with his claws. It was a spectacle and our little caravan had a ringside seat. It wasn't long before he had had enough and fled.

The falcon returned to her kill quickly and continued her meal. Several minutes passed before the next intruder appeared. This time it was an adult bald eagle -- three or four times her size. The battle scenes repeated themselves with the falcon screaming and diving until the eagle retreated to the ground several hundred yards away from the dead duck and had to content itself with watching the falcon eat.

It wouldn't be entirely fair but to note that the presence of a well traveled road about 175 yards away with half a dozen cars parked and watching the scene had to contribute to the larger bird's caution in attacking the falcon. Though good fighters, falcons usually lose these battles for food. Still, the young bird's audacity and courage were admirable.

In the 45 minutes that we watched from our cars (and we stayed inside the cars) the falcon defended her kill from a total of four larger birds -- the other two were a rough-legged hawk and a red-tailed hawk. Each time she drove the attacker away, her sharp calls ringing in their ears.

Pilchuck Audubon Society

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