

Pilchuck

Audubon Profile

DECEMBER 1984

VOLUME XIII NUMBER 4

PILCHUCK AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 4th, TUESDAY

Ginni Stevens Room of the Snohomish County Administration Building at 7:30 p.m. A program on Sea Lions including experiences with the Everett area sea lions, a slide show and plans to save the area and the sea lions. This program is co-sponsored by Pilchuck Audubon Society and the Snohomish County Extension Service.

PUBLIC MEETING

DECEMBER 4th, TUESDAY

Organizer: Peter Hurley, 258-5681 (work) or 355-7239 (home). Peter Hurley, The Evergreen Coalition, will be presenting a seminar on Effective Public Commenting in the Everett Public Library Auditorium from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Learn techniques for communicating with public and private officials. Everyone welcome!

SEMINAR

DECEMBER 6th, THURSDAY

Margo Shepard, 356-0316 (days) or 348-5540 (evenings), Shorelines Sub Committee Chairperson, will hold a Sub Committee meeting in the Auditorium at the Everett Public Library from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Subjects to be covered are the Biringer Business Park, Ed Hayes Cement Batching Plant, and Everett Sewage Lagoon expansion. Everyone welcome.

SHORELINES SUB COMMITTEE MEETING

DECEMBER 8th, SATURDAY

Leaders: Bonnie and Curt Howard (652-9619). Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5. We will drive to Anacortes (with a side trip to March Point) to take the 4-hour round trip ferry ride to Friday Harbor. The cost is \$4.20 each, with half price for seniors. If enough people come we will get a discount. This is a wonderful winter trip because, regardless of weather, you can stay warm and dry. Last year we saw a large number of bald eagles and other such delights as common murrelets, marbled murrelets and oldsquaws. Bring binoculars, a lunch (or eat at the ferry's cafeteria) and warm clothes if you want to spend much time on deck. A good field trip for those who don't like to walk a lot! Also a fine trip for families as kids are always fascinated being on the water.

FIELD TRIP: RIDE THE SAN JUAN FERRY

DECEMBER 11th, TUESDAY

Red Cross Building, 26th and Lombard, Everett at 7:30 p.m. in the Boeing room. Use the 26th Street entrance and follow the "Audubon" signs. **LIBBY'S BACK!** Libby Mills, the Nature Conservancy Steward for the Skagit River Bald Eagle Preserve, will relate the story of bald eagles wintering in Washington State. She will introduce us to the ecology, behavior, daily cycles, feeding and wilderness needs and to the problems which have caused the eagle to become an endangered or threatened species over all the lower 48 states. See story on page 7. Everyone is welcome to attend this free program.

MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETING

MORE PILCHUCK AUDUBON ACTIVITIES ON PAGE 6!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Curt Howard

If you missed the November meeting you missed an outstanding program on Australian Wildlife. All of our programs this year have been exceptional. You should join us. Bring a friend, or two. We have promised not to have more than 298 at any one meeting. The Australian Wildlife program was shown to 160 people (my estimate). Our programs and our field trips are designed to appeal to a wide range of people. The December 11th meeting should be a good one too! See you there and bring your friends.

Have you ever been frustrated by an action which you know is wrong, can prove is wrong and yet no one listens? If so you are well on your way to becoming an environmentalist. It seems as though our activities are like whipping the sea. Recently we had the opportunity to do some really hard dirty work at the Deer Creek mud slide. Hats off to the public, the Evergreen Coalition and Pilchuck Audubon people who helped.

I have also been attending the Adopt-a-Quad meetings. Not because I was required to but because I believe in it and was prepared to be brave and bored just to get the job done. But low and behold because of Jane Erickson it is an absorbing committee. If I were to limit myself to only one committee, this might be it. Although I would find it impossible to limit myself. There is room on almost every investigative team we have such as Education, Sanctuaries and Shoreline Management, Corson Research, etc. Let me know where you'd like to work.

Keep those questionnaires coming in!

We now get a 1% cash refund from Thrifty Food Stores in Stanwood and Arlington. Save those receipts and ask friends for theirs. Receipts can be given to any Board member or Hal Hansen.

CONSERVATION GAME LICENSE

Conservation Game licenses are necessary for those people who wish to use state lands, but do not already own another Washington State game license allowing them to do so. If one wishes to go bird watching or following wildlife on Washington State lands, a conservation license is necessary.

The purpose of a Conservation Game license is to give the holder an opportunity to contribute to the upkeep of state lands. In such a way, the holders are actually

helping preserve these areas through financial support and by helping to limit the numbers of persons allowed on the state lands thereby reducing possible damage.

PAS will be selling Department of Game 1985 Conservation licenses for your vehicle PAS program meetings starting with the December 11th meeting. The cost of the permit is \$5.50 (\$5.00 for the Department of Game and \$0.50 for PAS). Each additional vehicle costs \$0.50.

RECYCLING FORUM

By Nancy Salvadalena

There is a bin for recycling old newspapers on every other corner, but what about other kinds of paper products? asks Marianne McKnight. Check with your recycling center to be sure what they will take. You should be able to find someone who will accept:

1. Corrugated cardboard (flatten boxes, must be clean).
2. Chipboard (the thin, grey cardboard used for cereal boxes, paper rolls, etc.) Remove wax paper liners, no wax or plastic coatings, must be clean.
3. Hi-grade paper such as computer paper, typing and writing paper (no carbons or staples). If you have access to an office, check to make sure they are recycling.
4. Magazines (don't forget old phone books) First, you might consider sharing magazines with friends, nursing homes, etc.
5. "Junk Mail" and paper packaging should be able to be mixed with magazines or newsprint depending on the type of paper.

Recycled paper is remade into such things as newsprint, stationery, insulation, egg cartons, etc. "Save a tree" by reducing the use of paper packaging and recycle as much as possible.

GOOD NEWS! The plastics industry is getting involved in the study of recycling of their products and have pledged to raise \$5 million for this effort. This may be a result of the publicity given to last month's campaign to clean up plastic litter on Oregon's beaches.

Call 337-7458 or write 2227 Burley Dr., Everett, 98204 with your concerns, ideas, suggestions, and hints.

RECYCLING (what, where, when) 1-800-RECYCLE

BIRD SIGHTINGS

- Oct 9 Thirteen SNOW GEESE and three WHITE-FRONTED GEESE were seen at the Snohomish Sewage Lagoon. (Fred Bird)
- Oct 12 A flock of about 50 KILLDEER were seen feeding in the fields of Due's Berry Farm in Marysville. (Terri Spencer)
- Oct 14 Within a ten minute period, Nancy Salvadalena observed about ten different species of birds noisily flying between the trees in her backyard. Among them were VARIED THRUSHES, a NUTHATCH, GROSBEAKS, and at least one HYBRID YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER.
- Oct 15 The first reported ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was seen on a fence post north of the Everett Sewage Ponds. (T. Spencer)
- Oct 17 Several WESTERN MEADOWLARKS and many, many WATER PIPITS were observed in the Snohomish Valley. (Fred Bird)
- End of Oct Grace Umbarger reported seeing two WOOD DUCKS at Jennings Park. They have been coming and going for awhile.
- Nov 7 Six to ten unidentified SWANS were observed lying in the fields of the Skagit Flats. (Steven Howard)
- Nov 11 A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE was seen near Lake Roesiger. (Mrs Pelkey)

SEND YOUR SIGHTINGS TO

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

CALL BIRD SIGHTINGS TO

Terri Spencer/Steven Howard 435-8602
Marianne McKnight 337-4777

OTHER SIGHTINGS

Seattle Audubon Hotline 1-624-2854
Swan Sightings 775-0137

HELP FOR INJURED WILDLIFE

Wildlife Care Center of Everett
Dr. Yearout, D.V.M. 353-3814
Kaye Bailey 337-6900
WSP (report injured wildlife) 259-8585

STOP POACHING HOTLINE 1-800-562-5626 WASHINGTON STATE PATROL (WSP) 259-8585

A report taken on the hotline may not reach the local agent until the next day, a report taken by the WSP will be relayed directly to the agent over his vehicle radio.

OFFICERS & CHAIR POSITIONS FOR 1984 - 1985

- * President: 652-9619
Curt Howard
- * Vice President: 435-2024
Bruce Kelly
- * Secretary: 776-0671
Sally Lider
- * Treasurer: 337-4777
Gerald McKnight
- * Finance: 771-8165
Susie Schaefer
- * Editor: 337-4777
Marianne McKnight
- * Education: 794-6063
Laurel Carraher
- * Conservation: 668-4462
Anne Grubb
- Bird Sightings: 435-8602
Terri Spencer
- * Programs: 568-5974
Joyce Kelley
- * Field Trips: 652-9619
Bonnie Phillips-Howard
- Christmas Bird Count: 776-0671
Bill Lider
- * Publicity: 252-6600
Sydney Carlow
- Hospitality: Co-chairs
Nancy Salvadalena 337-7458
Teresa McKnight 337-4777
- Sensitive Area Atlas: Adopt-a-Quad
Jane Erickson 334-4392
- Corson WRA Research: 337-0485
Nancy and Keith Lehn
- * Membership: 435-3750
Virginia Clark

* Board Positions

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Monday, December 10th, 7:30 p.m., Woodland Park Zoo ARC, N. Phinney and 55th, Seattle. "Wildlife of Baja and the Sea of Cortez." Slide show by Curator of Birds Wally English, in conjunction with SZS trip to Baja in April, 1985.

Wednesday, January 9th, 7:30 p.m., Zoo ARC. "Rainforest of Costa Rica." Slide show by Eric Kowalczyk, WPZ bird keeper, who will lead SZS trip to Costa Rica in May, 1985. Focuses on Monteverde Cloud Forest and Corcovado National Park.

ADVENTURES OF WOOFER AND FRED II

By Fred Bird, PAS Member

When last we communicated Fred Bird and his trusty birding dog Woofers were hiding out during the Memorial Day weekend in Auburn, California, avoiding tourists and the 115 degree heat. Brief forays were made away from the air conditioner to record plain titmice, Allen's hummingbirds, lesser goldfinch, and blue-gray gnatcatcher.

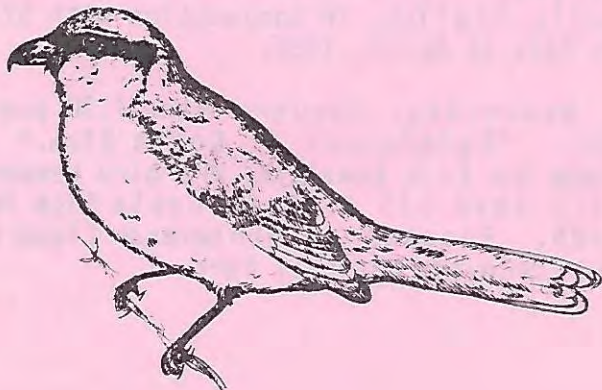
Eventually, we headed south on route 49, spotting a phainopepla and yellow-billed magpie on the way to Yosemite. The famous park itself offered fantastic scenery, too many tourists, white-throated swifts, black swifts, and hooded orioles. The best areas were around the high cliffs and at Mariposa Sequoia Grove.

We hurried across central California, through Fresno to the cool coast. Looking for civilized weather was to become a passion, second only to looking for birds and food. On the way to Morro Bay (a hit tune from the 1840's) we saw an acorn woodpecker. In a small park just back from the coast, a MacGillivray's warbler, Anna's hummingbird and dusky flycatcher were added to the list.

Santa Barbara is an expensive but beautiful city with a superb Natural History Museum and botanical garden. The excellent stuffed bird exhibit is a great aid in looking for the real thing, particularly for size references. Outside the museum and in the nearby gardens we saw Hutton's vireo, black-chinned hummingbird and wren, among many other birds.

I should note that the birds I specifically mention are those which are new to me or of general interest. Needless to say, I am constantly seeing many species already known to me.

From that lovely city, we zig zagged east across the mountains to the smelly (oil fields) community of Taft-Maricopa to prepare for our assault on the condor. Despite



the aroma of oil and garbage-strewn landscape, Maricopa is well worth a visit. We added roadrunner, Le Conte thrasher and loggerhead shrike to our list.

Early June is not a good time to find a condor - August is best, I hear. And remember there are only 17-18 of them in existence! I regret I failed to see one despite driving every road in the Los Padres National Forest from sea level to 8831 feet (Mt. Pinos). I guess I'll have to go back. Woofers said he could do without narrow, mountain roads. Nevertheless, we saw green-tailed towhee, Clark's nutcracker and western bluebird on Mt. Pinos. At another famous condor lookout we saw Lawrence's goldfinch, rock wren and Nuttall's woodpecker.

We skirted Los Angeles and headed southeast on the Angeles Crest Highway (Route 2) spotting a pygmy nuthatch.

The next good stop was the Joshua Tree National Monument, which is a beautiful place to camp. Cottonwood Spring at the south entrance offered black-chinned sparrows, Scott's orioles, crissal thrasher, cactus wren, Hammonds flycatcher, and black-tailed gnatcatcher. The Morongo Preserve nearby contributed verdin, brown-crested flycatcher, Gambel's quail, white-winged dove, and yellow-breasted chat.

The last stop in California was Salton Sea, a repulsive place that stinks of salt and dead fish and is miserably hot. It is 235 feet below sea level. Birds, however, must have questionable taste because we found cattle egrets, lots of burrowing owls, marbled godwits, common moorhens and several fulvous whistler ducks, among many other species.

Leaving California we stopped along the Colorado River and were assaulted by great-tailed grackles and one Say's phoebe.

FIELD TRIP RULES OF ETIQUETTE

Now that our field trip schedule is coming to life, after a more quiet summer, it is a good time to repeat our simple rules for field trips. Consideration leads to greater enjoyment for all.

1. Stay on the trails - it's safer and less harmful to the fragile plant life.
2. Be as quiet as possible - you'll hear and see more.
3. If you are unfamiliar with the area you are visiting - stay close to the group.
4. Do not pick wildflowers - they are more meaningful alive, than dead.

5. Avoid disturbing the wildlife - do not bang on trees to get cavity nesters to fly or trample through a marsh to spook the birds out.
6. Plan to carpool. Remember to share gas expenses.
7. Be prepared for unpredictable weather. We go rain or shine.
8. Pets are not allowed. If you bring yours, you will be asked to leave the pet in your car.
9. Leave no trace - leave the area you are visiting looking more natural than it did when you arrived.

BIRD SEED SALES

PAS is once again selling bird seed for your backyard feeders. We will be selling black Russian sunflower seeds and a wild bird seed mix. They will be available in 10 and 50 pound bags. Ten pounds for \$5.00 or 50 pounds for \$25.00. This amount includes sales tax as well as a donation to PAS.

Both these seeds are of a much superior quality to bird seed you can purchase in the grocery store. You will have less waste and this quality seed will go further. Also you will be helping to support Pilchuck Audubon with your purchase. Four sales outlets are available for your convenience:

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|----------|
| Everett: | Gerald McKnight | 337-4777 |
| Snohomish: | Joyce Kelley | 568-5974 |
| Edmonds: | Susie Schaefer | 771-8165 |
| Stanwood: | Curt Howard | 652-9619 |

NEW POACHING LAW PENALTIES

News Release Washington Dept. of Game

Thanks to the State Legislature and some no-nonsense judges, Washington is becoming an expensive place to poach wildlife.

Substitute Senate Bill 3372 implements a penalty system to reimburse the state for illegally killed wildlife. Anyone convicted of poaching a moose, antelope, mountain sheep, mountain goat or endangered wildlife species is required to reimburse the state \$1,000 per animal. The reimbursement figure for deer, elk, bear and cougar is \$500 per animal.

All money goes into the State Game Fund and is imposed in addition to any criminal fines or penalties. The reimbursement required by the law is to be imposed by the courts in any pronouncement of sentence and cannot be suspended, waived, modified or deferred.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: BUTEO LAGOPUS

By Terri Spencer

Rough-legged hawks are members of the Accipitridae family, belonging to the genus Buteo. Buteos are hawks with short broad tails and long, broad wings. These characteristics help them in soaring which is their classical pose on a sunny day.

The rough-leg gets its name from its feathered tarsus (legs) extending to the toes. There are two color phases: light phase birds have a white or buffy even mottled-looking head, neck, underparts and thighs; dark phase birds are generally dark in these same areas. Both color phases have a white rump patch and base of tail; black patches near the wrist joints in the white of the lower surface of the wings and a broad black bar across the upper belly (red-tailed hawks have a dark bar across their lower belly). They have a small beak and small feet for their size and a wingspan of 48-56 inches.

Because their feet are so small they are limited to small prey: mice, caterpillars, lemmings, pocket gophers, cutworms, some small birds, and carrion. They feed near open fields preferring to perch on fence-posts, low branches, etc. The rough-leg is known for its habit of hanging in mid-air without moving its wings while searching for prey.

Rough-legs spend their summers in the Arctic nesting from Alaska across Canada, Scandinavia, Northern Russia and Siberia. Birds wintering in the U.S. arrive in September and October and usually leave from March to May.

Nests are built on rock ledges, usually under an overhang near the open tundra and mountains although they will nest in the top of trees if they have to. Each pair of hawks may have several nests which they use alternately for many years.

Nesting occurs April to June, laying 2-3 eggs in years of food scarcity (lemmings) and 4-5 in years of good food supply. Young generally leave the nest at 41 days of age and spend 3-6 weeks in the Arctic tundra before migrating south.

In this area you might see rough-legged hawks near the Skagit flats, Samish flats, and Snohomish River Delta. Look for them in the fields north of the Everett Sewage Ponds along I-5.

For more information read Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey Part 1 by Arthur Cleveland Bent and the Encyclopedia of North American Birds by John Terres.

BALD EAGLES ON THE SKAGIT

Libby Mills is the Steward of The Nature Conservancy's Bald Eagle Preserve, which is approximately 1500 acres on the Skagit River from the Cascade River mouth to the Sauk River mouth, or roughly nine miles from Marblemount to Rockport. The Skagit River Bald Eagle Preserve was purchased after a careful study, evaluating the most important feeding and resting areas to a regular migratory wintering population of bald eagle. At its peak in mid January, there is an average of 300 bald eagles on the preserve.

We feel it is in the best interest of the bald eagle to increase local awareness of its behavior and ecology, its needs, and the problems which have caused the eagle to become an endangered or threatened species over all the lower 48 states. A slide show introduces the audience to the full life cycle of the bald eagle. We discuss food webs to understand the role of pesticides, lack of food resources and other problems which have caused the decline of our national bird.

Since 1981 Libby Mills has been a free-lance wildlife artist, photographer and educator in Alaska and Washington. You might recall her wonderful program on the Alaska brown bear last year. As Steward of the Skagit River Preserve, she takes a weekly eagle census and is available on the Preserve to answer questions.



DUCK STAMPS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service urges conservationists to buy Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps ("Duck Stamps"). By purchasing a duck stamp, you'll be helping to acquire vital wetland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife. Your contribution goes directly for the purchase of land for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Duck stamps can be purchased at most Post Offices for \$7.50.

* M 4 *

* Application for joint membership in National Audubon Society and Pilchuck Audubon Society.*

* Includes National Audubon's bimonthly magazine AUDUBON and Pilchuck Audubon's monthly

* PROFILE newsletter for one year. Make your check payable to National Audubon Society.*

* NAME _____ PHONE _____ Check type of membership _____*

* ADDRESS _____ desired. Mail application _____*

* CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ and your check to Pilchuck _____*

* _____ Audubon Society, PO Box 1618, _____*

* _____ Everett, WA 98206. _____*

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|--|---------|---------------------------------------|----------|---|
| * <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL | \$30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL | \$21.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORTING | \$100.00 | * |
| * <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY | \$38.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN FAMILY | \$23.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTING | \$250.00 | * |
| * <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING | \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT | \$18.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> DONOR | \$500.00 | * |

* Subscription only - fill in name and address above.*

* Subscription to PROFILE only \$8.00 Make check payable to Pilchuck Audubon Society.*

* For additional help or Membership information contact Virginia Clark, 435-3750, evenings *

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This will be Pilchuck Audubon's eleventh Christmas Bird Count, and your chance to help contribute important data on the status of our local bird populations. Each year local Audubon chapters nationwide join in an effort to census local bird populations. When the results are published and compared with other chapters and previous years bird counts, conclusions can be reached as to species health, improvements, or possible endangerment.

This year we will meet at 7:00 a.m. at Pier 206 restaurant at the Smokey Point exit 206 off I-5. We will form groups and be given regions of our area to bird. The count will go until dark regardless of weather. Past Christmas counts have gone on in 12 degree F. weather, when the roads have flooded, or even in snow. Each year's count is different, but the final result is always exciting. We will meet at 5:00 p.m. at Bruce and Mary Esther Kellys for a potluck dinner and party. This is open to all regardless of participation in the bird count. Afterwards, we will compile the results and compare notes.

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

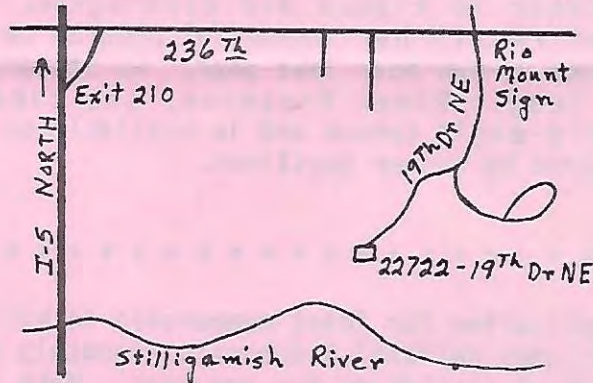
Pilchuck's count is held in the same location each year, a circle 15 miles in diameter centered near Smokey Point. The circle is divided into six regions and we will assign groups at 7:00 a.m. If you know any property owners in the bird count area who are willing to allow us on their land, please call Bill or Sally Lider at 776-0671. Of course, people involved with the bird count will leave no litter, disturb nothing, and close all gates behind them.

A check list of birds that could be expected in the count area will be furnished. Should an unusual bird be observed, you will need to note the field marks, behavior, song, habitat, distance from the bird, and lighting conditions to help confirm your observations. Of course a good photograph is the best corroboration.

Everyone is welcome! The more people who turn out for the count, the more reliable the count data will be. For those of you who aren't too familiar with the birds, you can help by counting and keeping tally. For more information please contact Bill or Sally Lider, 776-0671.

POTLUCK AFTER CBC Bring your own place settings and a dish to share. Those with last names beginning with the letter A-H bring a salad dish, I-N bring a main dish, and O-Z bring desert.

DIRECTIONS TO POTLUCK Take Exit 210 off I-5. Go East on 236th St NE. Turn right on 19th Dr NE. The address is 22722 - 19th Dr NE. Their phone number is 435-2024 in case you get lost.



***** DEADLINE FOR JANUARY'S PROFILE IS DECEMBER 11TH *****

Pilchuck Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1618, Everett, Washington 98206



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Gerald & Marianne McKnight
3526 - 113th Pl SE
Everett, WA
98204