

JANUARY 1984

#### PILCHUCK AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

VOLUME XII NUMBER 5

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 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

PROGRAM MEETING: ORCA WHALES

Everett Community College at 7:30 p.m. in room 605. Our guest will be Rich Osborne, Research Director for the Moclips Cetological Society. The program will deal with research on Orca (killer) whales and the natural history of Puget Sound Mammals. Besides a slide presentation, he will share with us tape recordings of whale sounds and video film. Dan Taylor, Western Regional Representative National Audubon Society, will also be present.

JANUARY 21st/22nd, SATURDAY & SUNDAY

FIELD TRIP: MARBLEMOUNT EAGLE SANC.

Leaders: Keith and Nancy Lehn (337-0485) and Susie Schaefer (771-8165). Meet at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5. This was an over-booked trip last year; thus, we are offering it on two days and RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Call Bonnie Phillips-Howard (652-9619) to reserve your space. See story on page 6 for details.

FEBRUARY 4th, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: NW TREK & OAK CREEK

Leader: John Munn, Snohomish County Cooperative Extension Naturalist (259-9422). PAS is co-sponsoring this exciting and far-ranging trip. See article in last month's Profile for details or call John Munn or Bonnie Phillips-Howard (652-9619) for additional information.

FEBRUARY 19th, SUNDAY

FIELD TRIP: TRUMPETER SWANS

Leader: Joyce Kelley (568-5974). Details next month.

MARCH 31st & APRIL 1st, SATURDAY & SUNDAY

FIELD TRIP: COLUMBIA GORGE

Leader: Bonnie Phillips-Howard (652-9619). See story on back page for details. IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY. We are co-sponsoring this trip with the Snohomish County Cooperative Extension Service, and after January 15th, reservations will be taken from the general public. We expect this trip to fill up fast. BEFORE JANUARY 15th, reservations will be taken only from PAS members.

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER By Curt Howard

# TODAY, TOMORROW AND YESTERDAY

The start of a new year seems like a logical time to let you know my goals of what I think PAS should be like in 2 years, 5 years, 10 years.

Your Board of Directors and I are doing two general things now. We are reorganizing PAS, formalizing and documenting relationships and duties of the elected officers and developing responsibilities of the committees, and committee chairs. With the completion of job descriptions for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, we will have finished that portion. This job was started by Jan van Niel and guided by Pauline Hansen.

The by-laws are being revised. They are out of date. The by-laws are our governing regulations. The revisions have been initiated by a By-Laws Task Force consisting of Pauline Hansen, Sally van Niel and Marge Wiltfong.

Marge Wiltfong was the first Chair of the Handbook Task Force. Upon completion, this handbook will contain all the job descriptions, responsibilities, and names of all chairs and members of committees and task forces. It will also contain all policy statements and positions of PAS, and will be updated continuously. It will be provided to all members of the Board and will be available to all members through our library. All these good things we hope to have by May 20, 1984.

What library you say? That is one of those goals. PAS has volumes of material, ranging from phonograph records through books and magazines to slides. We need a system where this material can be cataloged and made available on loan to our members. As the existing committees expand, they will generate ever more research reports and programs. To achieve this goal, we need someone to organize and catalog. Are you the one we are looking for?

We would like to see PAS become a leader in environmental issues and activities. We would like to combine the talents of the professional, the experts, with the inquisitiveness, the innovativeness and the openness of the concerned to bring about solutions to our environmental problems. To be a leader, we need rich resources of people. We have that. Within our resources lies unlimited ability. Our value to ourselves, our community is limited only by our imagination.

For us to use your imagination we have to know you and offer you opportunities. These two goals mesh together and move forward slowly; each, leading in turn.

To this end PAS developed a questionnair in 1982. It was sent to all who receive the "Profile". We are using these questionnaires to locate and contact people with those abilities and desires which match our activities. If you have not been called, do not be discouraged, it may be that we do not as yet match your special abilities. Perhaps you said "not now". If now is the time, please let Tom Councell (776-0671) or me know.

Our field trips and programs are two of the ways we on the Board have to get to know you. Audubon people are very special. To offer you, as a member, more is our goal. We are doing this by increasing our field trips and our programs. One thing we are doing is looking at our meeting place and time. Are Fridays a good night? Is there a better place than Everett Community College? Call me (652-9619).

More opportunities are available to you through our Conservation Chair, Anne Grubb (668-4462). What does Anne have to offer? She has initiated a program of subcommittees, each working in a very special field such as shoreline management, wilder ness, solid waste disposal, recycling and waste reduction, wetlands, and forest management. Every one of these areas affect you. The solutions to problems in those areas directly affect your quality of life. Do you wish to have a voice in deciding the quality of your life? Would you rather see 70,000 snow geese in a field or a collection of warehouses in that same field? I suspect that you feel as I do, that the 70,000 snow geese are better. The warehouses can go on less valuable land. Anne Grubb and the Board are addressing these problems. We are contributing to the decision making process. We have taken many positions and have written many letters to our elected officials from the county level to the national level. We have had people at hearings and they expressed our views.

One of our current jobs is to assess potential environmental problems and try to develop some priorities. That is a difficult job, for the problems large and small are without number. What are your areas of concern? Talk to any member of the Board. Whisten. If you would like to become a par ner in investigating these areas of concern join us. Call Anne. Our goal is to expand the scope of our investigations. We hope to

develop to the point where others stop and really listen when we talk. You can help. All you need is the desire. The expertise, — the knowledge will come.

The most important function of PAS is education. We have as our Education Chair a professional educator, Jan Erickson (334-4392). The Education committee is developing programs for presentation to PAS and the public. The programs carry the message of the environmentalist. One of the programs in work is on the Trumpeter Swans. Do you remember the "Recycle Fair" we had two years ago? Our funding for this program comes from this activity. My goal is for PAS to have a speaker's bureau so PAS may give presentations to other organizations, clubs and schools. Are you a speaker?

The Finance Committee, Susie Schaefer (771-8165), Chair, is our vehicle for developing fund raising efforts and funding guidelines. Through their efforts, in this year, the first annual budget was developed. Our projected budget is within the projected revenues. PAS has always lived within its income. This year's expenditures are up some \$2,000 over last year, mainly because PAS is paying more of the expenses of the Board, expenses which historically have been assumed by the Board member, e.g. postage, phone bills, reproduction costs and conference fees. Membership fees do not cover our We need those volunteers and those fund raisers. We need more members, for from this point on, their dues will enable us to expand our activities. We need more people to do more things. We need to increase the percentage of active people. My goal is to go from 10% to 40%.

I feel that as we expand our offerings, our expertise, our programs, we will provide and get greater member participation.

One of the types of activities which I hope PAS can further engage in, a type of activity which we can offer to other organizations and communities, is a research project. We are now setting up such a program. The extent of this research project is under investigation right now by a PAS committee, which I call the Corson Research Group. It is expected that the study ground rules will be formalized by the time of the deadline for the February Profile.

One of the best changes within PAS is the newsletter, the "Profile". Really great, isn't it? Marianne McKnight (337-4777), our Editor, needs articles. To get the articles we need writers to submit these articles. If you like to write or would like to try, call Marianne. I suppose the "Profile"

could get better, though I can't come up with any ways.

Let us all work together. Some of the greatest values you and I can receive is the one of friendship. The kind we make on our field trips and other activities. Come and join us.

### 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 therfore 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

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.



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#### BIRD SIGHTINGS: THROUGH DECEMBER 12

- Sept. 15 & 25 The three FRANKLIN'S GULLS at the Everett Sewage Lagoon were the high count reported so far this season. [Eugene Hunn, From Seattle Audubon's Newsletter, Earthcare Northwest, (EN)]
- Sept. 25 AMERICAN BLACK DUCKS were noted as usual at the Everett Sewage Lagoon. Also several LESSER SCAUP with young indicating possible nesting. Young broods of RUDDY DUCKS were also noted. (Eugene Hunn, EN)
- Oct. 1 A GREAT EGRET was seen at Juniper Beach on Camano Island. (David Kvamme, EN)
- Oct. to Dec. A RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER has taken possession of a conifer tree by the mailbox. During the last several months it has made quite a pattern on the trunk of the tree. During the snow we had on Dec. 5 a RUBY-CROWNED KIGLET used the work of the sapsucker to find food. A RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH has also found the sapsucker's work very helpful. (Marianne McKnight)
- Nov. 5 & 6 A TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE visited a feeder on Camano Island. (Don Farmer, EN)
- Nov. 17 An immature NORTHERN SHRIKE was observed catching insects in the fields at Terri Spencer & Steven Howard's house.
- Nov. 18 A SHARP-SHINNED HAWK visited the back yard. (Marianne McKnight)
- Nov. 19 Sixteen TUNDRA SWANS circled over the Northwest Waterfowl Game Farm several times. (Paul Dye)
- Nov. 19 Two BALD EAGLES, both with white tails and heads, but seemingly small for adults, were spotted on the pilings at Mission Beach, Marysvile. One of the eagles was tearing apart another bird. (Sara Robson)
- Nov. 20 A pair of WOOD DUCKS were on Silver Lake. (Marianne McKnight)
- Nov. 24 A BALD EAGLE blew over on Thanksgiving Day at an Arlington residence. (Terri Spencer, Steven Howard)
- Nov. 28 In the space of 20 minutes Eunice Allan observed out of her kitchen window

four VARIED THRUSH, a flock of 12 DARK-EYED JUNCOES, sixteen GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS, one HAIRY WOODPECKER, a WINTER WREN, and most likely eight RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS. This was nea Frontier village.

Nov. 28 A SNOWY OWL was reportedly seen on I-405 near the Bothell-Everett

highway.

Nov. 29 A large flock of very tame GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS at River's End Tree Farm three miles west of Darrington was very entertaining for Edith Countryman.

Dec. 1 Three or four ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were seen south of Padilla Bay for the first reported sighting this season.

(Bonnie Phillips-Howard)

Dec. 3 to 5 A WHITE-THROATED SPARROW was seen among other birds at a feeder at Maybelle Nichols home. This is not a totally uncommon thing to see. So double check those white-crowned sparrows.

Dec. 4 Male and female WOOD DUCKS highlighted a Christmas tree digging expedition at Harry Reade's Tree Farm. (Jan

Richards, Kathy & Jerry Jones)

Dec. 6 A BALD EAGLE flew over Terri Spencer's workplace again.

Dec. 7 A PILEATED WOODPECKER was seen flying in the woods behind T. Spencer's workplace.

Dec. 12 A PILEATED WOODPECKER was working diligently on an old alder snag. (Jan Richards residence)

Some interesting species have been seen around the state in the last few months. Flocks of BROWN PELICANS were reported almost daily from Audust to early October from Ilwaco to Ocean Shores. They have been reported as far north as LaPush and Cape Flattery. On August 17 1000 were reported in the Ilwaco-Long Beach area.

A SOLANDER'S PETREL was seen September 11 off Westport. This is one of only a handful of sightings for the west coast of North America. The species normally ranges

in the western Pacific Ocean.

The first Washington record of the ELEGANT TERN was of three individuals found August 6 at Ocean Shores. The first British Columbia record, 7 individuals, was established August 21 along Boundary Bay. These terns seemed to stay in flocks and many likely coastal localities were searched without success. The high counts were 54 at Ocean shores August 26, 42 along the bear near Long Beach August 28, 100 in the Westport harbor and on the Jetty August 4, 47 along the beach north of the Ocean Shores

jetty September 6, and 76 at Tokeland on

Willapa Bay September 25.

A SIBERIAN ACCENTOR (a passerine) was \_ confirmed and documented along the high tide line of the north end of Indian Island near Port Townsend on October 30. This is the first report of this species south of Alaska where it has been noted just four or five times.

The first Washington record of a SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER was noted September 4 at the junction of Dodson Road and Frenchman Hills Road in Grant County Southwest of Moses Lake.

#### PAS BIRD SIGHTINGS

Terri Spencer/Steve Howard 652-6481 Fred Bird (Arlington Times) 435-5757 Jan Richards 334-2781

TO SEND YOUR SIGHTINGS Terri Spencer/Steven Howard 23329 - 27th Ave NE Arlington, WA 98223

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)

STOP POACHING HOTLINE 1-800-562-5626

#### MEET THE EXPERTS - JANUARY 19

PAS, along with the Everett Mountaineers, Everett Parks Department and Snohomish County Extension Service, will present a program to the general public on Thursday, January 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Ginni Stevens Room of the Snohomish County Administration Building.

The program entitled "Meet Your Local Out-of-Doors Experts", will allow each group to give a 20 minute presentation on outdoor activities which are available to the public. PAS' program will consist of a slide presentation and narration depicting our field trips and the types of wildlife forms about which we are concerned. We expect to show some of the most striking slides you have ever seen, ranging from a classic bald eagle profile to stunning mountain scenes. You are invited.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM SEATTLE AQUARIUM .

# EAGLES ON THE SKAGIT

On January 29th and February 4th the Seattle Aquarium, Bellevue Parks & Recreation and Wildwater Tours are co-sponsoring a nine mile float trip down the Skagit River. See mergansers, kingfishers, American dippers, bald eagles feeding on spawning salmon, and visit the Marblemount salmon hatchery.

The Aquarium provides: transportation to and from the river, rafts, paddles, flotation jackets; pre-trip class with slides. talks, and hands-on activities (Jan. 26th & Feb. 2nd at 7 p.m.); river guide and naturalist in each raft; and a tour of Washington's second largest salmon hatchery.

The fee is \$45 with a limit of 30 people for each trip. For information and reservations call Seattle Aguarium, 625-5030.

## WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

An exhibit of outstanding photographs by the noted wildlife photographer, Art Wolfe, will be displayed in the Pier 59 gallery near the main entrance to the Aquarium beginning in February. Wolfe, who is frequently published nationally, has the January cover for Audubon Magazine. He recently completed a photo essay on trumpeter swans which will appear in a 1984 issue of National Geographic.

# WINTER EVENING LECTURE SERIES

Lectures are on Tuesday evenings (Feb. 7 through March 13), 7 to 9 p.m., in the Aquarium auditorium. An informal reception at the end of the evening offers you the opportunity to meet the speaker personally. Complimentary wine and cheese will be served. Please call the Aquarium, 625-5030, for information and reservations. The cost is \$3.50

The first lecture NATURE IN THE CITY: SEATTLE PARKS PAST TO PRESENT on Feb. 7 will be by David Streatfield, associate professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington. His entertaining talk and slideshow will survey Seattle parks from the 19th century to the present.

The remaining lectures will be described in the next Profile, space permitting. PAS is not co-sponsoring any of the Aquarium activities. We did feel that some of our members would be interested and therefore wanted to inform you.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED PAS IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS

EVERETT: Wanda Adams, James M. Anderson, Mickey Anderson, Gayle Bloom, Thelma C. Berg, Mary Cline Rygg, Russell S. Canniff, Mancy L. Garrison, Diane Hedglin, Miles Neff, Ralph H. Quaas, Stephen Snow, Anita Timko. LYNNWOOD: Farnham, Joyce A. Hutsell, Darleen Gaither, G. J.



Janisch, John Martin, Carol Robe. MUKILTEO: Wayne Doucette. MONROE: Anne N. Seeley, Richard Slauter. STANWOOD: Oscar W. Wilhelm. SNOHOMISH: Kenneth C. Gangloff, Martin S. Waite. SEATTLE: Raymond & Dorothy McKay. MARYSVILLE: Rebecca Buckingham, Terry Slinde. ARLINGTON: Bruce & Mary Esther Kelly. LAKE STEVENS: Jack W. Cook. BREWSTER: Alma McKnight. EDMONDS: Nancy & Benjamin Brodie, E.G. Burrows, May Proudfoot, Ann Saling.

# SKAGIT RIVER BALD EAGLE NATURAL AREA By Terri Spencer

This year we are scheduling two field trips to the Skagit River Bald Eagle Natural Area (SRBENA), Saturday and Sunday, January 21 and 22. This trip has become so popular that we wish to have smaller car caravans per day, so disturbance to the feeding bald eagles is minimal. Call Bonnie Phillips-Howard (652-9619) for reservations.

The Skagit preserve currently consists of 1500 acres of riverfront between Rockport and Marblemount and is managed by the Nature Conservancy and the Washington Department of Game. Within this preserve, a sevenmile stretch of the Skagit River is utilized by the eagles. Recently the Nature Conservancy has announced signing a purchase option involving an addition of 46 acres to the SRBENA. This land, which lies between Illabot Slough and Illabot Creek, with waterfront acreage on both, is bordered by Nature Conservancy property to the west and Washington Department of Game land on the east.

This is a significant purchase since the last remaining privately owned parcel between the two streams will now be incorporated within the skagit preserve.

The preserve was established in 1976 protect the eagle habitat. This area is one of the five most important wintering areas for the bald eagle in the lower 48 states. Between November and March as many as 300 have been counted, with mid-January being the peak month.

The eagles are attracted to this area by the spawning of the Chum salmon. The salmon carcasses are stranded on the gravel bars and in shallow water, making it easier for the eagles to feed. Although Chum salmon are the main food source, early arriving birds feed on fall spawning Pink salmon. Research suggests Coho are a critical reserve when Chum runs are low.

The preserve is also home to mink, river otter, black bear and deer. Two uncommon birds in Western Washington nest within the preserve—the Eastern Kingbird and the Lazuli Bunting.

This field trip is always an exciting event, because of the opportunities to see not only vast quantities of eagles but to see them at close range. Bring your cameras, binoculars and/or spotting scopes.

When visiting the area, please observe these regulations.

Confine eagle viewing to designated lookouts.

- 2. Pets must be on a leash or remain in your vehicle.
- 3. Please do not litter.
- 4. No camping on the preserve.
- 5. Speak quietly and avoid sudden movements which may disturb the eagles.

### WINTER BIRD FOOD RECIPE

This is suitable for attracting both seed and insect-eating species.

Melt together in a double boiler:

1 pound lard

12 ounce jar crunchy peanut butter

1 pound suet

Pour the resulting liquid over:
2 lb., 12 ounce yellow corn meal
10 lbs. wild bird seed (or 5 lbs.
bird seed and 5 lbs. baby chick
scratch).

Mix well and put into small containers or stuff pine cones to hang from rafters outside the window.

# PAS BOARD UPDATE By Sally Lider, Secretary

Pilchuck Audubon Society held two board neetings in November, on the 7th and the 28th. A variety of topics were discussed and some important decisions have been made. Some of the information which was a part of these meetings has been presented to you in Profile articles by various Board members and committee member. Following is a summary of the remaining highlights of the meetings.

1) PAS will have a Bird-A-Thon next spring which will be independent from National Audubon. The Finance Committee is

in charge of organizing the details.

2) A motion was unanimously passed in support of the Packwood-Hatfield Bill to establish a National Scenic Area in the Columbia Gorge.

3) The East Lake Washington Audubon Society has proposed that May 24th be officially declared as Washington State Bird Day. With the support of PAS and other chapters, they will take the request to Governor Spellman.

4) A ten cent per mile reimbursement for gas policy has been established for board-approved travelers to specific conferences.

5) The Washington State Audubon Council Environmental Policies are now in the Final Draft stage, thanks to much thoughtful consideration and hard work by Pam Crocker-Davis and others.

DID YOU KNOW? the majority of birds undergo a complete replacement of feathers annually. In the annual cycle, molting is usually timed so that it does not conflict with two other energy demanding periods.

They are migration and reproduction.

### BANDED GYRFALCONS

During the 1983 summer, gyrfalcons in the Northwest Territories were color banded. In addititon to the regular U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leg band, each nestling received one to three colored, aluminum leg bands with all members of a brood receiving the same combination. The bands are about 10 mm wide, no more than two bands on each leg, including the Fish and Wildlife Service band. Colors used were red, blue and black, and the sequence (top/bottom) and leg (left/right) are significant.

Observations should be sent to The Bird Banding Office, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, K1A OE7 and/or Bob Bromley, N.W.T. Wildlife Service, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 2L9.

#### THE AUDUBON PHILOSOPHY

WE ARE COMMITTED to the protection of wildlife and life support systems, the air, land, and water upon which we all depend.

WE ARE DEDICATED to the maintenance of a

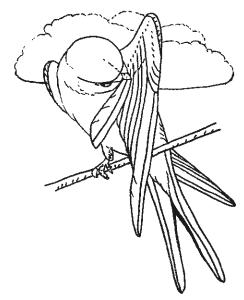
healthy and productive earth.

WE BELIEVE every generation should have the opportunity to experience nature in its undisturbed and natural state.

WE SUPPORT scientific research which leads to greater understanding of intricate patterns of nature and assures wiser use of the earth's abundant resources.

WE REALIZE diversity within nature is essential to the interdependence and well being of all forms of life.

WE BELIEVE in the wisdom of Nature's design.



A bird's life depends on keeping it's feathers in good condition. Flight feathers must be ready for escape from danger, and body feathers must be maintained for insulation.

A bird spends a great deal of time preening and grooming individual feathers. The preen gland, at the base of the tail, releases an oil which the birds rub into their feathers with their bills. This helps to waterproof plumage and keep it supple.

If a bird cannot reach some feathers with it's bill, like on the head, the bird rubs oil on it's feet and then scratches it'

head.

### A SWELL ADVENTURE By Fred Bird

Not having had an adventure in some time I decided I deserved one. The result was a pelagic birding (bird watching) trip out of Westport. Pelagic birds are those found out at sea -- birds which seldom come near the shore except to breed, and then usually on some distant Pacific Island.

Arriving in Westport the rain was horizontal, driving even a most determined birder off the beaches and back to the motel with cable television and a hot shower -- I have neither. The boat trip was set for the next morning so I start a new worry category. Namely, since I don't have foul weather gear, it will probably rain on the trip. It didn't.

And since such gear is likely to be way over-priced in Westport, I drove 20 miles back to Aberdeen and got to Sears five minutes before they closed.

I was the first to the boat at 6 a.m. We were barely out of the harbor before I started seeing "new" birds (new for me in this state), such as black-legged kittiwakes, sooty sherwaters and brown pelicans.

We hadn't been moving but ten minutes when I noticed some of the passengers hugging the rail seemingly wishing they hadn't come on this adventure. The ride over the bar was fairly dramatic and fun, but the ten-foot swells soon began to take their toll with about half the birders looking rather pale.

I had a serious discussion with my stomach, with the latter insisting that it did not like being where it was. "You're the boss," said I, as I found a place by the rail. It would be the first of four such trips.

Some small consolation was derived from the fact that I wasn't the worse off. Two people, in fact, laid down at the beginning of the ride and didn't get up until we returned about ten hours later.

I was told there is one determined soul who frequently takes this boat ride getting terribly sick each time while waiting to see just one bird -- a laysan albatross. She's had no luck yet but keeps coming back. If there were such a thing as a birder's medal of valor, she would deserve it.

I, too, wanted to see an albatross, any albatross. I didn't see a laysan, but I saw over 50 black-footed albatrosses -- some as close as ten feet.

All told I saw 14 new birds for my state list -- keeping lists is the "sporting" aspect of birding. Regardless of lists, seeing any new bird is simply a pleasure.

My physical condition improved significantly as the boat finally turned 40 mile out and headed for home, riding with the swells. It was good to feel human again.

Counting the expenses for the boat trip (\$36), motel, gas and food (why did I bother?) this adventure cost me \$7.85 per new bird. I consider it a good investment. I only regret that I wasn't well enough to properly see a couple of "easy" birds, because it means I've got to go back out again.

Fortunately, I was bright and lucky enough to see a Solander's petrel, a sea bird which nests on one island between Australia and New Zealand and ranges up the western Pacific. It was the first confirmed sighting in the lower "48". I was told there is a tentative sighting off California, but everything about California is tentative so I wasn't impressed.

In addition to the birds, we also saw various seal, porpoises and ocean sunfishes. If anyone has a confirmed seasickness prevention method. I demand to know about it!

The Pelagic bird watching trips are arranged by Terry Wahl in Bellingham. He can be reached at 733-8255.



By Jan Richards

For all the seasons of your mind's wanderings, the ghost whales live. love and pass. In the green depths unseen they perceive themselves, and the deep of your spirit remains vast.

# EXECUTIVE OFFICERS & CHAIR POSITIONS FOR 1983 - 1984

* President: 652-9619	* Conservation: 668-4462
Curt Howard	Anne Grubb
7207 Lakewood Road	16727 - 87th Ave SE
Stanwood, WA 98292	Snohomish, WA 98290
* Vice President: 776-0247	* Programs: 568-5974
Tom Councell	Joyce Kelley
18505 - 83rd Ave	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	430 Avenue I
Edmonds, WA 98020	Snohomish, WA 98290
* Secretary: 776-0671	* Technical Resource Advisor: 778-7568
Sally Lider	Sally van Niel
2526 - 205th Pl SW	4404 - 222nd St SW
Lynnwood, WA 98036	Mountlake Terrace, WA 98042
* Treasurer: H 337-4777, W 342-2397	Public Information: H 259-7047 W 259-8811
Gerald McKnight	Kathy Green
3526 - 113th Pl SE	1516 Rucker
Everett, WA 98204	Everett, WA 98201
* Finance: 771-8165	
	Protection Is. Representative: 778-7568
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* Editor: 337-4777	Hospitality: 258-1175
Marianne McKnight	Lee Minshull
3526 - 113th PÌ SE	2228 Pine St
Everett, WA 98204	Everett, WA 98201
* Education: 334-4392	Membership Records: 337-4777
Jane Erickson	Gerald McKnight
2424 - 162nd Dr SE	3526 - 113th P1 SE
Snohomish, WA 98290	Everett, WA 98204
* Field Trips: 652-9619	
Bonnie Phillips-Howard	
7207 Lakewood Road	Nominating:
Stanwood, WA 98292	Christmas Bird Count: Sally & Jan van Niel
Librarian:	
Eagle Count: Sally & Jan van Niel	* Board Positions
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# COLUMBIA GORGE FIELD TRIP By Bonnie Phillips-Howard, Field Trip Chairman

Pilchuck Audubon Society and the Snohomish County Cooperative Extension Service (John Munn) are co-sponsoring a field trip to the Columbia River Gorge on Saturday and Sunday March 31 and April 1, 1984. The cost of this trip will be \$54, which includes transportation from Lynnwood, a number of tours of the Gorge both on Saturday and Sunday, overnight dormitory accommodations at the Menucha Retreat Center, and a Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast served at the Center. Checks should be made payable to Bonnie Phillips-Howard and mailed to her home address at 7207 Lakewood Road, Stanwood, WA 98292. Further information can be had by calling Bonnie at 652-9619. We expect this trip to fill up fast. Audubon members have the exclusive opportunity to reserve a space on the bus until January 15, 1984. After that the trip will be open to the general public on a first-come, first-serve basis.

We are planning an exciting itinerary and will be leaving the Lynnwood area about 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 31. Mike Spranger, Marine Resource Specialist, Columbia River, Washington State University, will meet us at the mouth of the Gorge (east of Portland) and be our guide for the day. He has arranged a special tour of the new Visitor's Center at Bonneville Dam, and a short presentation by Phil Crawford, Skamania Co. Extension Agent, on Forest Management Practices and Jeff Breckel, Executive Director of the Columbia Gorge Commission, who will give us a history of Gorge management and current legislation. Mike will then give us a short tour of the area, concentrating on fisheries topics.

We will be staying at the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center, a 100-acre facility at the mouth of the Columbia Gorge. A homestyle meal (homemade bread, etc., all you can eat dinner) will be served about 6:00 p.m. Mike Spranger will present a slide show on salmon of the Columbia River in the evening. The common room contains a piano (we need a piano player for this trip!) and a fireplace—a large but cosy room for us to enjoy ourselves the remainder of the evening. Sleeping facilities are dorm-style (5 or 6 per room). Bring your own bedding (sleeping bag) and towels or the Center will provide bedding at an additional

charge. Semi-private (motel-like) rooms are also available.

On Sunday morning, an "early bird" trip will be an option. Word has it that many interesting birds have been seen along the trails through the acreage of the retreat; views from the bluff promise raptor sitings. Peregrine falcons have been released in the

area and Mike Spranger will give us more specific information on this.

Breakfast (homestyle and bountiful) is served about 8:00 a.m. and we will then meet with Nancy Russell of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Nancy will be our tour guide for Sunday. This lady is very knowledgeable about the history of the Gorge, as well as the flora and the fauna. She is also a marvelous photographer. Her guide services are in heavy demand and we are very fortunate to be having her with us. We will stop in the Gorge area for lunch (not included in the \$54) and head back to Lynnwood, arriving there between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m., depending on the final itinerary.

This is an ambitious undertaking for Pilchuck Audubon Society. We really do hope to make it a big success. Join us!

# Pilchuck Audubon Society

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