

Pilchuck Audubon Profile

MARCH 1984

VOLUME XII NUMBER 7

PILCHUCK AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

MARCH 3rd, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: NW WATERFOWL SANCTUARY
PAUL DYE'S

Leaders: Terri Spencer and Steven Howard (435-8602). Meet at 9:00 a.m. in front of the Coast-to-Coast store at Frontier Village on Highway 9. Paul Dye has a private bird refuge and breeding farm with many species of birds. We will see native and non-native waterfowl, cranes, swans, geese and much more. This is a marvelous chance to see these birds up close, making a good trip for birders and photographers. Bring warm clothing, boots, and binoculars. There will be trail-clearing work party after the field trip, details p. 6.

MARCH 10th, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: SEA KAYAK--ORCAS ISLAND

CANCELLED (trip leaders decided to take a vacation in Baja California). WILL BE RESCHEDULED IN SUMMER OR FALL.

MARCH 16th, FRIDAY

MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETING

Everett Community College at 7:30 p.m. in room 605. "The Real Alaska Brown Bear: Not Ferocious, Not 'Teddy'". Article on page 2.

MARCH 17th, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: PADILLA BAY/SAMISH FLATS
HERON ROOKERY

Leaders: Curt and Bonnie Phillips-Howard (652-9619). Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5 or at 9:30 a.m. at the Padilla Bay Interpretative Center. Skagit Audubon is hosting this field trip and has arranged for Toby Michelena, Fairhaven College, to give us a tour of the heron rookery on the Samish Peninsula. We will do further birding at Padilla Bay and the Samish Flats; expect to see Brant geese, a wide variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, and bald eagles. Bring warm clothes, boots, a sack lunch and binoculars.

APRIL 7th, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: CONSERVATION TRIP
CATHCART LANDFILL

Leaders: Anne and Mike Grubb (668-4462). Our first annual conservation field trip. Details next month.

APRIL 21st, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: PORT SUSAN/CAMANO IS.

Leader: Susie Schaefer (771-8165). Details next month.

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. Details next month.

APRIL 28th, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: STILLWATER WRA

Leaders: Keith and Nancy Lehn (337-0485). Details next month.

FIRST TIME EVER
May 19th-20th Overnight Workshop Weekend!

Keep May 19th-20th open for a fun workshop weekend at Camp Silverton. We are planning workshops on birds, wildflowers, insects, aquatic life, and photography. In the evening we plan a spaghetti feed, a sing-along, and possibly an owl-prowl. We will sleep in cabins on the campgrounds.

A registration form will be included in the April newsletter, but if you want to be sure your name gets on the list, call Jane Erickson, 334-4392, now. There will be a limit of 100 people, including children. (All children must be accompanied by an adult.) The tentative plan is to charge a low fee (well under \$10 per person) to cover camp rental and food.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the weekend (food, workshop leader, logistics, etc.) please contact Jane Erickson. We need you! Plans for the weekend are not complete--if you have suggestions, let us know. Call Jane Erickson, 334-4392.

HERE COME THE BEARS!

Our greatest land carnivore, the grizzly or brown bear has become extinct or endangered in all the "Lower 48" states. But in a remote area of the Alaska Peninsula, rushing streams still attract hundreds of thousands of salmon, and as many as 30 of the great bears fish together in mid-summer.

What is the Real brown bear like? We hear of their ferocity, read frightening tales of their interactions with humans; but are these true and representative of the bear's behavior?

Predators are often the most misunderstood animals. Because their food habits parallel those of humans we have taken them from reality into legend and distortion, and very nearly into final extinction. Bears are seen either as man-eating beasts or teddy bears. Please join us to explore the daily habits, ecology and behavior of wild bears in their natural habitats.

Why is Alaska great for wildlife and who shares the many habitats of the grizzly/brown bear? How are these complicated food chains

interwoven? How do bears cope with the harsh seasons, compared with other animals?

Why do bears reproduce so slowly, and what is cub life like? What are the differences between our three species of North American bears?

We will explore these and other ecological questions, then through photographs, fly to a Brown Bear Sanctuary and explore close-up the day-to-day life on a salmon stream.

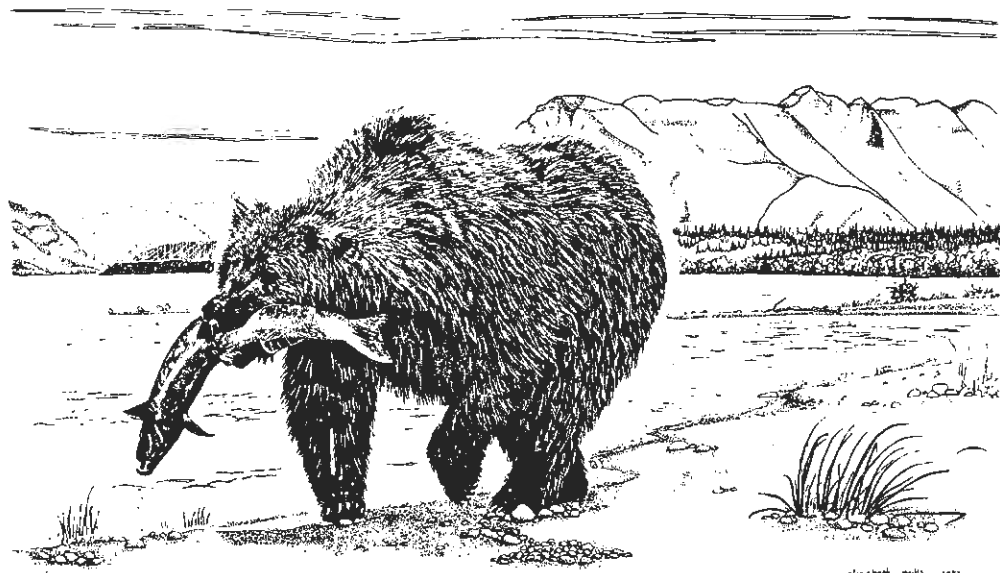
We will reach an understanding of the world of the bear and our human attachment to the "Beast who walks like a man", as well as the steps we must take to protect these animals and all our great wildlife heritage.

Come to the monthly program meeting on March 16th at 7:30 p.m. in room 605 at Everett Community College for the answers to these questions.

NECK COLLARED TRUMPETER SWANS From The US Fish and Wildlife Service

During Summer 1983, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel neck collared 46 Trumpeter Swans in the Minto Flats area near Fairbanks, Alaska and the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge near Tanacross, Alaska. These birds have been neck collared to better understand use of wetlands in the breeding area, migration routes, wintering areas and fidelity of returning birds to breeding areas.

The swans have blue neck collars with white codes. All codes begin with two numbers followed by the letter EA (example 22EA). All collars are read from the base of the swan's neck up. Codes are 21EA through 67EA. Each four symbol code is



repeated five times around the collar.

If you see one of these birds or know of someone who has seen a neck collared swan please forward the following information:

1. Date of observation(s)
2. Exact location in reference to nearest town
3. Collar codes (including condition and observability of collar)
4. Number of other swans in flock (including age, family, etc.)
5. Activity and behavior of bird during observation
6. Observation circumstances (including distance, visibility, etc.)

Two of these swans were affixed with a small radio transmitter mounted via a harness centered in the middle of the back. The frequencies are 164.200 MHz and 164.225 MHz. These two birds are also wearing the blue neck collars with codes 22EA and 64EA. If you observe these two birds you may call collect to Rod King, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1412 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Phone (907) 456-0256

Other neck collar sightings should be sent to the above address and to Bird Banding Laboratory, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland 20811.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Curt Howard

One of our local conservation priority issues established at the special Board meeting of January 29th was water quality of the Snohomish River Delta. And just about this time we received a letter from George F. Sherwin, Jr., Planning Director of the Snohomish County Department of Planning and Community Development.

To digress a bit, we in Snohomish County should be thankful we live here. While not perfect, Snohomish County would receive a superior grade from me if I were to rate it with other counties I have lived in. Its administration and employees are more attuned to local needs and attitudes and are far better in dealing with their constituents.

The letter from Mr. Sherwin alerted Pilchuck Audubon of violations of the State Flood Control Zone, Title 185CC; Section 18.68.040 (b)(2) Snohomish County Code; the Shoreline Management Act, Title 21SCC; Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and a possible zoning violation. All this at one site on the west bank of Ebey Slough, approximately 1/3 mile north of Highway 2, two miles east of Everett.

Mickie Jones has "illegally" placed wood waste fill and dolphins (large pilings) in Ebey Slough. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping notice--after-the-fact, as it were--which is one of the steps in producing an EIS has been filed. All of you who feel strongly about the oxygen depletion and tropolone toxicity (detrimental to fish and aquatic insects) and increased acidity of water from this fill material should protest this type of activity by writing the Snohomish County Planning Commission.

The Pilchuck Audubon Society has been approached as a "resource" for a potential TV documentary on Trumpeter Swans on Channel 4. We will keep you posted.

Your Executive Committee is acting as the Nominating Committee this year for the offices of Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer (the President has a two year term). If you have or wish to be a candidate for office, please see me, 652-9619.

SPRING AUDUBON COUNCIL

The Spring Audubon Council at Central Washington University Conference Center in Ellensburg will be held March 23rd-25th. The program theme is "Agriculture and Farmlands Preservation". There will be field trips, information updates and time for socializing. Meals and lodging may be arranged. For a registration form or more information call Curt Howard, 652-9619.

NW NEST RECORD CARD PROGRAM

Thomas Burke Memorial Washington State Museum is making a plea for help in compiling information on breeding dates and clutch sizes for all species throughout the state.

The success of this compilation depends on contributions from Northwest birders. Strategically timed visits to nests that you find each spring will yield valuable information to birdwatchers and scientists if you take a few minutes to fill out a nest record card.

If you would like to join the Program and contribute to the growing body of nesting information, send a postcard requesting the number of nest cards you need to Pacific Northwest Nest Record Card Program, Thomas Burke Memorial Washington State Museum DB-10, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195. Phone 543-1668 for more information.

A TWO FAMILY APARTMENT
By Kay Thoreson

OFFICERS & CHAIR POSITIONS
1983 - 1984

In June 1982 when Dave put up our first swallow house it was claimed by a pair of violet green swallows within two hours. We had the fun of watching them raise their family and hearing the baby voices.

In 1983 on March 21st a pair of violet green swallows briefly inspected the house probably to make sure it was waiting for them.

A week later on March 28th a pair of chestnut-backed chickadees began carrying out, bit by bit, the old swallow nest. This task was finished by April 4th and they then began building their own nest using bits of bright green moss from the cedar trees.

On April 14th the swallows came back to the house. The feisty little chickadees chased them again and again until the swallows gave up. In fact, although the finches and chickadees had been peacefully co-existing, the chickadees now chased the finches too.

By April 26th the chickadees were sitting on their nest - one sitting, one bringing food.

On May 9th the violet green swallows anxiously hovered around the bird house.

By May 16th both parent chickadees were busy bringing food to their babies.

We were gone from May 17th to June 3rd and when we returned the chickadees were gone and the patient swallows were busy (at last) building their new nest.

On June 14th the swallows were sitting on the nest with one bringing food for the other.

On June 27th the swallow parents were feeding their young.

On July 15th we saw the baby swallows beaks in the bird house door and heard their calls for food.

We were gone from July 17th to 29th and when we returned the swallows, too, had left the bird house.

On September 10th two very young chickadees came to the kitchen garden to visit me. In October the chickadees came to my window nearly every day. I'm anxiously waiting for spring 1984 when the swallows will come back to say "Hello" too.

Teddy bears got their name from President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt, who was shown in a 1907 cartoon sparing the life of a bear cub while hunting. From Idaho Wildlife

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* Board Positions

THE BROWN BEAR'S PICNIC

One of the world's largest meat-eaters is the Alaskan Brown Bear.

For about six months in the winter the bears stay in a den. In the spring they come out very hungry. But food is scarce and they must survive on what they can find...grasses, roots, berries, dead animals and prey.

But--when the salmon runs begin in early summer--it's time for the "brown bear's picnic" and they are "as hungry as bears" by that time.

Several thousand big, hungry brown bears come together on the Alaskan Peninsula in large groups for a fish feast. As many as 80 bears may dine in a 100-yard stretch of river. Even in a crowd, they keep their distance. The bigger the bear, the more room the others give it.

The main course of the picnic is the tens of thousands of sockeye salmon that swim up the rivers and streams of the region to spawn.

All that fish helps these coastal Alaskan brown bears grow to a weight that can be twice that of the inland grizzlies. Some weigh in at 1200 pounds! Very big indeed--rivalled only by the polar bear as the world's largest carnivore.

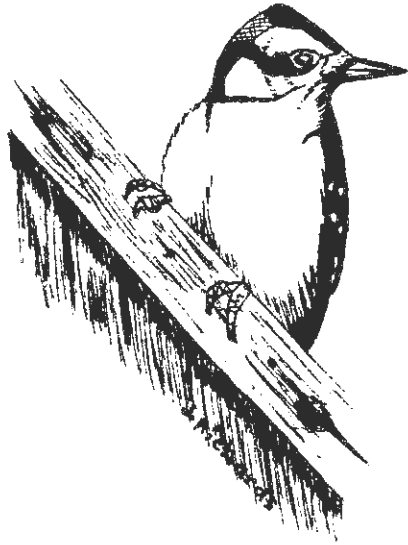


***Libby Mills will share "Six Summers Shared on Salmon Streams with the Alaskan Brown Bear", on March 16, at the monthly program meeting. Don't miss it!



Did you find these words hidden in WATCH-WORDS FOR INJURED WILDLIFE in the February "Children's Circle"?

Care, scared, take, helped, serve, free, call, share, stress, do, lend, box, warm, save, live, love.



1984 PILCHUCK AUDUBON BIRD-A-THON

Come join in the fun of the 1984 Bird-a-thon on April 21 and 22.

The Bird-a-thon is an annual fundraiser for our chapter. Everyone is welcome to join either as a participant bird identifier and counter or as a pledge supporter.

This is how the Bird-a-thon works. Participants collect pledges for the number of species identified during a 24 hour period on this April weekend. There will be two PAS groups of Bird-a-thon participants out looking for as many species as possible. However, individuals are welcome to join in the fun too.

Group A - lead by Susie Schaefer will go to Port Susan and the Camano Island area on Saturday April 21st.

Group B - lead by Terry Spencer and Steven Howard will go to Bowerman Basin and Nisqually Delta for the two days.

To secure pledges, participants should contact friends, neighbors, co-workers and relatives having them sign up for a specific amount for each species seen. For example, a pledge could be for 5 cents, 10 cents, 20 cents or more for each species. The groups should expect to see between 60-80 species. Last year 70 species were identified in the Port Susan area by participants. The pledge sheet is on page 13. It should be completed before the actual Bird-a-thon. More are available from Susie or at the PAS March and April program meetings. After the Bird-a-thon, participants should make up a list of the species seen for their supporters and collect the pledges. All amounts big or small are welcome. Those turning in over \$50, will receive a prize! Pledges should be mailed to PAS, P.O. Box 1618, Everett, 98206 before the end of May.

Those who wish to be supporters but not participants, should put their name as a sponsor on the pledge sheet and use Group A, Group B or any other participant as Name Participant. This way all can support this activity and help PAS raise money. Supporters should mail their pledge sheet to a group leader. Group A: Susie Schaefer, 1055 Edmonds St, Edmonds, 98020. Group B: Terry Spencer/Steven Howard, 23329 - 27th Ave NE, Arlington, 98223

If you have any questions about the 1984 Bird-a-thon contact Susie 771-8165.

TRAIL - CLEARERS NEEDED

Help is needed with trail-clearing after the March 3rd field trip to Paul Dyes' NW Waterfowl Sanctuary. The trail on the Corson Wildlife Recreation Area that goes to Catherine Creek needs brushing out for use by the Corson Research Group. If you would like to help, bring a machete or a similar brush-cutting tool. It would be greatly appreciated.

PROGRAM MEETING - MARCH 16th

"The Real Alaska Brown Bear: Not Ferocious, Not 'Teddy'". Come learn about the behavior, life cycle, and ecology of the Alaska Peninsula brown bear. Libby Mills worked for five summers as a National Park Service naturalist at Katmai and Denali National Parks. Her talk, which is illustrated by slides, is based on six summers spent observing and photographing the bears. She is a freelance wildlife artist, photographer, and naturalist, currently the Nature Conservancy Steward for the Skagit River Bald Eagle Preserve.

MONK PARAKEETS IN WASHINGTON

By Jan Richards

I noted in Rainier Audubon's January/February 1984 issue of "The Heron Herald", that on their 1983 Christmas Bird Count, two monk parakeets were counted in Auburn. Being always interested in "new" birds and their changing ranges, man induced or otherwise, I did a little research.

The monk parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*), is a native of South America. Apparently a shipment of caged monk parakeets arrived at New York's Kennedy Airport approximately twenty years ago during the Christmas season. During unloading in freezing cold weather, the crate fell and broke open, releasing dozens of the birds.

ADOPT-A-QUAD

A USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map, That Is!
By Jane Erickson, Chairperson

Are you aware of areas in your neighborhood that may have special wildlife habitat values? Then YOU can help with this project. Or are you interested in some area in the mountains of Snohomish County? We also need people to adopt "quads" in the eastern half of the county where few people live.

We have plans to produce an Atlas of Sensitive Areas of Snohomish County, so we need lots of people to help. We will be mapping the habitats (and potential habitats) of sensitive species, and special areas that are important to birds and other wildlife.

If you are interested in joining us, contact Jane Erickson, 334-4392.

BIRD RECIPES

In January's Profile we published a recipe for feeding birds. After reading the following article in The Kitsap Audubon Society "Kingfisher", it probably isn't a good idea to mix suet, peanut butter, and seeds together for the birds.

Melting suet and mixing it with peanut butter and bird seed is a mixture many people are still feeding their birds. These recipes have been perpetrated by Audubon members (not Audubon), the news media, and most of all, the companies who sell bird seed.

Overlooked is one small point. Birds must shell or "hull" the seeds they eat. If you've closely examined your feeder after it's been filled with shelled sunflower seeds you'll see the birds even shell these. They take off the thin membrane covering the heart.

Covering these shells with melted suet or peanut butter or any kind of "fat" just complicates things for the birds. How would you like to get rid of a shell coated with something greasy?

Putting a filler in melted suet started when people began worrying about birds choking on the straight stuff, and they can. I've seen a chickadee choke on peanut butter.

A better way to handle this problem is to mix processed grains like cornmeal or oatmeal (right out of the cupboard) in with your suet and peanut butter. Put in enough until the mixture is almost cakelike.

Ken Short on Bainbridge Island has an excellent recipe which the bug-eating birds

really love. Melt a pound of lard and add a quart of oatmeal. I add a little peanut butter to it, but it isn't necessary.

In National's latest booklet, "Banquets for Birds", they suggest mixing peanut butter with cornmeal.

Let's keep the seeds out of the suet!

BIRD SIGHTINGS



THROUGH FEBRUARY 15

- Jan. 13 A possible **WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** was observed at La Conner. (Fred Bird)
- Jan. 15 Two **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS** were seen on the Skagit and Samish Flats. Also two adult and an immature **BALD EAGLE** were seen at March Point. (Gerry McKnight)
- Jan. 16 One adult **BALD EAGLE** was perched on a cedar snag in the Snohomish Valley. (Steven Howard)
- Jan. 17 A **COOPER'S HAWK** flushed near a bird feeder in the Dubuque Area. (Fred Bird)
- Jan. 18 A **BALD EAGLE** was seen soaring in search of food over Steamboat Slough. (Terri Spencer)
- Jan. 21 Six **BALD EAGLES** were on the upper Skagit River and 14 more on the Samish Flats during the Marblemount-Rockport field trip. Also two **TRUMPETER SWANS** in a field near Conway were observed. Other sightings for the day included **RED-TAILED HAWK**, **GREAT BLUE HERONS**, **PINTAILS**, **AMERICAN WIGEONS**, **BONAPARTE'S GULL**, **VARIED THRUSH** and **MALLARDS**. (Jan Richards, Sue Wade, and Judy Christianson)
- Jan. 23 An **AMERICAN BITTERN** was seen just north of Arlington. They are uncommon in winter. (Steven Howard)
- Jan. 24 Two **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS** were seen north of the Everett Sewage Lagoons. (Terri Spencer)
- Jan. 25 Approximately 200 **DUNLIN** were seen at the Everett Sewage Lagoon. Also 200-300 more were in a field at 152nd and 51st Ave Marysville feeding next to the road. (Terri & Allen Spencer)
- Jan. 25 An immature **BALD EAGLE** flew over Frontier Village. (Steven Howard)
- Jan. 26 An adult **BALD EAGLE** was seen near Snohomish. (Jan Richards)
- Jan. 30 A **WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER** was seen near Lake Wenatchee. (Susie Schaefer)

- Jan. 31 A **THREE-TOED WOODPECKER** is back in the yard of Curt and Bonnie Howard.
- Jan. A **BALD EAGLE** was observed on the North Fork Stilliguamish River every day by recently retired Gary Wold.
- Jan. Three **GRAY JAYS** were observed west of Arlington. (Jessie Cravens)
- Feb. 2 Eight **EVENING GROSBEAKS**, a **STELLER JAY** and an **AMERICAN ROBIN** were enjoyed at the bus stop. (Allen Spencer)
- Feb. 3 A **SNOWY OWL** was seen along Beaver Marsh Rd. (Seattle Audubon Hotline, SAH)
- Feb. 4 Stopping over in a neighborhood near Arlington were fifty to one hundred **EVENING GROSBEAKS**. (Terri Spencer)
- Feb. 6 An **EASTERN BLUEJAY** has been at a feeder daily at the south end of Lake Sammamish. (SAH)
- Feb. 7 Four **CASSIN'S FINCHES** were identified at a feeder. Their larger bill helped in the identification. (Joan Lucas)
- Feb. 8 A first year **WHITE WAGTAIL** has been seen daily near Crockett Lake opposite the ferry landing and along the lake-shore. This bird is a Siberian bird and normally occurs in northwestern Alaska. (SAH)
- Feb. 10 Hovering over a field south of the Ebey Island (Hewitt Ave) trestle, a **NORTHERN HARRIER** dove and caught a small rodent. She then flew up and landed with the catch on a telephone pole. (Jan Richards)
- Feb. 10 A **MERLIN** was observed south of Stanwood. (Steven Howard)
- Feb. 12 Two **AMERICAN GOLDFINCH** in winter plumage sat in a bush at an Arlington residence. (T. Spencer)
- Feb. 12 Hundreds of **SNOW GEESE** were a lovely sight to Mary Morris and her mother. They were seen while crossing the bridge from Stanwood to Camano Island. Most of the geese were resting on land, though some were in the water.
- Feb. 15 Twelve **CANADA GEESE** were seen landing near the Everett Sewage Lagoon.
- Feb. A **HARRIS SPARROW** has been seen on the Fraser Rd. in Kent. (SAH)
- Feb. A male **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** has been observed at the Montlake Fill. (SAH)
- Feb. A possible **SWAMP SPARROW** has been seen at 272nd and Auburn Way. (SAH)

Virginia Clark has been keeping track of birds seen in her yard and at her feeder. She's had up to 28 **MOURNING DOVES** wintering at her home. At one time she had 25 **STELLAR JAYS** on Feb. 11th. She also has hundreds of **DARK-EYED JUNCOES** especially

on cold days. Also a **SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** who tends to get harassed by the local jays. This is typical of sharp-shinned hawks as hunting is easier for them around a bird feeder.

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

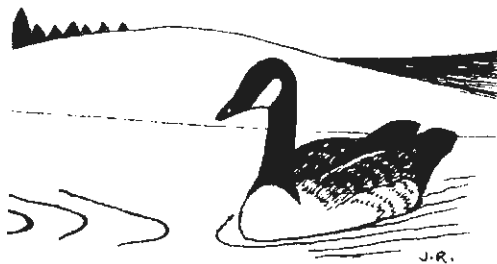
WOOD BURNING AND AIR POLLUTION

By Bonnie Phillips-Howard

Burning wood for home heating is becoming a pollution problem in Western Washington as well as in other parts of the country. Wood burning emits far more carbon monoxide and more particulates than does heating with gas or oil. There are a number of things a wood burner can do to cut down on the amount of pollution emitted by wood smoke.

1. Burn dry, clean wood. Firewood should be seasoned at least 6-8 months before use.
2. Burn briskly the first 30 minutes. A hot fire will heat the stove up enough to burn the wood completely and cleanly.
3. Do not damper too far. Allow enough air into the stove to fully combust the wood. Don't attempt to "hold" a fire overnight by reducing combustion air.
4. Watch your chimney. If you can see smoke, your wood is not burning cleanly and the air supply to the fire should be increased.
5. Try not to burn on days when air quality is poor.
6. Do not burn garbage, trash, treated wood or plastics. Some plastics release toxic fumes when burned. Burning colored paper releases lead into the air.
7. Before installing a wood stove, consider insulating and weatherstripping your home to conserve heat better.
8. Have your chimney cleaned at least once a year to rid it of creosote build up and help prevent chimney fires.
9. Install your stove according to current building codes.

The above tips are taken mainly from a publication sponsored by the Washington Department of Ecology. For a free booklet giving more information, write to Office of Hazardous Substances and Air Quality Control, Mail Stop PV-11, Olympia, WA 98504.



1983 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

| <u>SPECIES</u> | <u>1983 TOTAL</u> | <u>YRS SEEN</u> | <u>PREV HIGH</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Red-throated loon | 1 | 10 | 3 |
| Arctic loon | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Common loon | 21 * | 9 | 14 |
| Pied-billed grebe | 6 | 9 | 13 |
| Horned grebe | 52 * | 10 | 27 |
| Red-necked grebe | 92 * | 7 | 47 |
| Eared grebe | 6 * | 7 | 3 |
| Western grebe | 119 | 9 | 245 |
| Double-crested cormorant | 354 * | 6 | 147 |
| Pelagic Cormorant | 5 * | 4 | 2 |
| Cormorant species | 33 | | |
| American bittern | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Great blue heron | 97 * | 10 | 59 |
| Tundra (whistling) swan | 6 | 2 | 48 |
| Trumpeter swan | 0 | 3 | 12 |
| Mute swan | 0 | 1 | 14 |
| Snow goose | 2501 | 10 | 17000 |
| Brant | 1 | 4 | 67 |
| Canada goose | 4 | 8 | 460 |
| Wood duck | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| Common Teal (green-winged) | 43 * | 6 | 22 |
| American black duck | 3 | 5 | 38 |
| Mallard | 818 * | 10 | 567 |
| Northern pintail | 1573 | 8 | 4871 |
| Northern shoveler | 47 | 6 | 61 |
| Gadwall | 9 | 5 | 49 |
| Eurasian wigeon | 2 | 2 | 7 |
| American wigeon | 1145 | 10 | 6512 |
| Canvasback | 32 * | 8 | 23 |
| Redhead | 4 * | 2 | 3 |
| Ring-necked duck | 125 * | 9 | 35 |
| Greater scaup | 42 | 4 | 165 |
| Lesser scaup | 258 | 10 | 291 |
| Scaup species | 54 | | |
| Oldsquaw | 3 * | 3 | 2 |
| Black scoter | 1 * | 1 | 0 |

SPECIES

| | <u>1983 TOTAL</u> | <u>YRS SEEN</u> | <u>PREV HIGH</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Surf scoter | 135 * | 10 | 116 |
| White-winged scoter | 62 * | 8 | 50 |
| Common goldeneye | 82 | 10 | 86 |
| Barrow's goldeneye | 6 | 10 | 40 |
| Bufflehead | 180 | 10 | 310 |
| Hooded merganser | 0 | 8 | 12 |
| Common merganser | 66 | 9 | 193 |
| Red-breasted merganser | 37 | 7 | 52 |
| Merganser species | 2 | | |
| Ruddy duck | 87 | 9 | 123 |
| Duck Species | 412 | | |
| Bald eagle | 7a,4i * | 9 | 7 |
| Northern harrier | 6 | 10 | 13 |
| Sharp-shinned hawk | 5 * | 7 | 2 |
| Cooper's hawk | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| Swainson's hawk | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| Red-tailed hawk | 43 * | 10 | 31 |
| Rough-legged hawk | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Golden eagle | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| American kestrel | 3 | 7 | 8 |
| Merlin | 0 | 6 | 2 |
| Peregrine falcon | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Ring-necked pheasant | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| Ruffed grouse | 4 | 7 | 4 |
| Sharp-tailed grouse | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| California quail | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| American coot | 134 | 10 | 367 |
| Black-bellied plover | 0 | 2 | 32 |
| Golden plover | 0 | 1 | 125 |
| Killdeer | 38 | 8 | 95 |
| Lesser yellowlegs | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Spotted sandpiper | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Semi-palmated sandpiper | 0 | 1 | 15 |
| Western sandpiper | 23 | 4 | 3000 |
| Least sandpiper | 0 | 2 | 1380 |
| Dunlin | 400 | 9 | 2900 |
| Common Snipe | 15 | 6 | 55 |
| Bonaparte's gull | 135 * | 6 | 20 |
| Mew gull | 851 | 8 | 1938 |
| Ring-billed gull | 651 * | 6 | 157 |
| California gull | 0 | 5 | 754 |
| Herring gull | 0 | 5 | 1113 |
| Thayer's gull | 20 | 5 | 50 |
| Glaucous-winged gull | 661 | 10 | 894 |

| SPECIES | 1983 TOTAL | YRS SEEN | PREV HIGH | SPECIES | 1983 TOTAL | YRS SEEN | PREV HIGH |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Gull species | 983 | | | Hermit thrush | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Common murre | 5 | 3 | 25 | American robin | 593 | 10 | 1680 |
| Marbled murrelet | 8 * | 3 | 6 | Varied thrush | 150 | 9 | 173 |
| Cassin's auklet | 0 | 2 | 2 | Bohemian waxwing | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Rock dove | 193 | 8 | 692 | Cedar waxwing | 0 | 3 | 15 |
| Band-tailed pigeon | 1 | 5 | 49 | Northern shrike | 4 * | 6 | 2 |
| Mourning dove | 26 * | 2 | 13 | European starling | 8347 * | 10 | 5960 |
| Common barn owl | 0 | 4 | 1 | Hutton's vireo | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Great horned owl | 1 | 5 | 2 | Yellow-rumped warbler | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| Northern pygmy owl | 0 | 2 | 1 | Townsend's warbler | 1 | 4 | 10 |
| Long-eared owl | 0 | 1 | 1 | Rufous-sided towhee | 40 | 10 | 152 |
| Short-eared owl | 1 | 3 | 4 | American tree sparrow | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Anna's hummingbird | 0 | 1 | 2 | Savannah sparrow | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Rufous hummingbird | 0 | 1 | 2 | Fox sparrow | 9 | 9 | 18 |
| Belted kingfisher | 7 | 10 | 12 | Song sparrow | 78 | 10 | 203 |
| Red-breasted sapsucker | 0 | 1 | 12 | White-throated sparrow | 1 * | 1 | 0 |
| Downy woodpecker | 7 * | 7 | 6 | Golden-crowned sparrow | 9 | 8 | 12 |
| Hairy woodpecker | 8 * | 9 | 4 | White-crowned sparrow | 1 | 8 | 16 |
| Northern (red sh.) flicker | 50 * | 10 | 42 | Sparrow species | 2 | | |
| Pileated woodpecker | 6 * | 8 | 2 | Dark-eyed junco | 692 | 10 | 970 |
| Western flycatcher | 0 | 2 | 2 | Red-winged blackbird | 121 | 10 | 3001 |
| Horned lark | 0 | 1 | 8 | Western meadowlark | 2 | 6 | 15 |
| Northern rough-winged swallow | 0 | 1 | 2 | Yellow-headed blackbird | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Gray jay | 0 | 1 | 1 | Brewer's blackbird | 1133 | 9 | 2406 |
| Steller's jay | 66 * | 10 | 33 | Brown-headed cowbird | 1 | 6 | 70 |
| Crow (all species) | 1384 | 10 | 2052 | Blackbird species | 122 | | |
| Common raven | 6 * | 8 | 5 | Pine grosbeak | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Black-capped chickadee | 121 | 10 | 162 | Purple finch | 22 * | 9 | 15 |
| Chestnut-backed chickadee | 13 | 10 | 128 | House finch | 99 | 10 | 206 |
| Bushtit | 429 * | 9 | 175 | White-winged crossbill | 0 | 1 | 75 |
| Red-breasted nuthatch | 1 | 5 | 4 | Pine siskin | 1134 * | 10 | 800 |
| White-breasted nuthatch | 1 | 5 | 9 | American goldfinch | 0 | 7 | 77 |
| Brown creeper | 8 * | 9 | 7 | Evening grosbeak | 185 * | 7 | 67 |
| Bewick's wren | 14 * | 7 | 12 | House sparrow | 50 | 10 | 231 |
| House wren | 0 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Winter wren | 41 * | 10 | 36 | | | | |
| Marsh wren | 4 | 6 | 7 | Total number of birds | 27,975 | | 51,247 |
| American dipper | 0 | 1 | 2 | Total species | 105 | | |
| Golden-crowned kinglet | 180 | 10 | 380 | | | | |
| Ruby-crowned kinglet | 51 | 10 | 147 | | | | |
| Kinglet species | 32 | | | | | | |
| Townsend's solitaire | 2 * | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| Swainson's thrush | 0 | 1 | 1 | | | | |

New total highs are emphasized with an * beside the number. New species are underlined with an * beside the number.

AGONY AND ECSTASY
By Poncho Muffin

I couldn't remember why. Why should I continue this struggle?

"My God, it's raining hard! The wind! Do you hear that wind? I am warm, cozy and dry. It isn't even light yet. Why fight it? Go back to sleep, forget the field trip. Right? Right!"

I did, but from somewhere I was getting a conflicting message.

"Why should I get up? It's dark, cold, rainy and windy. No one in their right mind would either blame me or go birding today. Anyway, no birds, they'll all be hunkered in and down. So why get up?"

"I think I said I would be there."

"Why?"

"Can't remember."

"Get up!"

"Why?"

"You're going to be late!"

"So what!"

"You remember!"

"No, and I don't want to!"

"It rained then."

"So?"

"Only a little while."

"So?"

"It was one of the best field trips you were on."

"The floor's cold."

"Get up."

"It's too late, I'll not make it in time."

"You will if you rustle your buns. Better put on long johns."

"You said it was going to be fun!"

"It will get better, grab the thermos and move it!"

It did get better. It became light, the rain stopped and it was one of the best field trips I have been on. Small, but wow! Would you believe 428 swans, bald eagles, snow geese without number, a merlin, and the 39th species for the day, a SNOWY OWL.

The moral of this story is not to let the early hour, the rain and wind get you down. Some of you didn't make our February 11th field tip on the Skagit Flats. You really missed a good one.

1983 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The tenth annual Christmas Bird Count for Pilchuck Audubon Society was held on December 31st under mostly overcast, but

pleasant, skies. Although the day started off foggy it soon warmed enough to provide a mild and enjoyable day for the 28 participants with temperatures in the mid-to-upper forties.

It turned out to be a day of many records: 105 species seen, 2 new species seen (Black scoter and White-throated sparrow), 40 species with new high counts. Some of the new high counts were: all three species of scoter, three species of woodpecker and Northern flicker, Sharp-shinned hawk, Red-tailed hawk, Bald eagle, Great blue heron, three species of grebe (Red-necked, Horned, Eared), and both species of cormorant. Species not seen this year but seen for 5 to 8 years previously were: Wood duck, Hooded merganser, Merlin, Swainson's hawk, and American goldfinch.

This year's listing includes all species seen over the last 10 CBC's. Counts of zero indicate birds not seen this year. With the new A.O.U. reclassification we now have a slightly different order also. The listing is on pages 10 and 11.

After the day's counting a potluck and New Year's Eve party was held at the Howard's home. Some of the revelers decided to check out the local owl population before midnight. Would you believe they didn't find any??? Many thanks to the Howard's for sharing their hospitality and to the many participants for donating their time on this year's CBC.

THE BIRD THAT THINKS IT'S A PHONE

From Oregon Wildlife

The small hand telephones with buttons in the handle have become popular in England, where they are known as "trimphones". Not only are they popular with people, but certain wild thrushes have learned to imitate the warbling sound of the ringing telephone, and have adopted it as their song.

Britons sunning themselves in their gardens are being annoyed by having to answer the telephone, only to find that a neighboring bird is to blame. An English ornithologist measured the frequency modulation rate and timing of the birds' song and found it to be almost identical with that of the trimphones.

At first the phenomenon occurred only where birds were nesting near houses equipped with the new instruments, but the song is now starting to spread by imitation from one bird to another.

A WINTER VISIT TO CORKSCREW SWAMP

By Sally Lider

We knew we were in for a real treat when we left Fort Lauderdale, Florida, shortly after sunrise on an expedition which would take us to the National Audubon Society's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. It was a brisk January morning (brisk in Florida is anything below 70 degrees F!) with the sun shining brightly as we headed west on "Alligator Alley" and turned north to drive through the Seminole Indian Reservation. Taking this route through the back roads of South Florida proved to be a wise decision. It was practically impossible to drive more than 10 miles per hour due to the great variety and abundance of wildlife to be observed. Included in our sightings were Turkey Vultures and Black Vultures on nearly every fencepost, Great Blue and Little Blue Herons, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Sandhill Cranes, Raccoons, River Otters, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Cattle Egrets, and an immature Bald Eagle. Also to be seen at every turn in the road were Anhingas. The Anhinga is related to Cormorants, but has a long tail, white wing and back plumes, and a long, straight bill which it uses to spear fish. These birds are a very odd sight as they swim through the water with only their head and neck above the surface. As the day wore on, we reluctantly picked up our pace in order to reach our destination by noon.

Corkscrew Swamp is an 11,000 acre sanctuary which contains this country's largest remaining stand of virgin bald cypress trees. These trees are very large - many with a girth of 25 feet - and very old - some over 700 years. Nesting colonies of wood storks use the cypress "strands" during the winter and spring months. We happened to be fortunate enough to arrive shortly after the storks, and were able to observe their courtship behavior at close range.

It is a very pleasant stroll through the swamp, on a 5800 foot long boardwalk which takes the visitor through several habitat types with exotic names like "hardwood hammocks" and "lettuce lakes" (named for the water lettuce which floats on the surface). It was on one of these lettuce lakes that we saw our first Limpkin. Florida is the only state where a person is likely to see a Limpkin. This relative of the cranes has a very specific feeding preference for one type of snail.

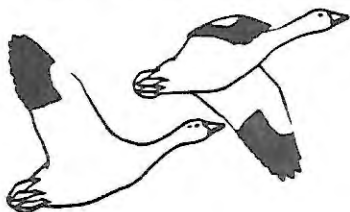
In normal years, the water level in the swamp fluctuates about two feet, with the highest level usually in late summer and the lowest in late spring. Although it appears stagnant, the water is actually flowing slowly southwest to the Gulf of Mexico. The fluctuating water levels make the swamp a perfect home for a type of plant that has adapted to an aerial way of life where conditions are less variable. These plants are called "epiphytes" which simply means a plant growing upon another plant. Another name for them is "air plants" and they can be seen throughout the swamp growing high in the trees, which are only utilized for support.

It is certainly easy to get carried away describing a place with so many natural wonders to experience. During our visit we saw at least six Pileated Woodpeckers among the trees, a Red-shouldered Hawk, Black & White Warblers, Carolina Wrens, Blue-grey Gnatcatchers, Tufted Titmice, and Great Crested Flycatchers. Besides the many bird species that inhabit the sanctuary, it is also home to eight species of turtles, sixteen varieties of snakes, alligators, squirrels, deer, and raccoons.

If you're not convinced yet - I would highly recommend a visit to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary for anyone who finds himself in South Florida!

Pilchuck Audubon Society

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