

MAY 1984

VOLUME XII NUMBER 9

#### PILCHUCK AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

MAY 5th, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: WILDFLOWERS AT WASHINGTON PARK

Leader: Grace Patrick (778-5905). Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5. We will explore the Washington Park area for all its wonderful

MAY 10th, THURSDAY

FIELD TRIP: SNOHOMISH SEWAGE LAGOON

Leader: Joyce Kelley (568-5974). Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the parking area of the Snohomish Sewage Lagoon. Please call Joyce if you need directions. This evening walk promises a symphony of sound as the song birds return to us. We may also see (or hear) bitterns, herons and a variety of waterfowl. We will bird until dusk.

MAY 19th - 20th, WEEKEND

ANNUAL MEETING: SPRINGWATCH CAMP SILVERTON

Leaders: Joyce Kelley (568-5974) and Jane Erickson (334-4392). Come to Pilchuck Audubon's "Springwatch" for a weekend at Camp Silverton for enjoying, learning about, and watching nature under the guidance of qualified leaders. It is for everyone: member, non-member, 8 year olds or 80 year olds. More information and a registration form are one page 9. REGISTRATIONS MUST BE IN BY MAY 12th.

MAY 26th - 28th, MEMORIAL WEEKEND See article on page 3 for further information.

wildflowers, some of which are considered guite rare.

20TH ANNUAL WENAS CAMPOUT

JUNE 3rd, SUNDAY

FIELD TRIP: SKAGIT WRA & LARABEE STATE PARK, BIRD SONGS

Leader: Bob Hamblin (call Bonnie Phillips-Howard, 652-9619, for information). Meet at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5, at 7:30 a.m or at 8:00 a.m. at the Skagit Wildlife Recreation Area Headquarters. For those of you who feel this is too early, we will be at the Skagit WRA headquarters until about 9:30 a.m., if you wish to join us later. After this, we will move to Chuckanut Mountain at Larabee State Park. There will be a lot of forest birds here, especially warblers. The trip should take 6-8 hours and we should be able to identify 70 species or more, by song or call. Bring comfortable shoes, a sack lunch and binoculars.

EARLY JUNE, EVENING MID-WEEK
Leaders: Marianne & Gerald McKnight (337-4777). An evening field trip to see newly hatched waterfowl: ruddy duck, bufflehead, etc. You will learn breeding techniques, food requirements, and identification of ducklings. Date will be determined based on hatching progress. Call 337-4777 after May 20th for specific date, time and meeting place.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER By Curt Howard

The Washington State Audubon Council (the Ellensburg Conference) met March 23-25, 1984. The theme was Agriculture and Farmland Preservation. Stu Trefry, Washington State Grange, presented "Farmland Preservation", Vernan Burghart, USDA, presented "Soil Conservation Today", Ron Payton, Forester, presented "Multiple Land Use Plan", and Dr. Carolyn Dobbs gave "The Future of the Family Farm". The presentations gave background information on agriculture, its problems and some past attempts to their solutions. All presentations stressed the need for strong farmland preservation methods, not only the saving of farms but preserving the land and soil from wind and water erosion.

There are estimates which say that an average of 5.8 tons of top soil per acre are lost each year from croplands (excluding plantings to grasses), that 10% of the cropland acreage loses 14 tons per acre per year, that the present erosion is equivalent to losing from production each year 1.25 million acres.

To me the best and most important presentation was made by Ron England, titled "Seeding a Vibrant Reality: the Cultivation of Possibilities." Ron got to the essence of farming, delving into basic philosophy. It is his view that farmers should consider themselves stewards of the land, not owners, that the farm must be managed for long-term relationships to leave the land's legacy in better condition than he received it.

His philosophy, coalesced over many years, is in a sense the purpose of Audubon in that we are doing something about it. We are making progress toward a cleaner, safer and more sustainable environment.

Other items on the agenda were a presentation of how Whitman County residents banded together to preserve prime agricultural land, and a slide presentation of raptors and their habitat in the Columbia Basin. Snohomish County has a program on preserving agricultural lands. If you are interested, I have a pamphlet describing the program.

I attended a special conservation meeting discussing items in which Pilchuck Audubon is directly concerned. One is Protection Island, the other is the 22,000 yards of wood waste in Ebby Slough. I shall keep you informed as our special meetings end.



#### FREEWAY COFFEE

Plans are getting underway for our 3rd annual PAS fund raiser serving coffee for donations at the Northbound Smokey Point rest stop. We are scheduled to begin serving at 2:00 p.m. on Friday August 17th and serve round the clock in shifts until 2:00 a.m. Monday August 20th.

Many volunteers will be needed for this event for serving coffee, purchasing supplies, running errands, and setting up

and taking down.

Job descriptions are as follows. Servers need to keep the coffee and punch flowing, the cookie tray, sugar and creamer dispensers filled, and a nice smile for the traveler. Supply procurer arranges for " table, the punch dispenser, coffee pots, and buys the coffee, sugar, creamer, cookies, punch, etc. There is a very good list describing where and how this was done the past two years. To set up you have to be available at 2:00 p.m. on Friday and be able to set up a table, make coffee (plug in the pot), and generally get everything out and going. To dismantle you have to be available at 2:00 a.m. Monday morning. Here you put everything away and clean up the area. The final step is mopping up the punch and coffee spills from the pavement.

If you are willing to help and have not already signed up, please contact Susie Schaefer (771-8165) 1055 Edmonds St., Edmonds, 98020. Volunteers are needed very soon to begin procuring coffee and other supplies. The serving shifts will be set up in June. Each shift will be about four hours with 2 or 3 volunteers for each shift.

This is the major yearly fund raiser for PAS. Last year we cleared over \$800 which allowed PAS to carry out many conservation and educational activities. We need to raise at least that amount for 1984/85 actities. We can meet this goal with lots of help from lots of PAS members and friends!

From August 30 to September 3 we traveled from Astoria to just north of Crescent City exploring the coast of Oregon. Our goal was to see the entire coast, but, needless to say, we have to go back and see some places we ran out of time for.

The weather was less than perfect at Fort Stevens. But we still saw lots of caspian terns and an immature osprey. We went on to Ecola State Park where I got my first faraway sighting of brown pelicans. What a thrill! I've kept up with their plight since I was little so it was a special treat to see them. We also saw a red-throated loon and several sea lions.

We must have stopped at every pullout along the highway to look for whales and at the beauty. At one of these pullouts (Short Sands Beach Trailhead) we saw seven adult elk and one calf on a hill near the ocean.

That night we stayed at Netart's Bay. Here we saw our greatest treat --- a blackshouldered kite (formerly white-tailed). We watched as it hovered over the marshy areas diving down every few minutes trying to catch dinner. We found out why the campground was free --- mosquitoes! They were totally unbearable. At Cape Lookout we saw a few Stellar's jays, Wilson's warblers and a Douglas squirrel. We back tracked to Tillamook to visit the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum. The top floor is dedicated to nature. One large room has mounted birds placed in natural setting. It is great. You'd swear the birds will move any minute. The room also includes a display of bird's eggs and nests.

One of our next stops was Otter Rock. The Devil's Punchbowl is here but we found the two gray whales playing in the waves more interesting. They were difficult to see as the sun was setting. Just one more

treat never to forget.

At South Beach Campground we saw rufoussided towhees, caspian terns, a flycatcher
species, black-capped chickadees and a
common flicker. We had a friendly resident
Townsend's chipmunk at our camp. The South
Jetty near Newport produced several brown
pelican, white-crowned sparrows, black turnstones, white-winged scoters, common loon,
immature Heerman's gull, wandering tattler,
red-breasted merganser and mew gulls. Also
some harbor seals. A very fruitful area.

On to Seal Rock State Park where chestnutbacked chickadees were everywhere. The scenery and geological formations were fascinating here as everywhere along the coast. Just south of Cape Perpetua we stopped to see what <u>all</u> those black spots in the water were. They were thousands of white-winged scoters and their young. As soon as we stopped at the Eel Creek Campground we heard birds everywhere. We were in a semi-gully with rhododendrons and other shrubs all around us. Here we saw more chestnut-backed chickadees, cedar waxwing, rufous-sided towhee, and a common nighthawk. A night time walk to the sand dunes here was a work out.

At Haynes Inlet near Coos Bay we counted 21 great egrets and two osprey. We saw another 20 great egrets, a snowy egret, short-billed dowitchers, an osprey, and what we guess to be marbled godwits (questionable) at Pony Slough on the other side of Coos Bay.

In the town of Coos Bay yet another osprey soared over. Bastendorff Beach produced another osprey. We saw so many osprey on our trip I suspect we were witnessing the

start of migration south.

At Cape Arago there were lots and lots of both Harbor seals and California sea lions. Black-legged kittiwakes were also present. At Simpson Reef we are sure we saw a shearwater but do not know which one. We then went to Shoreacres State Park where we saw a tiny bird spinning circles in the surf --- a northern phalarope. They are unbelievably small against those big waves.

The last night was spent somewhere along the beach at Gold Beach. Here we watched the brown pelicans fly almost under the waves at sunset. What a peaceful sight. The next morning more pelicans went back up the coast along with hundreds of common terns. Where the Rogue River meets the Pacific Ocean at the Gold Beach South Jetty we saw caspian terns, common terns, two osprey, brown pelicans, wandering tattler, harbor seals and sea lions.

These are only the highlights of places we stopped. As I said before we stopped at every pullout, almost every park and wayside and anything else that was interesting. We observed some extremely beautiful scenery and intriguing geological formations. We saw myrtlewood trees and briefly roamed the redwoods. We followed a short part of Lewis and Clark's trail to Fort Clatsop. We hunted for fossils and played in the tidepools. We learned and absorbed a whole lot in a week. I will never forget it. It makes me even more staunch in my views for protection of the earth we all share.

This is a family outing with something for everyone: all-day field trips, early morning bird walks (5:30 a.m.), mid-morning walks, afternoon workshops, and evening campfire programs complete with speakers, songs, and roasting marshmellows. Birds, wildflowers, insects, trees and shrubs, grasses, and natural history photography are featured in the afternoon workshops.

In order to reduce confusion and environmental damage, certain trips have limited attendance. Sign-up sheets will be available at Headquarters. Please indicate on the sheets if you can supply a car for the auto trips. Persons riding with others on the auto trips are asked to contribute \$1.00 apiece for transportation. More walks out of camp have been listed.

Leaders and resource persons are needed for the various trips, walks, and workshops. If you can take a particular event, please contact Hazel Wolf who is coordinating the scheduling of leaders again this year. Her phone is (206) 322-3041; mail address is 512 Boylston East, #106, Seattle, WA 98102.

The campground is very large with plenty of room for everyone. Tables and chairs are in very short supply at the campground; bring your own. Food and housing (trailers, tents, campers, etc.) must be brought. There is no drinking water available at the campground (there is a spring some distance up the canyon). Bring as much water for drinking as you can. Creek water, boiled, can be used for washing and dishes. Gas up at the last gas station (Ellensburg). Also bring rain gear and warm clothing. Last year's heat wave may not be repeated. The days are beautiful but the nights can be cold (dipping below freezing).

DIRECTIONS TO WENAS CASCADE PARK Drive over Snoqualmie Pass and exit at Ellensburg (exit #109). Turn north towards downtown Ellensburg. Gas up now! Turn left onto Daman Road just north of I-90 interchange. Continue on the Daman Road to the Umptanum Road (changes to a good gravel road). You will go up through the famous Shushuskin Canyon, and over Manastash and Umptanum ridges to, eventually, the junction with the Wenas Valley Road. (Watch for the beautiful Bluebirds as a Bluebird trail follows the road.) Turn right onto the Wenas Valley Signs will guide you to the campground from there. Hope to see many people from Pilchuck there as it is a fun weekend and a chance to meet many other Auduboners.

I have been asked to prepare an unbiased report on this field trip. While I agreed to do that, I find as I take pen in ha that I cannot. You see, I was there. I saw the Gorge. I listened to the pros and cons and I traded opinions and discussed viewpoints. I also saw some viewpoints both pictorially and figuratively, so I am not unbiased. Each of us on the trip and many of you who were not there have seen and heard the information at one of our Program It's your turn now; it is for you Meetings. to decide. The decision must be made soon, and acted upon. A year from now may be too late; the chance to preserve the Gorge may be gone.

The Board of Directors of Pilchuck Audubon has taken a stand to support S.B. 627, sponsored by Senators Packwood and Hatfield of Oregon. The bill is also supported by over 30 other senators; unfortunately, neither senator from Washington State is among those supporters. Instead they back the very weak "Governor's Bill". If you want to act, write your senators and congressmen; in addition, you may wish to join the Friends of the Columbia Gorge, an environmental organization of over 2, members fighting effectively for Gome legislation. For further information on the Columbia Gorge as a political issue, check with your President or Field Trip Chair. They have a bulging file on the issues.

But back to my story. I suspect that out of the 47 people on the bus, at least 46 felt overawed by the natural beauty of the Gorge, and dismayed at the potential loss. These 46 had a great weekend. I do not know for a fact that the 47th did not, but would it not be unusual to have at least one inopportune upset stomach, or one uncontrolled headache?

We did not leave the Lynnwood Park and Ride lot as scheduled. We were ahead of schedule. The bus was full. While most of the people were from Pilchuck Audubon or their friends, members from Skagit and Olympic Peninsula Audubon Societies were aboard too. I think I shall never meet a better group of people. Even our bus driver, Steve Dean of Journeylines, got into the spirit and participated in our hikes and educational programs.

Saturday was sunny, one of those ( y special Western Washington days of spring. The four-hour trip to meet Mike Spranger slid by rather rapidly. John Munn, Snohomish County Extension Naturalist and

co-sponsor of this trip, introduced us to the game of Bird-O, won by Noah Carraher, our youngest (9 years old) participant. John also gave historical information about the places we passed.

Mike Spranger, Marine Resource Specialist, WSU, was Saturday's main speaker, narrating Saturday afternoon's trip through the Gorge. He gave the evening slide presentation on the formation of the Columbia River Gorge and man's use and influence starting about 12,000 years ago. Mike also arranged a tour of the Visitor's Center at the second Bonneville Dam power plant. Mike introduced us to Jeff Breckel who presented a history of Gorge management. Jeff is the Executive Director of the Columbia Gorge Commission. Mike brought aboard Art Arp of Vancouver Audubon, a retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist. Art shared his knowledge of the area's bird life. Mike and Phil Crawford, Skamania County Extension agent, introduced us to Lena Pierce and the 337 acres she donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a National Wildlife Refuge. Lena and her husband have been instrumental in increasing the resident Canada Goose population to 500 birds. The property also supports great blue heron, wood ducks, band-tailed pigeons, deer, beaver and chum salmon. This property is one of the few "protected" areas on the Washington side of the Gorge.

Sunday was a great day. But first, a bit about Menucha, our overnight stop. Menucha was built as a residence for Julius Meier, a former Governor of Oregon, and is now converted into a retreat and conference center. A number of buildings set on about 100 wooded acres. Our dining room (serving delicious homestyle meals) overlooked the Columbia River. The common room, where Mike Spranger gave his evening slide shows, boasted a fireplace, a piano, and many comfortable couches. We were joined for dinner and the evening program by Nancy Russell, our Sunday speaker, and Warren Harwood, News-letter Editor of Vancouver Audubon. Most of our group slept in dorm style rooms. Semiprivate, motel-type rooms were also available. At 6:00 a.m. we got up for an early morning bird and flower walk. I think everyone availed themselves of the opportunity to get outdoors at this early hour--wait, I remember someone who slept in.

Sunday was grey and overcast until we got over to the east side of the Gorge where we broke out into sunshine.

Nancy Russell, co-chair of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge, was our guide on Sunday. A knowledgeable guide and a charming, dedicated person, Nancy claims plant life, especially wildflowers, as her special expertise. All of us learned from this expertise. We stopped at a number of places to make small forages into the hills to observe at close hand the cool, moist forests, the flowers and the birds. After lunch we stopped at the Tom McCall Nature Preserve on the Rowena Plateau on the Oregon side, the easternmost point of our tour, and then backtracked, mostly on the Washington side, ending our tour at John Yeon's private nature preserve in Washington state. land is right across from Multnomah Falls, the second highest falls in the United States. Multnomah Falls is one of Oregon's treasures along the Gorge and John bought the land on the Washington side to save it from eminent development. He is managing it privately as a model which he hopes the public sector will someday follow.

All in all, this trip made me realize the great potential of the Gorge and opened up new avenues to explore this coming year. The Friends of the Gorge sponsor about 40 hikes in the area during June of each year. To get on their mailing list, again, become a member.

We had a marvelous time. The weather was great (at least on Saturday), the scenery was incredible, the speakers were outstanding, the people on the bus were interesting, patient and fun; and that made for the best field trip Pilchuck has had this year. My sombrero is off to Bonnie and her field trip committee. A great job. What's next?

For those who missed our tour, consider the "Short Course of the Columbia, a Unique American Treasure," June 23-24, 1984. The two-day program is offered through the Washington State University and Oregon State University Cooperative Extension and Sea Grant Programs. It will consist of brief lectures, slide presentations and field visits through the Gorge. Travel will be by bus. \$139.50 per person (double) or \$149.50 per person (single). Contact Mike Spranger, 1919 NE 78th St., Vancouver, WA 98665.

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.

## THIS AND THAT From Washington Department of Game

State project WILD coordinator, Larry Broder, is soliciting owl pellets, study skins, skulls and bones that he can include in kits of teaching materials for loan to WILD teachers.

Project WILD, a wildlife education program sponsored jointly by the Department of Game and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, is off to a running start, Broder said. Over 250 educators have enrolled in 30 teacher workshops. Five workshops in March, held in Longview, Bothell, Seattle, Spokane, and at Nisqually Wildlife Refuge, attracted between 35 and 50 participants each.

State wildlife agents are actively enforcing regulations requiring that CONSERVATION LICENSE DECALS be displayed on vehicles parked on Department of Game lands. Violations carry a \$40 minimum bail plus court costs.

Conservation license decals can be purchased anywhere fishing, hunting or trapping licenses are sold. They cost \$5.00. Extra decals for additional vehicles cost 50 cents each.

#### UPCOMING EVENT IN SEATTLE

Seattle Zoological Society and the Pacific Science Center have teamed up for a joint lecture by Russell Train, president of World Wildlife Fund-U.S. and former Environmental Protection Agency administrator. He will show slides of the Wolong Panda Reserve in China and talk about third-world conservation and development.

A \$5.00 donation is requested at the door; proceeds will benefit the Panda Project, where the recent bamboo die-off has precipitated a crisis. The program starts at 8 p.m., Thursday, June 21st, at Kane Hall 120, University of Washington. Come early to be assured a seat.

### CONGRADULATIONS

The officers of Pilchuck Audubon Society for the coming year are Curt Howard, president, Bruce Kelly, vice president, Sally Lider, secretary, and Gerald McKnight, treasurer. Now that we have elected these able and willing people we need to continue our support of their efforts and help whenever possible.

BIRD SIGHTINGS THROUGH APRIL 15



Mar. 8 Three MALLARDS, a pair of RING-NECKED DUCKS, one HOODED MERGANSER, and six VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS were seen in some beaver ponds east of Lake Chaplain. (Dave Mundell)

Mar. 9 A flock of 15 EVENING GROSBEAKS, a DOWNY WOODPECKER and two nesting GREAT HORNED OWLS were some of the highlights seen at the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge by Joanne Eberle.

Mar. 16 A PILEATED WOODPECKER was seen for the first time by Nancy Salvadalena. saw the bird near her home.

Mar. 17 A GOLDEN EAGLE was seen near Ellensburg. (Sally & Jan van Niel)

Mar. 18 A male WOOD DUCK was seen near Silver Lake. (Marianne McKnight)

Mar. 18 A BALD EAGLE was seen near Goldendale, WA. (Sally & Jan van Niel)

Mar. 20 A single BAND-TAILED PIGEON was the first sighted in the Dubuque neighborhood this spring. (Jan Richards)

Mar. 21 A BALD EAGLE attemped to get an easy meal by grabbing a domestic duck from Millie Hamblin's yard.

Mar. 23 Two male and one female WOOD DUCK were observed on Bruce & Mary Esther Kelly's pond.

Mar. 24 A SHARP-SHINNED HAWK was seen in downtown Snohomish. (Fred Bird)

Mar. 24 The first reported Male RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD was buzzing a wild red currant bush in Jan Richard's yard.

Mar. 25 Two male RING-NECKED DUCKS were seen on Bruce & Mary Esther Kelly's pond

near Arlington.

Mar. 26 A male and female WOOD DUCK were observed sitting on the wood duck house built for them by Bruce & Mary Esther Kelly. What a promising discovery.

Mar. 27 Six to eight CANADA GEESE were in the fields north of the Everett Sewage

Ponds. (Terri Spencer)

Mar. 27 A pair of CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEES have begun cleaning out a nest house in Jan Richard's backyard.

Mar. 29 Another RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD

seen in Oso by Fed Bird.

Mar. 30 A WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW was seen in Virginia Clark's yard.

Mar. 30 An adult BALD EAGLE was seen near Harold Reade's Christmas tree farm near Snohomish.

Apr. 2 Three COMMON MERGANSERS were on the river and a pair of RING-NECKED DUCKS and MALLARDS were on the pond of Bruce & Mary Esther Kelly.

Apr. 3 An AMERICAN KESTREL was seen hovering near the 236th St. exit ramp,

Arlington. (T. Spencer)

Apr. 5 WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS visited the feeder in the backyard after a two year absence. (Marianne McKnight)

Apr. 7 Twenty-four BAND-TAILED PIGEONS, 75 DARK-EYED JUNCOES and 20 STELLAR JAYS invaded Virginia Clark's yard.

Apr. 9 A COOPERS HAWK was seen flying southwest over Hwy 99 at 128th near

Everett. (Steven Howard)

Apr. 11 A GREATER YELLOWLEGS was observed closely in some fields near Kent.

Apr. 14 An OSPREY was at Discovery Bay. (Sally & Jan van Niel)

Apr. 14 A SAVANNAH SPARROW was heard and seen at Terri Spencer's place.

Apr. 14-15 BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS (in breeding plumage), DUNLIN, SHORT- and LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS have been seen in the fields and tideflats in the Stanwood area. (Sally & Jan van Niel)

Apr. 15 An OSPREY was seen at Twin Lakes County Park. (Sally & Jan van Niel)

#### CALL BIRD SIGHTINGS TO

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

SEND YOUR SIGHTINGS TO

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

## UNION OIL SWAMP UPDATE By Hal Hanson

A viewing platform overlooking the Union Oil Swamp area has been constructed at the south side of Harbor-Square back of Piers Hardware. Red-winged blackbirds and killdeer have been seen.

## A MEMBER'S OBSERVATION From Virginia Clark

On April 8th Virginia Clark had an interesting encounter with a handsome male

evening grosbeak.

He hit her front window, knocking himself cockoo. She put their Springer Spaniel in the house and went to see what she could do. She picked up the dazed bird and proceeded to pet it and talk to him. He sat on her finger as if it were a perch and stared at her. They spent another five minutes together. She then set him on a branch in her apple tree. Finally he flew off.

Virginia writes of the experience, "They are such a beautiful bird up close. Their white dots on black and the beautiful blending of yellow must make them one of nature's remarkable creatures. Those five minutes were like being in another world of quietude

and tranquility".

[Editor's note: Dr. Douglas Yearout, DVM, recommends when finding a dazed bird, put it in a dark confined box (shoebox) and put the box in a quiet place in the house. Release the bird after a few hours in a small room just in case it may have something broken and you have to re-capture it for professional treatment.]

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*	NAME PHONE	onest of the or member on the
*	ADDRESS	and your check to Pilchuck *
*	CITY STATE ZIP CODE	Everett, WA 98206. *
	INDIVIUAL \$30.00 SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL \$21.00  FAMILY \$38.00 SENIOR CITIZEN FAMILY \$23.00  SUSTAINING \$50.00 STUDENT \$18.00	CONTRIBUTING \$250.00 *
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*	For additional help or Membership Records information contac	t Gerald McKnight at 337-4777 *

## SIX WEEKS-A-BIRDING II By Jan Richards

We left Yellowstone Park via the west exit and drove through the Gallatin Valley, Big Sky, and the Spanish Peaks Primitive Area, all uniquely "Montana" in character.

We found our way to the Missouri River Headwaters outside of the Three Forks/Bozeman area. Lewis and Clark must have really loved Montana. So much is named after them, or Charles Russell. The state is awesome, and I don't mean that in Valley girl talk!

The Missouri River hosts so much wildlife, the list seems endless. We saw more pelicans, double-crested cormorants, black-crowned night herons, white-headed woodpeckers, catbirds, orioles, eastern and western kingbirds, merlin, yellow-headed blackbirds, marsh wrens, kingfishers, great blue herons, western grebes, pileated woodpeckers, meadowlarks, and on and on.

I had never been so impressed by rivers, until we followed the Snake and Missouri Rivers through several states. So many kinds of rivers...the Clark Fork is green, glacial, and peaceful as it melts into your The headwaters of the Columbia in Canada--a mere creek.

A jog into Helena and the Charles Russell Art Museum let us know what the Missouri looked like before the dams. The Great Falls have changed. Mr. Russell's paintings are history on canvas. I left the museum wondering if the passing of the great buffalo herds and the loss of the condors, whose range used to be greater, were linked.

Montana Highway 200, between Great Falls and Missoula, crosses through Helena National Forest and the southern end of the Bob Marshall/Scapegoat Wilderness Areas. The bluebird house campaign is in full swing on that road. They will need more fence The mountain bluebirds posts soon. appreciate the effort here, as well as on the Clark Fork, by their presence.

Continuing on into Couer d' Alene, we met up with the new grandparents. We traveled to Glacier Park together. I saw my first mountain goat, thanks to my scope. Bear warnings were leafletted enmasse.

The Rocky Mountains in Glacier are as spectacular as in Wyoming. The infamous, Going-to-the-Sun Highway, had my mother hiding on the floor of the motor home. road was built in 1932, and not meant for today's vehicles. Traces of new snow powdered the peaks. We saw more Columbian ground squirrels, pikas, prairie dogs, bighorn sheep, and white-tailed deer. A Williamson's sapsucker was a highlight, as well as golden eagles, ospreys, and a Cooper's hawk.

After a side-trip to Browning and the Museum of the Plains Indian, we left the company of my folks and headed north Alberta, being prairie land, held species like burrowing owl and rough-legged hawk, and less common ruffed grouse and yellow-rumped warblers.

The Creston Wildlife Center in British Columbia was a final highlight of our vacation. Boardwalks lead through a cattail marsh, edging a pond, giving access to views of northern phalaropes, yellow-headed blackbirds, yellowthroats, black terns, bank swallows, pied-billed grebes, ospreys and nests, eastern kingbirds, common snipe, pine siskins, and kingfishers. Northern painted turtles were abundant. The interpretive center was very nice and worth the jaunt. Out of Creston, a creek near Ripple Mountain held a dipper.

The return to the U.S. near the Grand Forks/Danville crossing, was graced by a

blue grouse and a golden eagle.

One final brief visit with friends and a jog to Kootenai Falls gave us another glimpse of the true Montana spirit. An old cowboy was selling a book of his poems as people viewed the falls. The book r called "Flash of Time," by Don McGrady. The cover had photos of as astronaut planting a flag on the moon, and an old Conestoga

We returned home tired and "birded out".

It was a great vacation!!!

## MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TRIP

Come on an exciting field trip to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge on June 10-14. You will also learn about natural history of Eastern Oregon.

The course is being offered by Jan and Sally van Niel through Everett Community College. The class will meet Tuesday evening, June 5, at the College to get a general introduction to the area, the birds expected to be seen, and any other pertinent information.

Last time a similar group went down at this time of year, they saw 125 species of birds. The birds may be quite different this year due to the extensive flooding.

The estimated cost of the trip is \$118 00 plus 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts in L J

going and coming.

For further information call Sally or Jan van Niel, 259-7151 days, or 778-7568 evenings.

## MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SPRINGWATCH

There's still time to make your reservation for Pilchuck Audubon's Camp Silverton weekend, May 19-20. Camp Silverton is approximately twenty-two miles east of Granite Falls on the Mountain Loop highway.

Early registration will ensure you sleeping accommodations in a heated dorm or, if you prefer, you may pitch your tent along the river or in the large meadow across the road. In addition, there are four graveled pads with hook-ups for motorhomes/trailers. Indicate on the registration form which

accommodation you prefer.

Camp facilities include a large heated dining hall/kitchen with a fireplace, a heated classroom/lab with resource library, separate heated restroom building with flush toilets and showers. Dorms have bunk beds with plastic covered mattresses. Bring your own sleeping bag/bedding. Camp does have electricity provided by a generator but there is only one outside light so bring a flashlight.

We will offer a diversity of activities—you may participate in workshops dealing with wildflowers, shrubs and trees; hiking; bird identification; nature photography; insects——even an "owl prowl". With the aid of taped owl calls, who knows what may answer——barred, spotted, great horned,

screech owls are all possibilities.

The excellent Canadian produced (American banned) film entitiled, "Acid Rain: Requiem or Recovery" will be shown Saturday evening. This film is designed to alert the viewers about the tragic consequences of "acid rain" unless something is done soon.

These are some of the highlights planned for a weekend of enjoyment. Join us for learning, sharing and good times! Mail the registration form below today to reserve your place.

#### ATTENTION SPRINGWATCH ATTENDEES!!

The Food Committee for the Springwatch weekend has put together a tempting menu. We do want you to know that you will be providing your own brown bag lunch for Saturday. Dinner and breakfast is included in the \$5 fee. Saturday's evening meal will include spaghetti with meat and mushroom sauce (or an alternate vegetarian sauce), French bread, fresh green salad, beverage and dessert. On Sunday morning we will feed you farm-fresh eggs, bran muffins, homemade granola. Also coffee, tea, juice, and milk for kids. We will not be providing lunch on Sunday since the program will end at noon, so you might want to bring a few snacks to tide you over.

Because Pilchuck Audubon is committed to the concept of waste reduction, we decided against paper or throw-away plastic dishes and would like you to provide your own dishes. You will want a dinner plate, salad plate, cereal bowl, cup and silverware. We will have some extra dishes on hand, but please try to remember your own. We're sure you will enjoy the food-healthy, delicious and fun-just like Pilchuck people!!

P.S. If you are allergic to anything being served, give Bonnie Phillips-Howard

(652-9619) a call to discuss it.

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

Name(s	3)				
	Last	First	Last	First	
	Last	First	Last	First	
Addres	The state of the s				
	Street		City	Zip	
Teleph	none		Tent	Motorhome/trailor hook-up	
Cost:	\$5.00 per person Number of adults Number of children Please make checks payable to Pilcuck Audubon Society. Amount enclosed \$ Send to: Pilchuck Audubon Society, PO Box 1618, Everett, WA 98206 Attention: Joyce Kelley				
What w	Bird Identificatio Photography Wildflower, Shrub,	be most interested in  Geology  Owl P  Tree Identification orld (moss, lichens,	gy rowl	Insect Identification Other	

## IN SEARCH OF GREY WHALES

By Joan Lucas

We discovered on our first whale-watching trip out of Westport in mid-April that "spy hopping" whales in Grays Harbor are as hard to find as the elusive bitterns in marshes. We saw three individuals early in our three-and-a-half hour tour across the bar, but never saw them again and did not catch a glimpse of any others. But we thoroughly enjoyed the three of being on the ocean and seeing the birdlife as a reasonable substitute.

A small group of four people showed up for the hour-long seminar on grey whales that preceded the trip. Vicki, a second-year fisheries student who conducted the lesson on whales, explained what "spy hopping" is. It appears the whales are poking their heads above

water to check for landmarks...or to look for people who are whale watching!

Captain Cooper explained one reason our sightings were sparse was because the whales were playing in the rough surf where he was reluctant to venture, in the interest of keeping all passengers dry and on board. By law the boats are obliged to keep their distance from the migrating mammals and to turn off their motors to avoid harassment. Thus, powerless to nose the boat into oncoming waves, the 55-foot "Mac's Effort" was soon rocking vigorously as breakers plowed into the sides of its hull.

A curious gull tracked our boat for more than an hour, drawing the attention of everyone on board, including the three deck hands. Apparently this strikingly beautiful gull expected us to catch fish instead of glimpses of whales and hoped to benefit from the residue of our catch. Its charcoal grey body, dark legs and red bill marked it as a Heerman's gull, but conspicuous white wrist patches that decorated its wings like oversize headlights frustrated our attempts to label it.

Reading "Birds of North America" in an attempt to gain a positive identification, while rising and falling over cresting seas quickly gave me a queasy stomach. I watched the ocean swell and rise under our craft and felt the boat heave and drop alternately without ceasing.

As bulging waves carried us skyward all eyes searched the liquid acres for signs of a

fluke or head. But to no avail.

Harvesting the waters were common loons, scoter, cormorants, pigeon guillemots and common murres. Cassin's auklets slid in unison over cresting waves like tiny dots connected by some invisible web that held them together as one organism. Sooty shearwaters swooped and wheeled on the wind, daring the waves to catch a down-turned wingtip.

As tidewater flooded the bay, the waters calmed to a ripple. The wind only messed our

hair a little as we sidled up to float six to unboard.

Audubon's Master Guide held the answer to the unusual gull: "A very small percentage of adults [Heerman's gull] shows conspicuous white patches on the upper side of the wings at the

wrist (greater primary coverts)".

Another bird sighting east of Westport sent us delving into the pages of the Master Guide again. A large, streamlined falcon, smooth and creamy white, glided gracefully a few feet above our car. A close look at its underside yielded enough diagnostic characteristics to convince us we had seen a gyrfalcon. It is described in the Audubon Encyclopedia as being the prized bird of falconers for centuries. It's destined, too, to become the prize of our day in Westport.

# Pilchuck Audubon Society P.O. Box 1618, Everett, Washington 98206



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