

Pilchuck Audubon Profile

SUMMER 1984

VOLUME XII NUMBER 10

PILCHUCK AUDUBON SUMMER ACTIVITIES

JUNE 16th, SATURDAY

SPECIAL FIELD TRIP FOR SUNRISE GROUP HOMES

Leaders: Bonnie Phillips-Howard (652-9619) and Terri Spencer (435-8602). We are leading a trip to Reifel to introduce the handicapped at the Sunrise Group Homes in Everett to the wonderful bird life at this refuge. Pilchuck Audubon is sponsoring this event with Springwatch participants donating money for the entrance fees. If you should wish to join us, give Bonnie or Terri a call and we'll give you further information.

JUNE 20th, WEDNESDAY

FIELD TRIP BRAINSTORMING SESSION ALL WELCOME

Field Trip Chair: Bonnie Phillips-Howard (652-9619). Our first field trip brainstorming session. Give input for next year's field trip schedule. Meet at Bonnie's house at 6:30 p.m. for spaghetti (yes, Springwatch attendees, I froze the rest of the sauce just for this event!), salad and homemade bread. After dinner we'll discuss the good and bad of last year's trips and what we want to do for next year. RSVP would be nice, but if you don't know till the last minute, come anyway. Call Bonnie if you need directions to her house.

JUNE 26th, TUESDAY

EVENING FIELD TRIP: WILEY SLOUGH

Leaders: Bonnie and Curt Howard (652-9619). Meet at the parking lot of the Wiley Slough (Skagit Wildlife Recreation Area Headquarters) at 7:00 p.m. You will need a conservation sticker to park here. On this WEEKDAY EVENING walk last June we saw owls. Also hope to see or hear bitterns, beaver work, pied-billed grebes, cinnamon teal, warblers, hawks, cedar waxwings, flycatchers, etc. We will walk until dusk, about 9:00 p.m. Call Bonnie or Curt if you need directions to the slough.

JULY 8th, SUNDAY

FIELD TRIP AND SUMMER POTLUCK

Host and Hostess (Bruce and Mary Esther Kelly - 435-2024). Come share some fine country living. See article on page 9.

JULY 14th, SATURDAY

KAYAK AND CANOE TRIP SNOHOMISH RIVER DELTA JOINT WITH EVERETT MOUNTAINEERS

Leader: Lorena Havens. We did this trip last summer and it was marvelous. Come explore a wilderness experience in the midst of an urban environment. This is a precious resource for Snohomish County and is in danger of being lost. We will start from Steamboat Slough, explore the marshy areas, experience some great birding, head down Ebby Slough to Marysville. You do not need a canoe or kayak (nor experience) to participate. There are spaces available if you reserve early. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Call Bonnie Phillips-Howard (652-9619) to reserve a space and get details about meeting time, what to bring, etc.

Continued on page 9.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Curt Howard

WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Asilomar is the term used to designate the National Audubon Society's Western Regional Conference held at the Asilomar Conference Center, a unit of the California Park System, Pacific Grove, California.

The conference started April 14. Bonnie and I drove, leaving on April 9. We stayed with relatives in Salem, Oregon and then headed for the coast road, Hwy 101. After leaving Salem, we entered the Baskett Slough area, of the Willamette Valley Complex National Wildlife Refuge. This was set aside to provide wintering grounds for the dusky Canada goose. They were gone when we drove through, but we did see a huge flock of brant geese. We planned to bird the Oregon coast, but mostly we were blasted with sand driven by 65 mph winds, hail, and rain through Oregon and some of California.

We made a short stop at Humboldt National Wildlife Refuge in Northern California, for our first look at great and snowy egrets, and at the Point Reyes National Seashore in Marin County, north of San Francisco.

We arrived in Berkeley on April 13, having driven through San Francisco first because I missed the by-pass. My best memories are those of a good friend we stayed with and the incredible diversity of plant life. Rhododendrons living next to palm trees and cactus.

The conference grounds were reached ten minutes before the 4:00 p.m. check-in time. I will not even mention one of my pet peeves--impatient drivers--except to say California has them too.

The conference grounds were in an impressive park setting back of the sand dunes. Living quarters, conference rooms and the dining room were on the grounds. The food was good, but, as Bonnie and I suspected, they had difficulty accommodating vegetarians.

During the conference, held from April 14-17, we were addressed by a wide range of interesting people from National Audubon, Western Regional office, Washington State office, chapter representatives, plus state and federal organizations.

The best day was Monday's program. The morning's delegate session was used to evaluate priorities. From a selection of 46, each chapter was asked to choose 10. Pilchuck asked each Board member to select 10 priorities and then sent our tabulated

results to Western Regional office. The top ten were then presented in the delegate's section for a vote for top three. Wetlands received by far the most votes but four others (pesticides, clean air, clean water and National Wildlife Refuges in that order) were so close, all will be sent to NAS' Board of Directors to establish NAS' top three priority items.

The afternoon session, an activist's workshop on Acid Rain, was led by Steve Metcalf, Lower Columbia Basin Audubon; Pam Crocker-Davis, Washington State office, and Glenn Paulson, Vice President, Science, NAS. The session simulated a "confrontation" between the good guys (activists), bad guys and legislators. I learned to be thoroughly prepared to discuss all aspects of an issue.

Tuesday was reserved for a review of the past, present and future of three endangered species in the West. The peregrine falcon, desert pupfish and grizzly bear all need our help.

All in all, a good conference. A place to make new friends, reactivate flagging enthusiasm, scrape away that burned out feeling, and meet people with the same problems. Problems that others have overcome. A worthwhile experience. I recommend it.

NORTHWEST WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29, Bonnie and I attended the Northwest Wilderness Conference in Seattle, carpooling with Pilchuck members Lorena Havens and Terri Spencer.

This was the 20th year since enactment of the 1964 Wilderness Act. The conference highlighted its history, progression, the present state of affairs and probable courses of action to reverse undesirable trends; and methods to increase protection. Wilderness reviews were given for Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, British Columbia, Alberta and the Yukon Territory. Discussions were held on desert wilderness, law suits/appeals, mining and leasing threats, timber sale economics and roadless area, wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, and national parks.

Brock Evans presented an excellent "De Facto Wilderness: Going, Going, Going...", and the grand old man of conservation, Dave Brower, presented "A Fight for Wilderness Inspirational". Both Evans and Brower were indeed inspirational.

One of the main points throughout both Asilomar and the Northwest Wilderness conferences was that, while we have much to do and

miles to go, we have done much and come many miles. Potential routes for solutions to our problems and concerns were addressed in relation to the problems of the past and our accomplishments. It was from these conferences that I began to realize how effective we, Audubon (and other environmental groups) have been and are. It is the people like you and me who have helped establish National Parks, sanctuaries, refuges, cleaner air and water. Our concerns run the whole gamut of issues. Sure, we have doubts and disputes, but it is the working together in spite of them that has made our accomplishments happen. My appeal to you is for your help to travel the miles to go. In the coming year, will you volunteer as people have in the past?

At Ellensburg, Asilomar, and the Wilderness Conference, Pilchuck Audubon was recognized as an increasingly potent force in Snohomish County and Washington. Many of the leaders in the field of conservation have recognized what we have been doing, our increasing presence. They say, "Congratulations, Pilchuck, keep up the good work."

So on behalf of the Pilchuck Audubon members I would like to thank all of you who have done an outstanding job. Not the least of whom are Tom Councell, Vice President; Gerald McKnight, Treasurer and Membership Records; Sally Linder, Secretary; Joyce Kelley, Programs; Anne Grubb, Conservation; Jane Erickson, Education; Marianne McKnight, Newsletter; Susie Schaefer, Finance; Bonnie Phillips-Howard, Field Trips; Lee Minshull, Hospitality; Terri Spencer, Bird Records; Kathy Green, Public Information; Jan Richards, Corson Research; and all of you who are Pilchuck Audubon. You are great people!

THREATS TO SNOHOMISH WETLANDS By Anne Grubb, Conservation Chair

Several commercial marinas for large ocean-going vessels are being built on farmland on Ebey Island, along Steamboat and Ebey Sloughs. This land is zoned Rural, Agriculture 10 acres, and commercial activities are forbidden.

However, these zoning restrictions have been ignored and construction has begun on 4 or 5 marinas. The first to receive official scrutiny was the large landfill created by Mickie Jones. He has built a large mound of sawdust, woodwastes and other materials, claiming that this mound is to be used as a feeding area for his cows during flood

season. But he has also admitted that he has plans to use it to load barges.

Associated Marine Exploration has brought in and moored several huge vessels on Steamboat Slough. When the corporation finally applied for a Shoreline Management Act (SMA) permit, it was denied by John Galt, the County Hearing Examiner. Mr. Galt stated in his decision that this marina was a commercial/industrial activity, and as such is not allowed in the rural environment.

Associated Marine Exploration appealed the denial of the SMA permit to the County Council. In the appeal, they stated that "activities identical to our proposed use are ongoing at neighboring locations".

The Council voted 4 to 1 to uphold the Hearing Examiner. The dissenting vote came from Shirley Bartholomew. Councilmember Bartholomew asked the County Planning Department staff if there were other marinas in the area. Since the staff had no information, she directed them to go check out the area and report back.

This action may have more long term benefit to the preservation of the River Delta wetlands than a vote against the appeal would have had.

Pilchuck Audubon, along with other local environmental organizations and the Tulalip Tribes, sent letters to the County Council supporting the Hearing Examiners decision.

Other recent threats to the wetlands: Ed Hayes' recent expansion of his landfill on Ebey Slough, near Marysville and Hwy 99. Terri Spencer reported this to the City of Marysville and they said they will order him to stop.

Last winter the City of Everett filled a large area of wetland on the upper end of Smith Island. Now they are planning to build a new sewer lagoon that will virtually destroy 100 areas of wetland behind the present sewer lagoon.

Everett is also attempting to allow the Department of Natural Resources to dump the toxic dredge materials from the Port of Everett at a "deep water disposal site" 500 yards off Howarth Park, without filing an Environmental Impact Statement.

Your written responses to these flagrant violations are crucial at this time. The various agencies' powers of enforcement are shaky at best and the perpetrators of these destructive activities are well aware of the fact. We cannot let this wanton destruction of wetland habitats go unchecked. Please write the Snohomish County Council a note expressing your feelings on these matters.

PILCHUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS SUMMARY
05-01-83 TO 04-30-84

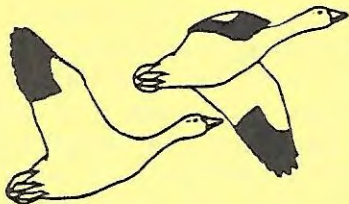
RESTRICTED FUNDS	BALANCE 04-30-83	1983-84 RECEIPTS	1983-84 DISBURSEMENTS	BALANCE 04-30-84
TRUMPETER SWAN HABITAT ENHANCEMENT	\$ 831.41	\$ 75.10	\$ 0.00	\$ 906.51
SWAN STATIONERY	13.14	0.00	0.00	13.14
NW WATERFOWL SANTUARY	5.00	0.00	3.49	1.51
INTEREST RECEIVED (ALL FUNDS)	35.40	53.10	0.00	88.50
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SUB-TOTAL (RESTRICTED FUNDS)	\$ 884.95	\$ 128.20	\$ 3.49	\$ 1009.66
OPERATIONS FUND (see below)	\$ 1066.87	\$ 5927.74	\$ 5359.12	\$ 1635.49
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TOTALS	\$ 1951.82	\$ 6055.94	\$ 5362.61	\$ 2645.15

RECEIPTS (OPERATIONS FUND)	AMOUNT	DISBURSEMENTS (OPERATIONS FUND)	AMOUNT
CHAPTER DUES	\$ 2838.50	CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIPS	\$ 225.00
PROFILE SUBSCRIPTION	160.00	NATURE CONSERVANCY	\$ 50.00
DONATIONS	1839.83	TRUMPETER SWAN SOCIETY	25.00
REST STOP COFFEE (1)	\$ 1071.15	WASH. ENVIRON. COUNCIL	150.00
OLSON'S	159.53	PROFILE (PRINTING/POSTAGE)	1005.27
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	66.00	BOARD EXPENSES	1728.97
BIRDATHON (1983)	276.55	PRESIDENT	\$ 396.99
MEMORIALS	91.00	SECRETARY	14.38
GENERAL	175.60	TREASURER	9.54
MISCELLANEOUS		PROGRAMS	17.22
SALES	983.73	ROOM RENTAL (PROGRAMS)	246.00
BIRD SEED (2)	904.50	SPEAKER HONORARIUM	137.00
PROGRAM MEETINGS	8.10	CONSERVATION	122.75
SALES TAX RECEIVED	71.13	FIELD TRIPS	113.76
CHECKING ACCOUNT INTEREST	105.68	MEMBERSHIP	79.06
	-----	MEMBERSHIP RECORDS	106.45
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 5927.74	PUBLICITY	40.00
		BIRD RECORDS	28.96
		EDITOR	25.14
		COMPUTER SUPPLIES	150.00
		EDUCATION	156.59
		MISCELLANEOUS	85.13
		CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FEES	96.24
		FIXED YEARLY EXPENSES	65.00
		P. O. BOX RENT	\$ 20.00
		BULK MAILING FEE	40.00
		WASH. STATE FILING FEE	5.00
		FUND RAISING	926.54
		REST STOP COFFEE (1)	\$ 255.09
		BIRD SEED (2)	585.00
		SALES TAX PAID	86.45
		CONFERENCES	658.65
		PUGET SOUND WATER	\$ 45.00
		ASILIMAR	445.00
		ELLENSBURG	168.65
		ENVELOPES/STATIONERY	96.49
		NAS OLYMPIA LOBBIEST	400.00
		PROTECTION ISLAND	156.96

		TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 5359.12

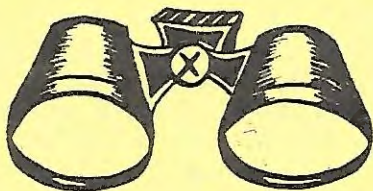
NOTES

- (1) Rest stop coffee net proceeds: \$ 816.06
 (2) Bird seed sales net proceeds: \$ 319.50



BIRD SIGHTINGS

SINCE APRIL 14



- Apr 14 The OSPREYS are back to their nesting site at Lake Chaplain. Also a pair of WOOD DUCKS were searching the old growth snags for a nesting site. (Dave Mundell)
- Apr 15 Fred Bird took a trip to Connecticut. He just missed seeing an immature ROSS' GULL, although he did see an ICELAND GULL and PALM WARBLER.
- Apr 17 Three BLACK-NECKED STILTS were seen north of Stanwood on N 92nd & 272nd NW. (Seattle Audubon Hotline [SAH])
- Apr 19 A YELLOWLEGS specie was seen wading in the puddles in the fields north of the Everett sewage ponds. (Terri Spencer)
- Apr 19 A WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, two immature GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS and a HERMIT THRUSH were observed by Joan Lucas at her home.
- Apr 21 Several YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS were seen at Twin Gissberg Lakes Park, Marysville. (Susie Schaefer)
- Apr 22 A GREAT EGRET was seen at the Blue Heron Rookery on the Peasley Canyon Rd., Federal Way. (SAH)
- Apr 26 A NORTHERN ORIOLE was seen near the Hewitt Avenue trestle. (Dave Marquardt)
- Apr 28 After a good morning rain a flock of EVENING GROSBEAKS, YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS (both species), PINE SISKINS, one BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, one TREE SWALLOW and one NASHVILLE WARBLER were at Joan's Lucas' residence.
- Apr 29 A TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE was seen in a backyard in downtown Everett. (Fred Bird)
- Apr 30 A GRAY-CROWNED ROSY FINCH was seen near the south meadow of Discovery Park. (SAH)
- May 6 A BALD EAGLE flew over Steven Howard's residence.
- May 6 A GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW was observed on the Edmonds Community College campus. (Susie Schaefer)
- May 7 A CINNAMON TEAL was observed south of Snohomish on Hwy 9. (Steven Howard)
- May 10 A WESTERN KINGBIRD has been seen several times sitting on the barb wire fence along I-5 just north of Exit 208 near Arlington. (Terri Spencer)
- May 10 Three CASPIAN TERNS were observed at the beach at Discovery Park. A LEWIS' WOODPECKER was seen at the

- Montlake Playfield. A singing LAZULI BUNTING was seen at the southwest corner of the Kent sewage pond. (SAH)
- May 11 A flock of 15 GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS visited Darlene Larsen's backyard below her feeder.
- May 13 Three WESTERN KINGBIRDS and four YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS were at the Montlake Fill near the University of Washington. (SAH)
- May 16 Two WESTERN TANAGERS were seen at a residence in north Marysville. (Glenn and Lee Schultz)
- May 16 A LEWIS' WOODPECKER was seen in the Dubuque area. (Steven Howard)
- May 18 A PEREGRINE FALCON was spotted flying over I-5 near Mt. Vernon. (S. Howard)
- May 18 A flock of about 300 BAND-TAILED PIGEONS were seen on Hwy 20 just east of the Swinomish Channel. (S. Howard)
- May 18 A pair of WESTERN TANAGERS in the yard at Granite Falls were at the salmon berry bushes. (Doris Hall)
- May 21 A LEWIS WOODPECKER was in Wallace Middleton's yard.
- May 21 A mature BALD EAGLE circled over the neighborhood gaining altitude while being pestered by a CROW. Later in the day a SWAINSON THRUSH visited the same neighborhood. (Marianne McKnight)

SEND YOUR SIGHTINGS TO

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

CALL BIRD SIGHTINGS TO

Terri Spencer/Steven Howard 435-8602
Jan Richards 334-2781

OTHER SIGHTINGS

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

HELP FOR INJURED WILDLIFE

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

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

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

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

BIRDING ETHICS - HABITAT
From Sacramento Audubon Society

Avoid trampling fragile habitats, especially marshes, grasslands, wildflowers and tangles. Stay on established pathways. Damage to the habitat affects all species in the ecosystem.

Keep motor vehicles on established roads and parking areas. One set of tracks invites others. In fragile ecosystems tracks may last for decades and severely degrade the habitat value.

Obtain permission for entry to private lands. Respect the occupant's privacy and property. Don't block rights-of-way; leave gates as you found them.

When practical, pool transportation to birding areas to save energy and reduce environmental impact.

Leave no litter

CALIFORNIA FIELD TRIP REPORT

By Bonnie Phillips-Howard

Curt and I were fortunate to attend the Western Regional Conference at Asilomar on the Monterey Peninsula in California during April. The Conference offered five field trip options and I courageously and masochistically signed up for the Pelagic Boat trip because I wanted to write a really exciting article on all the interesting birds I saw. Alas, if I wrote an article on this potentially fruitful boat trip, I would be writing about the 3/4 of those people who got ghastly ill (due to a double dose of motion sickness pills I was in the lucky 1/4 group) and the birds we hoped to see but didn't. We did see a black-footed albatross, lots of sooty shearwaters, a few grey whales vaguely in the distance, two sea otters playing in the kelp beds, and, right from the dock, friendly sea lions waiting for their fish handout (\$.50 for 6 little fish; they sell alot, everyone wants to feed the sea lions) and scores of brown pelicans.

By all means, take this trip when you are down there sometime. It leaves from Monterey's Fisherman's Wharf. They say if you go in August or September you probably will have good weather. Ours was not. Rocky is a mild way of saying it. I know there were sooty shearwaters out there, the experts were telling us they were all around us. I'm hesitant about putting them on my life list, if I should ever keep one, because it was impossible to bring binoculars up to my eyes while holding desperately onto the deck railings with both hands. It was an experience. With all due deference

to the first-class boat trips that Washington's Terry Wahl gives, I have decided that it will have to be a future field trip chair who will organize one for Pilchuck.

Now that I told you about the field trip I decided not to write about, I would like to recommend a really superb place for birding--the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges in California and Oregon.

While at Asilomar, we heard a talk given by Robert Fields, Manager, Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). He had marvelous slides and got our enthusiasm going. On our way back to Washington, we took Hwy 97 from I-5 in Northern California and headed up to the refuge.

The entire system consists of six parts. The Klamath Forest NWR was established in 1958 and consists of 16,377 acres, the majority of which were purchased from the Klamath Indians. This NWR is east of Crater Lake National Park in Oregon and consists of meadowlands around the marsh where sandhill cranes, shorebirds, waterfowl and birds of prey all feed. The pine forest supports a diversity of forest wildlife species not found elsewhere in the refuge system.

The second section, Upper Klamath NWR in Oregon, is accessible only by boat. We were told that May was the choice month for a canoe trip, that the forest goes right down to the water, and that warblers abound.

The last section in Oregon, Bear Valley NWR, was established in 1978 to protect a major nighttime roosting site used by bald eagles--almost 300 eagles have used the roost in one night. This entire basin contains the largest wintering population of bald eagles in the lower 48 states and is closed to the public from November until April.

We spent our few precious hours at the NWRs in California, especially the Lower Klamath NWR. This refuge begins off Hwy 97 at the California/Oregon border. Just turn east on Hwy 161 and you're there! Our nation's first waterfowl sanctuary, established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, it now consists of 51,713 acres of shallow marshes, open water, grassy uplands and croplands (potato farming) and is intensively managed to "provide waterfowl and marsh bird nesting and brood-rearing habitat; help with the production of cereal grains and wetland plants that feed migrating and wintering waterfowl; and to curtail waterfowl disease losses to botulism during the hot summer months" to quote the NWR's brochure.

The Tule Lake NWR is nearby and contains 38,908 acres of primarily open water and

croplands. Both the Lower Klamath and Tule Lake NWRs provide the visiting birder with auto tour routes along the dikes in the refuges.

The last section of the refuge system, Clear Lake NWR consists of a 20,000 acre lake and the surrounding 13,440 environs. It sounded fascinating but is closed to visitors from spring through fall because of the fragility of the refuge habitat and the sensitivity of the nesting birds.

The birding at the Lower Klamath and Tule Lake areas provided us with all we were hoping to see. Stepping out of the car at the new Visitor's Center, located near Tule Lake, a prairie falcon came to greet us. (So did a small dog who attacked Curt's shoe laces each time we stopped at the Center. By our last visit Curt was hiding from this friendly creature.)

We were late for the enormous concentrations of ducks and geese which migrate through each spring. An aerial census taken on April 4 showed over 100,000 ducks and 100,000 geese. Really huge flocks occur in November (hunting on the 40% of the refuge brings these birds onto the other 60%) when nearly one million ducks and geese are normally present. At the turn of the century, this number was estimated at six million. However, one million still sounds impressive to me since there were only a fifth as many around and they were everywhere.

For each northern shoveler we saw, another hundred were waiting to catch our eye. We missed the green-winged teal migration, but ruddy ducks swam in abundance, and we saw a flock of 30,000 mixed snow and ross' geese. White-fronted and Canada geese nested close by. Black-necked stilts, American avocets, willets and marbled godwits were the first to greet us at the refuge and were present along the way. An immature golden eagle followed us for an hour. Arctic terns dipped in and out of our view. I was most fascinated by the white pelicans, their size and interesting landings. The sandhill cranes were gone but warblers were returning. Western grebes were alleged to be engaging in their mating dance, but were too shy to perform for us. The black-crowned night herons forgot they were nocturnal and flew back and fourth across the water at Tule Lake. An incredible number of ring-billed gulls, allowed our first identification of this species.

There are no campgrounds on any of the refuges so we camped at Lava National Monument, a few miles south. It was an intriguing area which deserves a special

trip in its own right. We awoke to snow and managed a few more hours at the refuge before visibility became a problem. We saw over 70 species in our short stay and would have had a much longer list if we could have taken our eyes off the water and concentrated on the song birds. We bid goodbye to California and promised ourselves that this was only a reconnoitering trip and that next time we would bring our canoe and come for a long stay indeed.

U.S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

By Jim Michael

The U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) has a wide variety of activities. Soil information, land use (urban, forest, and agricultural) planning, drainage, agricultural waste management, stream corridor rehabilitation, sediment reduction plans on construction sites, and erosion control measures are a few of the SCS activities found in Western Washington.

Conservation Districts (CD) are formed by elected and appointed positions. A board of five members (three elected and two appointed) form the governing body of each CD. Their function is to represent the citizenry and natural resources of their district.

Each district is charged with providing guidance on how natural resources are managed in their area. They provide input on issues regarding natural resources and can serve as a coordinating body with various resource orientated agencies on a wide variety of projects. Public input into the make up of the Conservation Districts and on various natural resource issues is vital in order for a progressive conservation program to be developed and functional.

Most of the SCS activities are performed through local conservation districts. A citizen normally approaches a Conservation District on a specific issue. The CD will review the matter and forward it to the responsible agency. Since the SCS works closely with CD, the ultimate technical response will usually rest with SCS.

In Snohomish County the SCS office is located at Frontier Village in Lake Stevens. The phone number is 334-2828. Should you desire to ask any further questions feel free to contact Jim Michael, District Conservationist at the above phone number.

Conservation District meetings are the second Tuesday of every month. Board meetings are conducted at the SCS field office at 10:00 a.m. and are open to the public.

SELKIRK CARIBOU PROTECTED
From The Audubon Leader

After years of petitioning by National Audubon Society and other conservation groups, the last remaining herd of woodland caribou in the Selkirk mountains was finally added to the federal endangered species list. According to the Fish and Wildlife Service, there are only approximately 30 animals left, ranging over northern Idaho, northeastern Washington, and southern British Columbia.

Over 100 caribou were counted in the herd in the 1950's, yet poaching, destruction of habitat by logging, and accidental road kills all but decimated them. Today they are considered to be the most seriously endangered large mammals in the Lower 48.

In 1982, Audubon announced it would pay a \$1,000 award to anyone providing information leading to the conviction of a caribou poacher. A reward was paid just this past January for a killing that occurred a few miles north of the Canadian border.

Also, as a result of Audubon lobbying, Congress appropriated \$200,000 more than the administration proposed in the FY 1984 federal budget to boost government efforts to protect caribou.

SPRINGWATCH

By Doris Hall, PAS Member

What kind of people would drive in the rain for over 30 miles through a trough of green trees and pouring dew to spend a weekend at Camp Silverton? Our kind --- Auduboners and nature lovers! Check-in time continued all day on Saturday as family groups showed up and were assigned cabin spaces.

Someone with foresight knew we would abandon the outdoor campfire program Saturday evening and substituted a blazing indoor campfire in the meeting room fireplace. All day it warmed our backs, fronts, spirits and dried our clothes as we drifted in and out from varied activities. There were always snacks and beverages available.

There were over 50 individuals who participated in a diversity of planned activities. So many workshops were going on that it was necessary to plan your own day of learning.

A quality tape-slide program "Introduction to Pilchuck Audubon" with slides donated by members and put together by the education committee started off Springwatch in a most informative and enchanting way.

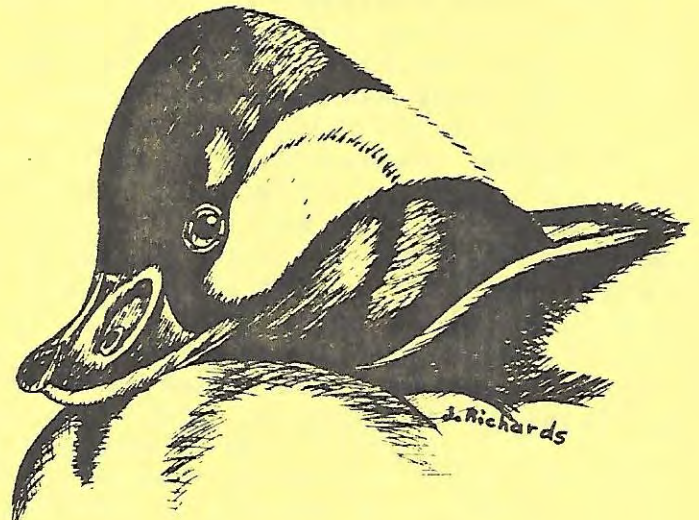
A morning plant identification slide show was followed by a walk around the paths of Silverton. Ferns, trees, wildflowers and mosses were studied. Their uniqueness pointed out by knowledgeable leader Jan Erickson.

Anne Grubb provided activities for the youngsters' workshops. There were bird and plant slides to help identify, two compass and map reading classes sandwiched between bird walks, eating and drying out.

Saturday night Auduboners and guests had an informal installation of officers by President Curt Howard.

Other programs during the two days were "A Closer Look" slide show put together by PAS member Grace Patrick whose field of expertise is botany and photography. "Without a Trace, the Wilderness Challenge" was a slide show cautioning us to walk softly on the earth and why. Then there was the beautiful film "Flight of the Snows (Geese)" which also had spectacular photography. A Washington State Department of Game newly released film "Habitat in Washington State and What Has Happened To It" was also shown.

The first annual Springwatch was a different experience. The adventurous loved it. Many hands helped make it a success. Food was excellent. Weather was foul but grumbling was done with grins. Birds were scarce but friendships flourished.



\$
\$ This year thanks to our members \$
\$ sending in their Olson receipts \$
\$ Pilchuck Audubon Society has raised \$
\$ \$159.00. \$
\$

PAS SUMMER ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

JULY 28th - 29th, WEEKEND

Leader: Curt Howard (652-9619). RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. This is a wonderful and fairly easy hike to Goat Flats in the proposed Boulder River Wilderness Area. This area serves as a base camp for climbing Three Fingers Mountain (we will NOT climb the mountain) and views of Three Fingers, Whitehorse, and Mt. Baker all abound. We limit the number of all backpack trips so reserve early. The round trip is nine miles, which translates into 4-1/2 miles each way, but the elevation gain is not severe. Hiking time to Goat Flats is 3 hours, but we will take more time if necessary to enjoy the views, savor the wildflowers and try to spot some birds. Call Curt for more information.

OVERNIGHT BACKPACK - GOAT FLATS

AUGUST 11th, SATURDAY

Leader: Kathy Green (259-7047). Let's hike up our namesake, Pilchuck Mountain. It's a fairly short and easy hike but be sure you are in fairly good condition and have good hiking shoes. This hike is 4 miles round trip, with a 2000 foot elevation gain. The trail is not difficult and there is plenty of opportunity for great views along the way. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the lower parking lot of Everett Community College. Bring binoculars, hiking boots and lunch. Call Kathy for more information.

HIKE MT. PILCHUCK

SEPTEMBER 8th, SATURDAY

Leader: Terri Spencer (435-8602). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5. The walk at Lake Tennant is a wonderful and picturesque boardwalk, over a marsh and beside the lakeshore. Enjoy the ducks, geese, woodpeckers, hawks and songbirds come to life again in fall after their quieter and more restful sounds of summer. Bring a lunch, binoculars and boots.

FIELD TRIP: LAKE TENNANT

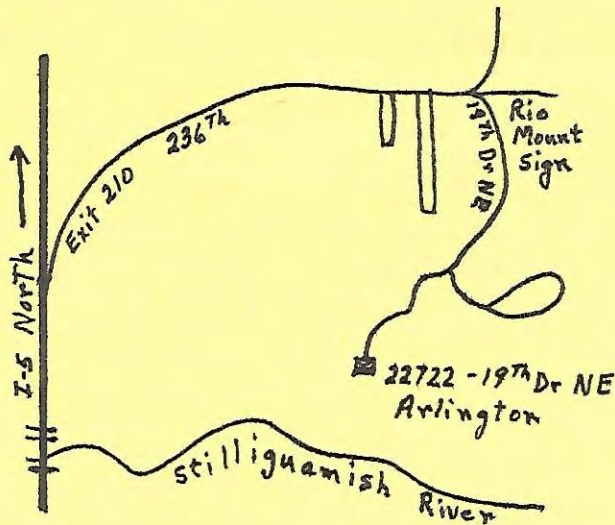
BIRDWATCHER'S DIGEST OFFER

Are you a subscriber to this informative magazine? If not you may want to consider ordering a subscription for yourself or a fellow birdwatcher. PAS is participating in a fundraising project signing up NEW subscribers for Birdwatcher's Digest. The cost of a yearly subscription (six issues) is \$11.00 of which \$5.00 will be retained for PAS conservation and other programs.

PAS will be signing up new subscribers during the next six months so send your order in. Your check should be made out to PAS and must include your mailing address. Remember this offer applies only to new subscribers not renewals. Please contact Susie Schaefer or Gerald McKnight for more information. Sample copies of the magazine will be available for review at our fall program meetings.

PILCHUCK'S SUMMER WALK AND POTLUCK

Join us for country living at its best! Bruce (our new Vice President) and Mary Esther Kelly will graciously host this potluck at their five-acre homesite north of Arlington (see map for directions). The Kelly's have a delightful and interesting "barn style" home and have their own pond (with nesting wood ducks this summer and a variety of other ducks who nest or visit).



We will meet at the Kelly's house at 2:00 p.m. and walk in the various wild areas on or near their property. Afterwards we will "loung" on their deck and chat with new and old friends. Please bring a potluck dish to share with others and also your own dishes and silverware. Coffee, tea and marshmallows (for roasting) will be provided.

Bruce and Mary Esther have a large grill so bring your own hamburgers, hot dogs or steaks and cook your own! For the non-hiker, non-canoer, July and August do not offer too much in terms of outings for PAS members. This is a great opportunity for a summer get-together. Families welcome. See you there!

COLUMBIA GORGE LEGISLATION
From News Release

Now that the wilderness battle is drawing to a close, it is time to focus our energies on another major concern: if we want to pass a strong Gorge bill this year, we need to write our senators and representatives now. The Packwood bill plus additional amendments to provide protection for the Columbia River's major tributaries as well as fish and wildlife is considered a strong Gorge bill.

Only "Wild and Scenic River" designation will assure protection of the tributaries. The following tributaries need to be specified in your letter: the Hood, the Little White Salmon, the White Salmon, the Klickitat, the Sandy, the lower Deschutes, and the upper Washougal. In addition, specific language for the protection of fish and wildlife needs to be included in the Packwood Gorge bill.

With Congress recessing for most of July and August, there will be very little time for a Gorge bill unless you show your support for one now. Please write or call your elected officials today on S. 627, the "Columbia River Gorge Act of 1983".

Senator _____, U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C. 20510

THE EVERGREEN COALITION **
By Anne Grubb

As time passes, it is apparent to us in Pilchuck Audubon and other environmental groups that there is a need to consolidate our resources and efforts to become more effective in dealing with environmental issues. Thus, The Evergreen Coalition is being formed to share and exchange resources and information, discuss current and future environmental concerns in Snohomish County and to present a "united front" when environmental challenges arise. The first meeting was on Saturday June 9th at 10:00 a.m. in the Everett Public Library Auditorium.



The Coalition will be made up of conservation organization representatives and private individuals who share an active concern for the protection, preservation and prudent management of our natural resources. Also interested are numerous public agencies (The Department of Game, The County Planning Department, The Department of Ecology) who rely on our investigative reporting efforts to be informed of those concerns.

Some of our goals will be to establish a "phone tree", publish a newsletter and briefing papers, establish sub-committees to report on specific issues, and to create a central referral system whereby any concerned individual may receive current resource information.

The Pilchuck Audubon Board of Directors has identified the following as priority conservation issues for Snohomish County: 1) Hydroelectric Plants; 2) Waste Management (energy resource recovery, recycling, landfill, toxins and pesticides, acid rain); 3) The Navy in Everett; 4) Water Quality and Ecosystems (Snohomish River Delta, Port Gardner Bay); 5) Sensitive Area Atlas; 6) Wilderness Protection and Old Growth Forest Management; 7) Land Management (agriculture).

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in becoming involved and can contribute time, ideas, do research, write letters or attend public meetings; phone Anne Grubb at 668-4462.

** Thanks to Carl Franz for a most appropriate name!

NATURAL RESOURCES YOUTH CAMP

Western Washington youth has an opportunity to attend a unique camp and learn about natural resources. Soils, water, forests, fish, marine life, and wilderness recreation will be the subjects highlighted in the seven day camp. Camp convenes June 24 - 30 at Camp Brotherhood, a 200 acre woodland/farm site located near Lake McMurry in Skagit County. Attendance is open to youth in grades 7-11. A fee of \$135 will include meals, lodging, and instructional materials. There are a few part-time scholarships available. Applications will be taken through June 15.

Instructors are career natural resource professionals who work in the various disciplines on a daily basis. Through "hands-on" instruction and land-use simulation games, the instructors will provide the youth with a unique opportunity to learn about natural

resources. Additionally, there will be ample time to make new friends and have fun.

For application forms or additional information contact Ellen Snow, Snohomish County Cooperative Extension Service, 600 - 128th St. SE, Everett, WA 98204. 206/338-2400.

SUBCOMMITTEE VOTES NO ON CLEAN AIR From The Audubon Leader

On May 2, the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment voted against proposed clean air amendments that could help remove acid rain pollutants from our environment. Joy Oakes, National Audubon's Capital Hill Office, reports that the vote was heart-breakingly close, 10 to 9.

Representatives Luken (OH), Madigan (IL), Dingell (MI), Dannemeyer (CA), Whittaker (KS), Bliley (VA), Nielson (UT), Shelby (AL), Broyhill (NC), and Echart (OH) voted against the acid rain measures.

Oakes says that it's unclear what the subcommittee will do next. This defeat, however, may not bode well for passage of other strengthening clean air amendments. "This wasn't just an environmental vote," according to Oakes. "It was THE environmental vote of the year."

For more information and updates, contact National Audubon Capital Hill Office, 645 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E., Washington, DC 20003, (202) 547-9009, or call the Audubon Hotline at (202) 547-9017.

FEEDING HUMMINGBIRDS

From the Western Washington Gardener, Washington State University Cooperative Extension:

Despite the good intentions of gardeners who feed hummingbirds, feeding these tiny birds may be harmful. Heavy sugar solutions in feeders used to attract these darting flyers may cause a fatal hardening of the liver. Honey may result in a disease of the tongue. Even in the absence of disease the birds become dependent upon easy handouts and fail to do their assigned ecological task of pollinization.

If you want to attract these beautiful creatures to your yard, the best procedure is to plant a good variety of spring and early summer flowering plants. If you insist on using a feeding tube, do not use a syrup containing raw calories only. A balanced diet is a must, such as this one suggested by University of Puget Sound ornithologist, Dr. Gordon Alcorn:

1 cup boiling water
5 1/2 teaspoons cane sugar
Several drops of a weak Peptone, or unflavored gelatin solution
1 drop of concentrated liquid vitamin solution
Beet coloring or use a painted glass tube

From the Yakima Valley Audubon Calliope Crier:

Because hummingbirds burn calories so fast, they need to eat half their weight in sugar every day. Available food is essential. So we get out the feeders and mix up sugar, water and red coloring. Authorities disagree on the proportions in these recipes. Honey is a "No-No" because it contains some botulism toxin.

So, from a magazine Gardens For All (Feb. 1984) comes a brand new recipe. It comes from Ralph Horn, recent curator of birds at the Philadelphia Zoo. "The simple sugar and water mixture is not adequate because it does not provide the necessary vitamins and minerals." But they are provided in INSTANT BREAKFAST. He recommends strawberry flavored for the color. Mix it with water instead of milk. Prepare it fresh each day. And if the hummingbirds can pick up a few insects along the way, they will have a well-balanced diet.

Editor's Note: These are but two recipes among many. The best thing to do is probably to plant flowering plants.

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Pilchuck Audubon can get a 1% cash
rebate on all purchases from OLSON'S
FOOD, HAGGEN FOODS, & HAGGEN HALLMARK
STORES.
Send or give your cash register
slips to Hal Hanson, 925 Walnut,
Edmonds, WA 98020.

BIRDING ETHICS - BIRDS From Sacramento Audubon Society

Be stealthily, quiet. Try to observe the birds so they are unaware of your presence, thus providing an opportunity to learn their normal habits. Avoid quick movements, discordant noises, running, continuous chasing of the same birds, throwing things, and "thrashing about". The quiet observer sees more.

BIRD-A-THON UPDATE
By Susie Schaefer, Finance Chair

The 1984 PAS Bird-a-thon participants had a great day and were very successful raising over \$150.00 for PAS. The Finance Committee would like to thank all who participated.

The group at Port Susan and Camano Island identified 77 species including 6 different sparrows, 16 ducks, 4 grebe, 7 shorebirds and many others. Everyone enjoyed sighting 5 beautiful wood ducks near Warm Beach.

The Bowerman Basin/Ocean Shores participants identified 58 species including several warblers at Ocean Shores State Park and lots of shorebirds at Bowerman Basin.

Anyone who has not mailed in their pledges, please send them to Gerald McKnight, Treasurer, Pilchuck Audubon Society, PO Box 1618, Everett, WA 98206.

WASHINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

The Washington Environmental Council (WEC) is a coalition of environmental organizations and concerned individuals working to protect and enhance the environment in our state. WEC works to inform the public on issues such as air and water quality, sound timber management, pesticide use, hazardous wastes, and the preservation of critical wildlife habitats.

The range of their expertise and their judicious approach to environmental problems gives them an indispensable role in the environmental movement in Washington State. But the task is great, requiring volunteer efforts and financial support.

Contributions can be mailed to WEC, 80 South Jackson, Seattle, WA 98104. Memberships are categorized as follows: Seniors/Students - \$10, Individuals - \$25, Contributing - \$30, Sustaining - \$50.

A STATEMENT OF AUDUBON PHILOSOPHY

We believe in the wisdom of nature's design.

We know that soil, water, plants and wild creatures depend upon each other and are vital to human life.

We recognize that each living thing links to many others in the chain of nature.

We believe that persistent research into the intricate patterns of outdoor life will help to assure wise use of earth's abundance.

We condemn no wild creature and work to assure that no living species shall be lost.

We believe that every generation should be able to experience spiritual and physical refreshment in places where primitive nature is undisturbed. So we will be vigilant to protect wilderness areas, refuges, and parks, and to encourage good use of nature's storehouse of resources.

We dedicate ourselves to the pleasant task of opening the eyes of young and old that all may come to enjoy the beauty of the outdoor world, and to share in conserving its wonders forever.

BIRDING ETHICS - BIRDS
From Sacramento Audubon Society

Approaching a nest too closely or repeated flushing may cause abandonment of the eggs and young by the parents and expose the nest to predation. Do not handle eggs or young.

When photographing a nest or parents at the nest, don't keep it unduly exposed to sun, cold, or rain, causing destruction of eggs or young or desertion by parents. Instead of cutting branches or grass near the nest, tie them back. Leave the habitat as you found it.

Use tape recorders with discretion to prevent driving birds from their territories. Never play recorders in heavily birded areas.

Avoid "tree-whacking" to arouse cavity dwellers. Undue disturbance may lead to abandonment.

Keep down unnecessary talk, noise and disturbance so that all birders in a group have the opportunity to exercise their full faculties of sight and hearing.

Avoid excessive use of squeakers and "pishing"; it may reduce their effectiveness and may annoy other birders.

FROM THE EDITOR: Newsletter material (articles, artwork, book reports, trip reports, etc.) from PAS members describing any activity of interest to your fellow members is most welcome. Please print or type if possible. The newsletter committee will edit the final copy. Have dictionary, will spell!

EDGE EFFECT is where two plant communities come together resulting in a greater variety of birds.

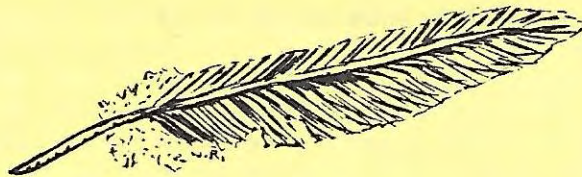
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS & CHAIR POSITIONS FOR 1984 - 1985

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Bill Lider
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- Membership Records: 337-4777
Gerald McKnight
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Everett, WA 98204

* Board Positions

- * Programs:
- Librarian:
- Eagle Count:
- Hospitality:
- Nominating:



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 * Includes National Audubon's bimonthly magazine AUDUBON and Pilchuck Audubon's monthly *
 * PROFILE newsletter for one year. Make your check payable to National Audubon Society. *
 *
 * NAME _____ PHONE _____ Check type of membership *
 * ADDRESS _____ desired. Mail application *
 * CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ and your check to Pilchuck *
 * Audubon Society, PO Box 1618, *
 * Everett, WA 98206. *
 *
 * ___ INDIVIDUAL \$30.00 ___ SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL \$21.00 ___ SUPPORTING \$100.00 *
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 *
 * For additional help or Membership Records information contact Gerald McKnight at 337-4777 *
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SPRINGWATCH

By Mary Schuck, East Lake Washington Audubon Member

Springwatch was a weekend that I shall always remember for the friendship and joy I saw among the members of Pilchuck Audubon Society and which was so graciously extended to me. You made me feel as if I had been "born" into your family. Never once did I feel like a "outsider".

The pristine beauty of Camp Silverton, with the mighty Stillaquamish River rushing at its front door, its tall trees surrounded by moss and lichens, the many species of ferns, mushrooms & wildflowers growing at its feet, is truly awe inspiring. What wonderous food for the soul. Just seeing the beauty of God's creation makes the spirit soar like an eagle.

Speaking of food! What can I say! The spaghetti, that rich meaty sauce seasoned to perfection, the many fresh vegetables for the salad, the delicious homemade desserts, the homemade jams for Sunday breakfast, the granola, fresh squeezed orange juice, etc. I could go on and on. If you were there you know. If you were not, boy what you missed! Bonnie! BRAVO!!!

I must tell you a little about Saturday's adventures. I chose to take a workshop about maps and compass, headed by Curt Howard. (Thanks Curt, I did learn at least what a township is and that North is usually at the top of a map.) Another option was a bird walk which nine members chose, even though it was pouring rain. When they returned we asked what birds they had seen. John Ziemer replied, "All we saw were nine 'Wet Bellied Sap-Suckers' in different sizes and colors of raingear". We all roared, for in fact, they all were drenched to their skins.

There were eight adults and four very well behaved children who went on an insect hunting expedition led by Louise Kulzer, on Saturday afternoon. We were delighted to find a northwestern salamander plus other creepy crawlers. Lots of fun!

Late Saturday night we had an owl prowl led by Tom Campion, and although we did not get to see or hear any owls, it was a neat experience to listen to Tom's owl calls in the stillness of that black night, to see the beaver ponds, and to hear the bullfrogs singing to each other.

Sunday, Joyce Kelley led us on a short trip to the Big Four Area before breakfast and we were treated to a mid-May snow storm by Mother Nature. Boy did it come down! What beauty! What a thrill! What a chill!

Orchids to Joyce Kelley and Jane Erickson, who I understand, were the "force" behind Springwatch. Congratulations to Bonnie, Marianne, all the workshop leaders, to Bill & Sally Linder for the wonderful sweet fresh oranges which Bill squeezed into juice for Sunday breakfast, to all who baked all those delicious goodies.

A very special congratulations to Bruce Kelly, who was officially installed as vice president for the coming year.

Well, Pilchuck, you've really got it together. I shall always treasure these moments. Thank you all so very much for the pleasure of your company, for the kindness and warmth shown to me. I feel that I have found good, long lasting friends.

***** HAVE A NICE SUMMER, THE NEXT PROFILE WILL BE IN SEPTEMBER *****

Pilchuck Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1618, Everett, Washington 98206



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