

Pilchuck

Audubon Profile

FEBRUARY 1985

VOLUME XIII NUMBER 6

FEBRUARY 2nd, SATURDAY

Leader: John Munn, Snohomish County Extension Naturalist (338-2400). PAS is co-sponsoring this trip with John.

FIELD TRIP: NW TREK & OAK CREEK

FEBRUARY 9th, SATURDAY

Leader: Teresa McKnight (337-4777). We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Lynnwood Park and Ride Lot. This is a great family trip, since all ages delight in the wonders of a zoo. Winter is a good time to visit the zoo, as many animals are more active than in the summer and the people are fewer. Woodland Park Zoo is providing a guide for a general tour of the zoo with special emphasis on the Swamp and other bird areas. Admission is \$2.50 - 18 years and older, \$1.00 - 13 to 17 years, \$0.50 - 6 to 12 years, free - under six. Bring binoculars, warm clothes and a lunch.

FIELD TRIP: WOODLAND PARK ZOO

FEBRUARY 12th, TUESDAY

Red Cross Building, 26th and Lombard, Everett at 7:30 p.m. in the Boeing room. Use the 26th Street entrance and follow the "Audubon" signs. "An Arctic Odyssey" Traverse the Philip Smith Mountains in the Brooks Range with Gail Roberts and her 14 year old son, Frank. A Sierra Club hike in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge began at a lake on the Wind River drainage, went north across the Continental Divide, then continued down the Ribdon River to Elusive Lake, a distance of 60 miles. The tundra was in the peak of bloom; mosses and lichens were as lovely as the flowers; fresh animal tracks were everywhere. Adventure was in the air!

MONTHLY PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 24th, SUNDAY

Leader: Syd Carlow (252-6600). Joint with Seattle Audubon. Meet at 9:15 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5. After coffee at Grace's, we will take a beach walk along the shores of Camano Island. Grace has been hosting this trip for 20 years, and each year brings a wealth of sights. Bring warm clothes, boots, binoculars and lunch.

FIELD TRIP: GRACE CORNWELL CAMANO ISLAND

FEBRUARY 26th, TUESDAY

Marysville Planning Commission Hearing of Ed Hayes' plan to build a cement batching plant and road in the wetlands. Marysville Library, 4822 - 72nd St NE, Marysville at 7:30 p.m.

HEARING: ED HAYES' BATCHING PLANT

MARCH 2nd, SATURDAY

Leader: Virginia Clark (435-3750). Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Coast to Coast parking lot at Frontier Village on Highway 9. Paul Dye runs the Northwest Waterfowl Game Farm, breeding different species of native and non-native waterfowl, including smews, Mandarin ducks, Baikal teal, eiders, swans, etc. Paul will guide us through his game farm explaining about the birds and the remarkable breeding program. Don't forget your camera. Bring warm clothes, boots, a sack lunch, and binoculars. We may go on a short walk through the adjoining Corson Wildlife Recreation Area where screech owls and ruffed grouse have been seen.

FIELD TRIP: NW WATERFOWL SANCTUARY

OIL SPILL
By Curt Howard

An oil spill on Puget Sound was discovered December 21, 1984, by the U.S. Coast Guard. That is a fact. While I know that it is not the only fact available on the oil spill, the next five days were so busy the other facts tend to blur and run together. In this report I shall attempt to piece together the events.

Early on December 23, PAS was contacted by Joan Thomas of the Washington Department of Ecology. She asked for assistance from PAS in cleaning the birds affected by the oil spill. The estimated total quantity of oil spilled ranged from a couple of hundred gallons early on to what seems to be a now accepted figure of 5,000 gallons. Most of the first day was used to solicit volunteers, not only PAS members but also from other organizations such as the Sierra Club, Everett Mountaineers and other Audubon chapters.

Volunteers were requested to go to a private residence (a Coast Guardman's) where oiled birds were cleaned, dried, warmed, fed and treated. The scope of birds affected soon required more room so NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (I don't know which) arranged to use a shower room at Olympic View Jr. High School in Mukilteo.

The jr. high school quickly turned into the nerve center for the rescue operation. One phone line was in use and we obtained radio contact with Whidbey Island through the efforts of REACT.

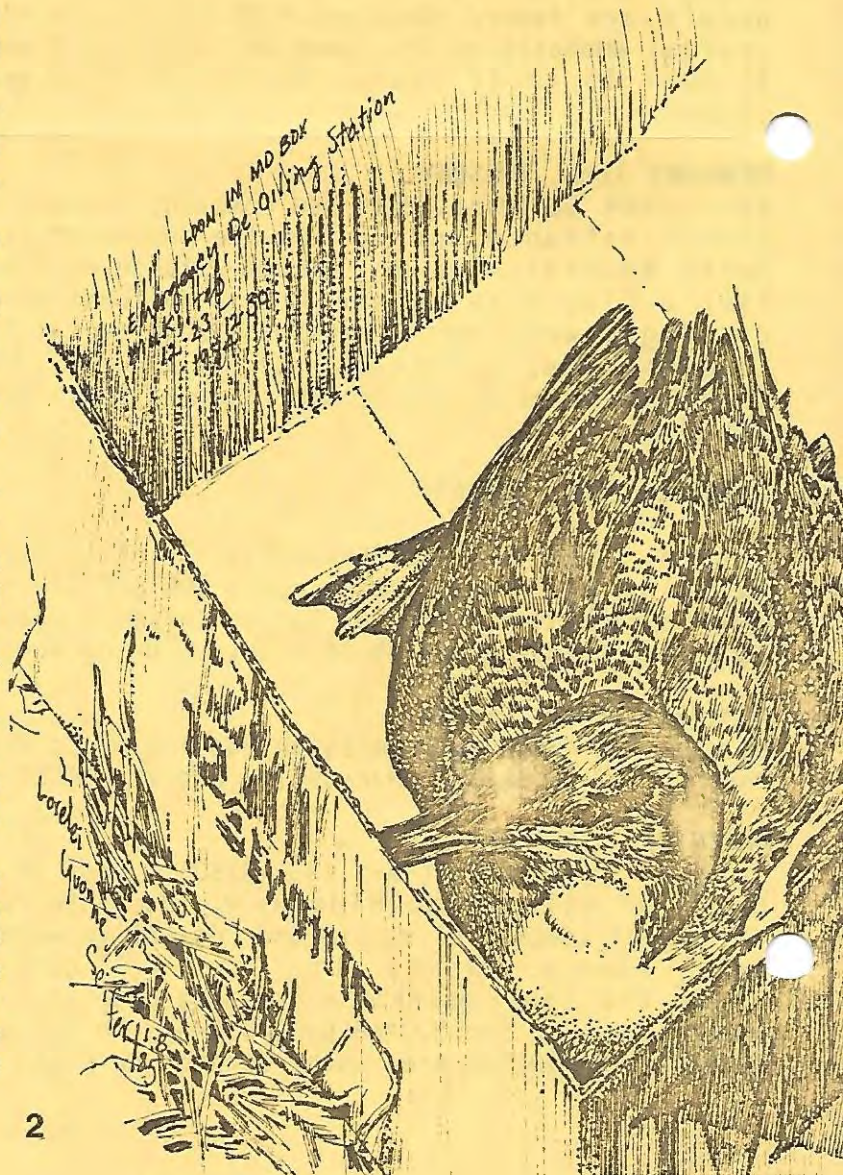
Thanks to the efforts of Sterling Lantz the rescue operation was brought to the attention of newspapers, radio and TV. Their excellent coverage, and requests for volunteers, supplies and donations brought forth an abundance of all kinds of help. In spite of the pressure to deliver a story on time, the papers, radio and TV personnel were completely sensitive to the first priority, the birds.

One of our greatest fears was that volunteers would not come forth on Christmas Day. How wrong we were. Volunteers and supplies both for the workers and the birds continued to pour in.

The actual sequence was something like this: The distressed bird was captured as gently as possible on Whidbey Island, placed in a cardboard box, then carried to the ferry terminal at Clinton. The ferry brought them to the Mukilteo landing where the ferry workers carried them to the

waiting room and called the school for a pick-up. The school is about two miles from the ferry landing. At the school the birds were identified, logged in, the mouth and nostrils were cleaned with Q-tips and the eyes treated to counteract toxic irritants of the oil. The feathers were then washed (still on the bird) with a controlled concentration of liquid detergent (Dawn), rinsed with warm water, towel dried and then blow dried. The birds were then penned under heat. They were also treated with medicines, tube fed, and rehydrated. Birds have been "farmed" out to rehabilitation centers until they can be released.

Yeoman service was performed by Kay Baxter of the Everett Wildlife Care Center, who stayed at the jr. high school around the clock; by Doug Yearout, D.V.M., whose treatment procedures gave an unheard of early survival rate; by Carlotta Cook of South Whidbey Wildlife Clinic, for her efforts on Whidbey Island; and by countless unnamed others.



SPECIAL BULLETIN

The birds thank them and you. Approximately \$6,000 has been raised in direct money donations so far. They thank you again.

Some 300 birds were washed and treated out of an estimated 3000 birds affected. These included common loons; eared, horned, and western grebes; buffleheads; mallards; harlequin ducks; oldsquaws; white-winged, black, and surf scoters.

This all sounds very simple, doesn't it? To achieve these results meant establishing an emergency response center. It was done. The electrical power requirements of this center were more than the shower room could provide. An appeal was broadcast for portable power generators. We had three working. The use of a separate portable hot water heater was donated. People made special trips to the Seattle Aquarium to pick up donated fish. Channel 7 TV put their helicopter at our disposal for evaluating the extent and location of oiled birds.

I like to think that the plaintive cries of the loons were their thanks for our help in trying to save their lives (we probably didn't), and their anguished question: "Why me? What have I ever done to man to deserve this?" Why indeed, Mr. Loon, why indeed? My only answer is that the loon occupies a space man wants to use, therefore he must suffer. How would you answer?

PIGEON POWER

From Oregon Wildlife

When important material must be delivered immediately, who does one of the nation's most sophisticated space and computer technology companies turn to? Why, a carrier pigeon, of course. The Lockheed Corporation, known for missiles and airplanes, has found a profitable niche for a pigeon system at the firm's mountain-top facility near Santa Cruz, California. The birds are used to fly microfilm prints over the mountains from nearby corporate headquarters.

"The first reaction to using pigeons was just what you would think . . . laughter," recalls research chemist Werner Deeg, who volunteered to train the birds. But because the Santa Cruz facility is situated atop 50 miles of winding roads, there was no fast, inexpensive way to transport materials from one office to the other. "It costs \$10 a print to use a computer-linked machine, but the pigeons' cost amounts to only \$1," says Deeg.

Last year, a Marysville resident noticed birds coming to his feeder displayed some abnormal growths on their legs, feet, and bills. During fall and winter the symptoms increased and the birds began to die. Finches and grosbeaks are the effected birds with evening grosbeaks reaching a death rate of nearly 50 percent. After a pathological workup was done, it was discovered that the birds have Avian Pox, a respiratory disease.

We at Pilchuck Audubon would like to know if this is a local situation or how wide-spread it is. If you have had any similar sightings, we urge you to write Pilchuck Audubon, P.O. Box 1618, Everett, WA 98206 or call Curt Howard at 652-9619.

OFFICERS & CHAIR POSITIONS FOR 1984 - 1985

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

BREAZEALE CENTER ACTIVITIES

KAYAK TRIPS

Northwest Sea Ventures, in cooperation with the Interpretive Center, is providing fully outfitted guided kayak tours of Padilla Bay. Groups of 5 to 10 will depart from Bayview State Park to paddle sea kayaks for 2 to 3 hours. No previous paddling experience is necessary. A lesson in paddling technique will be provided prior to each tour.

The silent, non-polluting kayak offers a special opportunity to explore Padilla Bay and view its wildlife with a minimum of impact. The fee is \$10 per person, payable to Northwest Sea Ventures. Full payment and registration is required at least one week before scheduled tour. The fee includes sea kayak, paddle and life jacket. Dress for the weather, including hat, gloves, raingear and some type of waterproof boot.

Steve has been a kayak guide since 1982 and is a registered nurse, certified in first aid, CPR, Advanced Lifesaving and Water Safety. The dates are Saturday February 2nd and 16th at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., Sunday February 3rd and 17th at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Saturday March 2nd at 9:00 a.m., Sunday March 3rd at 10:00 a.m. Call the Center 206-428-1558 to sign up.

HAWKWATCHING

Mr. Clifford Anderson, a professional raptor biologist, is offering a special course on "Hawkwatching in Western Washington". The program is intended for anyone interested in learning more about the 16 species of eagles, hawks and falcons of western Washington.

Four lecture/slide sessions will be held at the Center on successive Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., March 7, 14, 21 and 28. The course will be supplemented with a field trip to observe wintering raptors in their natural environment. One or more live hawks will also be brought to class. The cost is \$50.00 per person. Pre-registration is required. Please call the Center to sign up.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Once again, the infamous Matt Brown and Dick Garvey will be teaching a "Nature Photography" workshop at the Center. It will be held April 13th and 14th. It will

include lecture, slides, trip to local tulip fields, overnight developing and next-day critique and review of slides.

Pre-registration is required and will be open March 27th. These two humorous camera buffs each have galleries in LaConner and have been teaching photo workshops for years. The fun is free.

The address for the Center is Breazeale Interpretive Center, Padilla Bay National Estuarine Sanctuary, 1043 Bayview-Edison Road, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273.



HENRY A. LEHN MEMORIAL

By Keith Lehn

(Editor's Note: This is a letter PAS received from Keith Lehn. With Keith's permission we are publishing it.)

Please accept the enclosed contribution on behalf of my late father, Henry A. Lehn. It is prompted by the need concerning the Janssen Sanctuary but may be used at the discretion of the board.

Among my clearest recollections of my father are his efforts every Spring to attract purple martins to his martin house and his attempts to repel hated starlings and "spotsies" (English sparrows) before the martins could move in.

His efforts at repelling and trapping starlings included spring-loaded trap doors, electrocution and a large, needle sharp solenoid, concealed inside which, unfortunately, overheated and burned down a very elaborate martin house. (I don't think he ever saw the humor in that one.)

He was interested in what birds I saw in Washington compared to those in Illinois right up to the end. I think he would be proud to see this portion of his estate used on behalf of wildlife and birds in the state of Washington.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 1984

By Bill Lider

It was a Currier and Ives Saturday that greeted us on the morning of the Christmas Bird Count. Several inches of new snow had fallen during the night and the weatherman was forecasting a severe snow storm. Although it did snow lightly most of the day, the heavy snowfall never materialized.

For the twelve of us who showed up, and three participating feeder-counters, it meant that we would have to work extra hard to census the birds this year. Among the people who participated in the count was John Martinis, Snohomish County Councilman. We met at the Pier 206 Restaurant for a hasty breakfast before splitting up into groups. Because of the snow, there was little traffic, allowing us to drive slowly on our search for birds.

This year's count included two new species of birds. Seventy five water pipits were seen by Curt Howard and Dick McCabe, and 1065 dowitcher species were seen by Joyce Kelley and Bill Lider.

As usual, snow geese topped the list (in numbers seen) with 4577 sighted, and European starlings ran a close second with 3543 reported. A total of 82 separate species and 15,038 birds were reported. Overall, the numbers were lower than in past years, probably because of the low turnout of counters and bad weather for birds (and people). Most birds seemed to be grounded for the day because of snow. A red-tailed hawk, perched on a bare tree limb, with snow accumulated on his back, made one glad to be inside the comfort of a heated car.

That evening we enjoyed the hospitality of Bruce and Mary Esther Kelly for the potluck and tabulation of the day's count. All in all, it was a fun day for those who participated (with the exception of one stuck pickup) and a chance to see different areas of the county. Pilchuck Audubon would like to thank the following persons who participated in the count: Virginia Clark, Virginia Eagleton, Bonnie Phillips-Howard, Curt Howard, Joyce Kelley, Bill Lider, Dick McCabe, Connie and John Martinis, Maybelle Nichols, Nancy Salvadalena, Susie Schaefer, Terri Spencer, Jan and Sally van Niel.

WASHINGTON WILDLIFE COALITION WA Dept. of Game Newsletter

Organized in the fall of 1980, the Coalition for Washington's Fish and Wildlife is made up of representatives from diverse groups of wildlife enthusiasts. It includes

hunters, anglers, trappers, wildlife observers, hikers and conservationists with a variety of backgrounds and interests. Despite their differing, often conflicting philosophies about wildlife, they have set their differences aside to join in a common goal--to find a way to guarantee a healthy future for Washington's fish and wildlife resources.

Coalition members point out that every Washington citizen benefits in some way from the state's wildlife, and that all of us share some responsibility for the loss of habitat. For this reason, they argue that every citizen should pay his or her share of the cost of preserving and managing the wildlife we have left. The ultimate objective is to achieve a sound, adequate funding base of a state wildlife program.

The Coalition focuses on the need for stronger population management and enhancement work. This would include developing better systems for collecting and using population, harvest, user preference and other data and reversing the decline of the WDG fish hatchery program.

The Coalition wants to help the department develop or improve access areas and wildlife interpretive centers; acquire and additional 500 miles of streambank access per year; and expand efforts to improve public access to private lands and wildlife opportunities on public lands owned by other agencies. The group also stresses the need for additional funding of research, wildlife enforcement, information and education, and upgraded computer and business management capabilities.

State agencies and officials cannot deal with the impacts of increasing development without strong public support. That's why the Coalition has adopted the dual mission of educating the public and identifying a funding source adequate to guarantee a healthy future for our wildlife resources.

Persons wishing to contribute to the Coalition or who wish further information should write the Coalition for Washington's Fish and Wildlife, 821 - 2nd Ave., Suite 1903, Exchange Building, Seattle, WA 98104.

ZOO ACTIVITIES

Art Wolfe is back with a three-projector show, featuring the scenery and wildlife of Antarctica. He will also show Northwest landscapes set to music. Wednesday, February 13th at 7:30 p.m. in Kane Hall 130 on the University of Washington. \$4 donation requested.

BIRD SIGHTINGS THROUGH JANUARY 7TH

- Dec 2 A flock of at least a dozen RED CROSSBILLS were seen feeding in the fir and pine trees at her home at Utsalady Point on Camano Island. (Hallie Brooks)
- Dec 8 A HARRIS' SPARROW was observed on Norman Road near Silvana. (Phil Mattocks)
- Dec 9 On a drive through Samish Flats, three NORTHERN SHRIKES, six SNOWY OWLS and a female MERLIN were seen. (Fred Bird)
- Dec 11 The first sighting of a PURPLE FINCH at her feeder this winter. (Marianne McKnight)
- Dec 12 A SHARP-SHINNED HAWK flew into a front window and rested in a nearby tree for nearly an hour. The tree is the one that two BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES eat their sunflower seeds in. They brought the seeds but were too upset with the hawk perched in the tree to eat them. (Marianne McKnight)
- Dec 14 A NORTHERN SHRIKE was perched on a fence post in her yard. (Hallie Brooks)
- Dec 15 On a Connecticut Christmas Bird Count, 15 EASTERN BLUEBIRDS, a CAROLINA WREN, an EASTERN SCREECH OWL, an AMERICAN BLACK DUCK and a SNOW BUNTING were seen. (Fred Bird)
- Dec 15 A BALD EAGLE was seen flying up the Stilliquamish River. (Bruce and Mary Esther Kelly)
- Dec 15 Three BALD EAGLES were seen perched on a snag near Arlington. (Steven Howard)
- Dec 16 A GREAT GRAY OWL was reportedly seen in a woodlot north of Stanwood. (Sue Tank, wildlife biologist)
- Dec 16 A BEWICK'S SWAN was seen north of Bellingham. (Seattle Audubon Hotline)
- Dec 16 Fifty SNOW BUNTING were observed on Lummi Flats. (Seattle Audubon Hotline)
- Dec 17 A female MERLIN regularly visits her yard to check out the little birds. (Susie Schaefer)
- Dec 17 A COOPER'S HAWK passed through Harold Reade's Christmas Tree Ranch. In the past month a couple of GREAT HORNED OWLS, a displaying RUFFED GROUSE, and a SOLITARY VIREO have visited. A SAW-WHET OWL knocked himself dizzy after hitting a window. (Harold Reade)
- Dec 21 A NORTHERN SHRIKE visited her yard. (Nancy Susnove)
- Dec 23 Six SNOWY OWLS were seen on the Samish Flats. Five had the dark barring characteristic of the immature birds. The sixth was a pure white adult. Several of these owls were seen on high perches (including a TV antenna) but one was just sitting in the middle of the road. Other sightings on the Samish Flats included a ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, 15 BUFFLEHEADS, a KESTREL, a RED-TAILED HAWK, and an immature BALD EAGLE. Thirteen BALD EAGLES and one GOLDEN EAGLE were seen on the Skagit River between Rockport and Marblemount. (Sally and Bill Lider)
- Dec 24 A COOPER'S HAWK buzzed a feeding area in Mukilteo. (Marion Don)
- Dec 25 A nice Christmas surprise was seeing two pair of WOOD DUCKS on Silver Lake. They stayed for only a couple of days. (Tootz and Frank Russell, Teresa and Marianne McKnight)
- Dec 26 A EURASIAN WIGEON was seen on Blackman Lake. (Fred Bird)
- Dec 26 A BALD EAGLE was seen near the Everett Sewage Lagoon. A DOWNY WOODPECKER visited a Paine Field home. (Rick Berger)
- Dec 27 Two adult PEREGRINE FALCONS perched together in a tree on the Samish Flats. A GYRFALCON was also observed in a tree. (Fred Bird)
- Dec 27 Six hundred BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS were seen between Wenatchee and Leavenworth. (Seattle Audubon Hotline)
- Dec Nineteen EVENING GROSBEAKS are "wintering" at Marion Don's in Mukilteo. She reports that last year they had 35. They also have many PINE SISKINS.
- Jan 1 A GYRFALCON was observed and photographed on the Samish Flats. Also observed were ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS, a PEREGRINE FALCON, two SNOWY OWLS and a NORTHERN SHRIKE catching a small bird. (Terri and Allen Spencer, Steven Howard)
- Jan 3 A GREAT BLUE HERON was standing on the ice of frozen Silver Lake. (Teresa McKnight)
- Jan 4-7 A VARIED THRUSH, a BARN OWL, two AMERICAN ROBINS, some STELLAR JAYS, a RED-WING BLACKBIRD, two WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES and several RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEES visited a yard in Snohomish. (Pat Reeves)
- Jan 6 While on the bald eagle survey on Northern Whidbey Island, four PILEATED WOODPECKERS and four dozen CANVASBACKS were seen. (Joan Lucas)
- The WOOD DUCK reported on Jennings Park in October molted and is a MANDARIN DUCK who had recently found himself a hen. Mandarin ducks are not native here. They are usually found in captivity so he is probably an escapee.

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

CALL BIRD SIGHTINGS TO
Terri Spencer/Steven Howard 435-8602
Marianne McKnight 337-4777

OTHER SIGHTINGS
Seattle Audubon Hotline 1-624-2854
Swan Sightings 775-0137
Falcon Research Group 1-822-9690
(to report large western WA falcons)

HELP FOR INJURED WILDLIFE
Wildlife Care Center of Everett
Dr. Yearout, D.V.M. 353-3814
Kaye Baxter 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 FORUM By Nancy Salvadalena

Let's face it, recycling can sometimes be a drag! There are times when you just can't face washing out another peanut butter jar or one more tuna fish can. Beginning recyclers have it especially tough. It is hard breaking old habits and getting into the routine of placing cereal boxes into the recycling bag instead of the garbage can.

The New Year is a great time to make a resolution to form some new, ecologically positive habits. Begin by recycling one new type of material (glass, e.g.). When this becomes fairly automatic for you, add one or two more. Soon you will be recycling a full range of materials and you, too, will cringe when someone carelessly throws a pop can into the garbage.

Peter Hurley called with some of his thoughts on recycling. Some of his suggestions have to do with certain disposable items. "1) Why not keep some old rags handy instead of reaching for a paper towel to clean up that spill? 2) Why not use cloth handkerchiefs instead of facial tissue?" (N.B. I prefer tissues for aesthetic reasons, but have noticed that the cloth holds up better on a rainy field trip.)

I would add to these some of my pet peeves. 1) Disposable diapers (I can see that they are very handy and more aesthetically pleasing than washing cloth diapers, but, besides being ecologically unsound, they have to be very expensive to use.) 2) Disposable lighters 3) Plastic margarine tubs (How many storage containers can one use?) 4) Plastic dishes for TV-type dinners (After you have acquired your complete set of 12, then what? At least aluminum ones are recyclable, and a cardboard-type tray could be used for microwave heating.) 5) Disposable razors (These I don't understand at all. Have we really gotten that lazy?)

Next month's column will be about composting and mulching. If you have any tips or questions on these or other subjects, please write to me at 2227 Burley Dr., Everett, WA 98204 or call 337-7458.

LEGISLATORS MEETING

By Peter Hurley

Pilchuck Audubon and the Evergreen Coalition sponsored a meeting with four state legislators from Snohomish County (four others cancelled because of ice on the roads) on Monday night, December 17th. Although we will not know how successful we were until Mary-Margaret Haugen, Cliff Bailey, Karla Wilson, and Jack Metcalf vote on 1985's environmental legislation, the meeting brought out numerous concerns.

Lorena Havens gave a beautiful slide show on the Snohomish River Delta. Marcie Goldie and Dave Schuet-Hanes from the Washington Environmental Council followed with an ugly (massive clear-cuts, wash-outs, and rivers of muck), but equally effective presentation on a bill which will come before the 1985 legislature: changes to the Washington State Forest Practices Board. Gino Luchetti and Dave Sommers from the Tulalip Tribes presented slides from Deer Creek.

Each member of the audience then had a few minutes to speak on issues of concern to them. Forest Practices, minimum Stream Flow, Riparian Zone, Columbia Basin Irrigation, Worker and Community Right to Know, Natural Area Preserves, and the Departments of Fish, Game, and Ecology budgets will all be controversial bills before the legislature. Good bills will pass only with broad citizen support. A briefing book on the issues is available. Call Peter at 355-7239 (evenings) or 258-5681 (days).



1984 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>1984 TOTAL</u>	<u>YRS SEEN</u>	<u>PREV HIGH</u>
Red-throated loon	0	10	3
Arctic loon	0	1	3
Common loon	0	9	21
Pied-billed grebe	4	10	13
Horned grebe	24	11	52
Red-necked grebe	0	7	92
Eared grebe	1	8	6
Western grebe	4	10	245
Double-crested cormorant	52	7	354
Pelagic cormorant	0	4	5
Cormorant species	2		
American bittern	0	1	1
Great blue heron	20	11	97
Tundra (whistling) swan	0	2	48
Trumpeter swan	0	3	12
Mute swan	0	1	14
Snow goose	4577	11	17000
Brant	0	4	67
Canada goose	12	9	460
Wood duck	2	6	3
Teal (green-winged)	2	7	43
American black duck	0	5	38
Mallard	196	11	818
Northern pintail	11	9	4871
Northern shoveler	52	7	61
Gadwall	0	5	49
Eurasian wigeon	1	3	7
American wigeon	1519	11	6512
Canvasback	8	9	32
Redhead	0	2	4
Ring-necked duck	20	10	125
Greater scaup	0	4	165
Lesser scaup	276	11	291
Scaup species	0		
Oldsquaw	0	3	3
Black scoter	0	1	1

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>1984 TOTAL</u>	<u>YRS SEEN</u>	<u>PREV HIGH</u>
Surf scoter	17	11	135
White-winged scoter	3	9	62
Common goldeneye	13	11	86
Barrow's goldeneye	2	11	40
Bufflehead	42	11	310
Hooded merganser	6	9	12
Common merganser	3	10	193
Red-breasted merganser	14	8	52
Merganser species	0		
Ruddy duck	4	10	123
Duck species	75		
Bald eagle	1a,1i	10	11
Northern harrier	8	11	13
Sharp-shinned hawk	1	8	5
Cooper's hawk	0	5	2
Swainson's hawk	0	5	2
Red-tailed hawk	21	11	43
Rough-legged hawk	1	2	1
Golden eagle	0	1	1
American kestrel	5	8	8
Merlin	0	6	2
Peregrine falcon	0	2	1
Ring-necked pheasant	0	4	2
Ruffed grouse	0	7	4
Sharp-tailed grouse	0	1	1
California quail	0	3	2
American coot	125	11	367
Black-bellied plover	0	2	32
Golden plover	0	1	125
Killdeer	96 *	9	95
Lesser yellowlegs	0	3	1
Spotted sandpiper	2	3	2
Semi-palmated sandpiper	0	1	15
Western sandpiper	240	5	3000
Least sandpiper	0	2	1380
Dunlin	162	10	2900
<u>Dowitcher species</u>	1065 *		
Common Snipe	4	7	55
Bonaparte's gull	92	7	135
Mew gull	39	9	1938
Ring-billed gull	12	7	651
California gull	0	5	754
Herring gull	0	5	1113
Thayer's gull	1	6	50

SPECIES	1984 TOTAL	YRS SEEN	PREV HIGH	SPECIES	1984 TOTAL	YRS SEEN	PREV HIGH
Glaucous-winged gull	12	11	894	Hermit thrush	0	2	1
Gull species	547			American robin	32	11	1680
Common murre	0	3	25	Varied thrush	10	10	173
Marbled murrelet	0	3	8	<u>Water pipit</u>	75 *	1	
Cassin's auklet	0	2	2	Bohemian waxwing	0	1	1
Rock dove	34	9	692	Cedar waxwing	0	3	15
Band-tailed pigeon	0	5	49	Northern shrike	0	6	4
Mourning dove	26	3	26	European starling	3453	11	8347
Common barn owl	0	4	1	Hutton's vireo	0	2	4
Great horned owl	0	5	2	Yellow-rumped warbler	0	2	6
Northern pygmy owl	0	2	1	Townsend's warbler	0	4	10
Long-eared owl	0	1	1	Rufous-sided towhee	19	11	152
Short-eared owl	0	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	8	10	18
Belted kingfisher	0	10	12	Song sparrow	64	11	203
Red-breasted sapsucker	0	1	12	White-throated sparrow	0	1	1
Downy woodpecker	2	8	7	Golden-crowned sparrow	5	9	12
Hairy woodpecker	0	9	8	White-crowned sparrow	0	8	16
Northern (red sh.) flicker	10	11	50	Sparrow species	11		
Pileated woodpecker	0	8	6	Dark-eyed junco	375	11	970
Western flycatcher	0	2	2	Red-winged blackbird	17	11	3001
Horned lark	0	1	8	Western meadowlark	7	7	15
Northern rough-winged swallow	0	1	2	Yellow-headed blackbird	0	1	2
Gray jay	0	1	1	Brewer's blackbird	184	10	2406
Steller's jay	30	11	66	Brown-headed cowbird	0	6	70
American crow	948	11	2052	Blackbird species	88		
Common raven	1	9	6	Pine grosbeak	0	1	6
Black-capped chickadee	10	11	162	Purple finch	14	10	22
Chestnut-backed chickadee	0	10	128	House finch	65	11	206
Bushtit	40	10	429	White-winged crossbill	0	1	75
Red-breasted nuthatch	1	6	4	Pine siskin	1	11	1134
White-breasted nuthatch	0	5	9	American goldfinch	0	7	77
Brown creeper	0	9	8	Evening grosbeak	15	8	185
Bewick's wren	2	8	14	House sparrow	37	11	231
House wren	0	1	1				
Winter wren	6	11	41				
Marsh wren	2	7	7	Total number of birds	15,038		51,247
American dipper	0	1	2	Total species	82		
Golden-crowned kinglet	38	11	380				
Ruby-crowned kinglet	11	11	147				
Townsend's solitaire	0	2	2				
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.

BIRDS OF THE OIL
By Judith A. Cook

*One cold winter morning,
Many tankers swiftly passing by,
For the carelessness of one of them,
I'd like to cry,
For my fellow birds and I
Did not know we could soon die.*

*While flying along,
Through skies of blue,
Thought I'd take me a bath,
But the water was full of goo.*

*I soon to become tired,
And head for shore,
Knowing full well if I dare,
I will be no more.*

*Swimming along,
Trusting my luck,
Soon to find,
I have become stuck.*



*So I tried to fly,
But my wings were all blacken,
So I paddles my feet,
And started a quacken.*

*His hand upon my head,
I thought I was near dead.
This tall creature lifted my bill,
Only to find my body in a cold chill.*

*Whomever helped me,
Remains to me a mystery,
If it hadn't been for him,
I would have soon been history.*

*And so it was, ending 1984,
To look back again would be no more.
Through future or the past,
Through the open door,
Let's hope one day we will again soar.*

*(Judith is the daughter of Carlotta Cook,
South Whidbey Wildlife Clinic. She has
dedicated this poem to the volunteers of
the Oil Spill of 12/23/84.)*

CONSERVATION GAME LICENSE

If one wishes to go bird watching or following wildlife on Washington State lands, a conservation license is necessary.

The purpose of a Conservation Game license is to give the holder an opportunity to contribute to the upkeep of state lands. In such a way, the holders are actually helping preserve these areas through financial support and by helping to limit the numbers of persons allowed on the state lands thereby reducing possible damage.

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

WETLANDS

From Oregon Wildlife

Wetlands are the most fertile natural landscape on earth. A typical salt marsh produces 10 tons of organic material, the building blocks for all estuarine and marine life, per acre per year. Some of the most fertile hayfields in the world are only capable of producing about 4 tons per acre per year.

CLEAR WATER WATCH

From The Monitor

Snohomish County has completed its stream restoration program for 1984, restoring 50 problem areas. That is double the goal set for the year. Under the direction of county biologists, 28 members of the Washington State Conservation Corps removed debris from streams, built fish ladders, revegetated stream banks and improved salmon-spawning areas.

Many jurisdictions participated in the program including the state departments of Agriculture, Ecology, Fisheries and Game. Also cooperating were the Tulalip and Stillagumish tribes, several city governments and many community groups.

PLANT POACHER

From Oregon Wildlife

A Texas man was fined \$5000 and given a one-year suspended prison sentence for illegally importing cacti from Mexico. This represents the first instance of a person being convicted for trafficking in endangered plants.

BIRD SEED SALES

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

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

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

BIRD IDENTIFICATION CLASS

Dr. Dennis Paulson, Burke Museum, is again presenting his Birds of Washington class. Twelve slide-packed lectures and five field trips to various wildlife habitats will stress field identification, habits and occurrence of all common birds of the state.

Lectures are on Tuesdays March 12 to May 28 from 7-9 p.m. in the Burke Room at the Burke Museum on the University of Washington Campus. Field trips are on Saturdays or Sundays: March 23/24, April 6/7, 20/21, May 4/5, 18/19. Cost is \$105 for lectures and field trips (transportation provided) or \$45 for lectures only.

To register send your name, address, phone number and a check (payable to the University of Washington) to: LECTURES Burke Museum DB-10, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

WASHINGTON'S UNPROTECTED WILDERNESS
By Peter Hurley

There is increasing evidence that the U.S. Forest Service plans to rapidly build logging roads through much of the 2.6 million acres of unprotected wilderness remaining in Washington State (as well as millions of acres of de facto wilderness in other western states). Under current federal legislation, only roadless areas can be considered for wilderness. Some Forest Service employees, concerned with this cynical plan to prevent further wilderness designations, have begun speaking anonymously to the press.

If you value wilderness, and want to learn what you can do to help protect it and want to work with conservationists working with the Forest Service on national forest management plans, call Jo Roberts at 523-1529 (Seattle, I assume).

DEADLINE FOR MARCH'S PROFILE IS FEBRUARY 12TH

* **Application for joint membership in National Audubon Society and Pilchuck Audubon Society.** *
 * Includes National Audubon's bimonthly magazine AUDUBON and Pilchuck Audubon's monthly *
 * PROFILE newsletter for one year. Make your check payable to National Audubon Society. *
 *

* NAME _____ PHONE _____ Check type of membership *
 * ADDRESS _____ desired. Mail application *
 * CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ and your check to Pilchuck *
 * Audubon Society, PO Box 1618, *
 * Everett, WA 98206. *
 *

* ___ INDIVIDUAL	\$30.00	___ SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL	\$21.00	___ SUPPORTING	\$100.00	*
* ___ FAMILY	\$38.00	___ SENIOR CITIZEN FAMILY	\$23.00	___ CONTRIBUTING	\$250.00	*
* ___ SUSTAINING	\$50.00	___ STUDENT	\$18.00	___ DONOR	\$500.00	*

* **Subscription only - fill in name and address above.** *
 * ___ Subscription to PROFILE only \$8.00 Make check payable to Pilchuck Audubon Society. *
 *

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

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SPOTLIGHT ON BIRDS: EVENING GROSBEEK
By Sally Lider

The colorful evening grosbeak is a sensory delight to winter bird feeder watchers. The male's plump body is yellow on the belly, sides, and back. A splash of yellow accents his forehead. The wings are black with a large patch of white. At 7 1/4 inches, he is bigger than a house finch, but smaller than a robin. Kit and George Harrison, authors of America's Favorite Backyard Birds, describe the evening grosbeak as looking like an overgrown goldfinch. The female is silvery with tinges of yellow and her wings and tail are black and white. Evening grosbeaks have a short tail and an undulating flight. They are seed eaters, having a short, heavy, conical beak which varies from chalky white in winter to pale green in spring. The most frequent call is a loud house sparrow-like chirp.

The evening grosbeak is a member of the family Fringillidae, subfamily Carduelinae (Cardueline Finches) and is closely related to finches, redpolls, pine siskins and crossbills. Due to the latest revision in classification by the American Ornithologists' Union, the scientific name was changed from *Hesperiphona vespertina* to *Coccothraustes vespertinus*. The old name translated from



Latin means "evening nightsinger". (This author does not know the translation of the currently accepted scientific name!)

Evening grosbeaks breed as far north as northern British Columbia and New Brunswick and spend the winter as far south as southern California and Mexico. They spend much of the year in large travelling groups splitting up only during the breeding season. The female lays three or four blue-green eggs in a simple stick nest, usually placed fairly high up in a conifer.

Some of us would describe evening grosbeaks as noisy, voracious birds that descend in large flocks on our backyard feeding stations, eat every sunflower seed in sight and then disappear. All of us would agree, I think, that the sight and sound of these unique creatures is worth the investment in bird seed.

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



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