

Pilchuck

Audubon

Profile

JANUARY 1985

VOLUME XIII NUMBER 5

PILCHUCK AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 6th, SUNDAY

BALD EAGLE SURVEY (ALL WELCOME)

Leader: Terri Spencer (435-8602). Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5. This is our annual bald eagle count sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, in cooperation with the Washington Department of Game. Come help Terri count eagles. Our route also provides a good opportunity to see a variety of other raptors. Bring a sack lunch, binoculars and warm clothing. This will be mainly a driving field trip.

JANUARY 8th, TUESDAY

MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETING

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. Because Pilchuck Audubon is dedicated to the preservation of our environment, we feel it is appropriate to learn as much as we can about the greatest threat to the environment to date: the possible use of nuclear weapons. Dr. Art Sprengle of Physicians for Social Responsibility will speak to us about what we can do to help avert this possibility. Some of the issues he will address are the medical consequences and our nation's ability to deal with them. He will give a brief history of the nuclear arms race and recent developments. There will be a discussion of where we can go from here and what we can do. We hope to see many members and friends for this important presentation.

JANUARY 12th, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: SKI TOUR, DEER CREEK

Leader: Curt Howard (652-9619). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5. We will leave at 8:15 a.m. The goal will be to reach the Deer Creek Mud Slide. An alternate will be chosen on Saturday morning if conditions appear to be unfavorable for Deer Creek. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE AN EXPERIENCED SKIER. THIS IS A BASIC SKI TOUR. Dress for snow, wearing a number of warm layers which can be added or subtracted as required. Bring a large brown bag lunch, canteen and rain gear. If we are lucky we will need sun glasses and sun screen. Bring cross country skis and boots. Rentals are available in sports stores. Bring a small day pack. Call Curt Howard for more information.

JANUARY 26th, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: BIRDS OF SKAGIT FLATS

Leader: Curt Howard (652-9619). Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5. This mainly driving, part walking tour will cover many of the areas of the Skagit Wildlife Recreation Area, plus the Padilla Bay and Samish Island areas. We will see snow geese, swans, other waterfowl, eagles, red-tailed hawks, rough-legged hawks, perhaps peregrine falcons and snowy owls and much more. A wonderful opportunity to discover what this area has to offer in winter. Bring Binoculars, warm clothes and a lunch.

FEBRUARY 2nd, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: NW TREK & OAK CREEK

Leader: John Munn, Snohomish County Extension Naturalist (338-2400). PAS is co-sponsoring this trip with John. See article on page 4 for information.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Curt Howard

There is much to do and see during the hunting season, such as a car or walking tour of the Skagit Flats. On a recent trip through the flats we observed bald eagles, many rough-legged hawks, swans, kestrels, snow geese and northern harriers. Now that hunting season is over we shall be able to go to some of the more popular birding areas.

I am aware of the approaching season by a number of signals. The most obvious, looking at a calendar, I reject as displaying only a small amount of imagination. The real clues are the purple buds of the February Daphne, the sweet scent of Sarco-cocca and Viburnum tinus on the warm days.

There is more to nature than birds. Have you noticed the golden beauty of the weeping willow in winter, the red of the red osier, or the growth of frost crystals over the flower of a primrose? It is these little things that can add to the quality of your life.

As my friendships with fellow Auduboners increased so has the quality of my life. I have appreciated them these past years, from when I first joined Pilchuck Audubon, through the two years as vice president and since 1983 as your president. I urge you to reach out, to welcome and appreciate the very special qualities our members have.

I would like to thank Kathy Green for her contributions to Pilchuck as Publicity Chairperson. It is a job of low profile (no pun intended). During Kathy's term, we have prospered. Thank you again, Kathy. And welcome Syd Carlow, our new Publicity Chairperson.

Pilchuck has started the process of identifying potential candidates for elective office and committee chairpersons for the next year. Susie Schaefer is the chairperson of the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in the offices of President, Vice president, Treasurer or Secretary, please talk to Susie. We always need people to help with our activities. Would you like to be a chairperson of one of our committees or groups or work on one of our projects? Let me know.

I also thank those who contributed to our sanctuary fund. We are still soliciting funds to cover the closing and incidental costs (approximately \$200) for the Janssen-

Audubon Sanctuary near Snohomish. Contributions need not be large. Any amount is welcome.

New member or old, fill out your questionnaire (I have extra copies, just call me) and send it in.

Due to an increased work load at his job, Keith Lehn feels he is unable to devote enough time to the Corson Research Group. Thanks Keith and Nancy for all your work. Welcome to Linda Evans of Lake Stevens who has accepted the position. She needs your help to inventory the Corson area. To volunteer please call Linda, 334-8308, or myself, 652-9619.

A WEEKEND'S ACTIVITIES

Sunday, December 9th, Curt and Bonnie Howard investigated a report of a large white bird on a farm near Arlington. The farm is in a magnificent location and a wonderful sight to see. The white bird was indeed a great egret. On a quick tour of a marsh on the property a kestrel, northern harrier and red-tailed hawk were also sighted. Of equal interest to the great egret was a small Canada goose (perhaps a cackling goose) flying with six other Canada geese. It was about one-half the size of the others.

Returning back home we were privileged to see a large river otter, as he started to cross the highway. He beat a hasty retreat just in time.

Our ferry trip on Saturday and these sightings made for a neat weekend. (P.S.) To all you people who did not come on the San Juan Ferry trip because of rain, we had a wonderful time. Bright and cloudy in the morning, sunshine in the afternoon, and a wealth of bird sightings.

SEND YOUR BIRD SIGHTINGS TO

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

OTHER SIGHTINGS

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

RECYCLING FORUM
By Nancy Salvadalena

ALERT!!! I could not believe my eyes when I read an article in the November 21st P-I which stated that soon aluminum pop cans may be replaced by plastic. According to the article, next year a plastic container company will begin production for the Coca Cola Company, and others will probably soon follow. The main reason seems to be lower costs for the beverage industry. Nowhere in the article did it mention what is to become of the containers when they are empty.

I am writing to the Coca Cola Company asking if they have considered the problems of disposal and urging them to consider the good of the environment when making these decisions. If you would like to write, expressing your concerns, their address is: Coca Cola Company, Consumer Information Center, P.O. Drawer 1734, Atlanta, Georgia 30301

Contact with other beverage companies is also recommended. Until plastic is completely recyclable, we must fight against this latest "improvement" in packaging.

Now for the regular subject of this month's column -- scrap metal. In my first column, I asked about recycling things such as old bicycle frames. I ended up taking mine to K & J Salvage & Recycling in Everett. Check the yellow pages under Scrap Metals for other dealers in your area. Scrap dealers will accept different kinds of metal objects and you will be paid (iron, e.g.) or not (tin, e.g.), depending on the type of metal. There is usually a pickup service also and there may be a charge depending on your location.

So if you have unrepairable appliances, old hot water heaters, dilapidated sleds, or other metal objects lying around your garage or backyard, spruce up your home and get those things to the recyclers.

TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Save all those beautiful Christmas cards you receive. Next year, cut off the part with the writing and write your own personal message and use them one more year. Sometimes, nursing homes or schools collect cards for arts and crafts projects. Also, save wrapping paper that is still in good condition. Some of it can be used for birthdays or other occasions.



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

NW TREK AND OAK CREEK BUS TRIP

Once again Pilchuck Audubon Society and the Snohomish County Extension Service with Naturalist John Munn will co-sponsor a bus trip to Northwest Trek, east of Tacoma, and the Oak Creek Feeding Station near Naches. The tour is scheduled for Saturday, February 2, 1985.

Price for the tour is \$22 per person (which includes admission to NW Trek). Checks should be made payable to "Elk Tour" and sent to John Munn, 600 - 128th SE, Everett, WA 98204.

We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Lynnwood Park and Ride Lot. Expect to be back to your cars by about 9:00 p.m. Bring enough food for two meals.

During the morning we will visit NW Trek Wildlife Park. A comfortable tram will take us through 5 1/2 miles of adventure. Large game animals such as bison, elk, moose, white and black-tailed deer, wild turkeys, etc. can be seen.

In the afternoon, we will visit the Oak Creek Feeding Station near Naches. Each year this station feeds a large number of elk and this is a great opportunity to get close to the animals. George Shindel, Department of Game, will give us a short talk. Both NW Trek and the Oak Creek Feeding Station provides wonderful opportunities for the photographer.

If you have any further questions, please call John Munn, 338-2400.

ZOO ACTIVITIES

"Animal Life in High Places" is a slide lecture by Dr. John Edwards of UW Zoology Department. Dr. Edwards' specialty is Alpine insects' and animals' adaptation to the cold. Tuesday, January 22nd at 7:30 p.m. in the Zoo ARC, 55th & Phinney N., Seattle. \$1 - \$2 donation requested.

"The Antarctic" is a three projector slide show presented by Art Wolfe. Also included are Northwest landscapes set to music. Wednesday, February 13th at 7:30 p.m. in Kane Hall 130 on the University of Washinton. \$3 - \$4 donation requested.

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

IS THIS THE YEAR ???

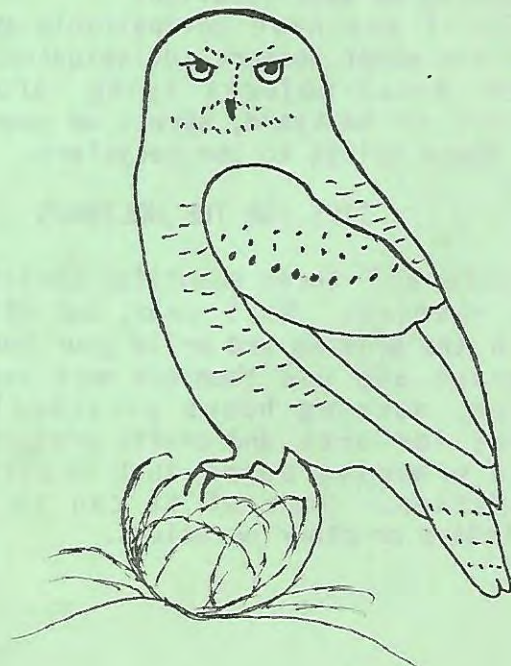
As you can tell from the sighting reports a few of our members have seen SNOWY OWL this winter. This year's first sighting reported to Seattle Audubon was on October 30th in Port Angeles.

The snowy owl resides in the Arctic areas of northern Alaska and northern Canada. Every winter some birds, mostly immatures, migrate into Washington. Every few years when there is a food shortage (lemmings) we have what is called an invasion year. Many people believe this is an invasion year as we have the largest number of reported birds for this time of the year since the winter of 1973-74.

The snowy owl can hardly be mistaken for anything else. There is no other white bird so heavily built, with such a large rounded head, and such broad wings. It is basically all-white with yellow eyes and no ear tufts. Most are moderately barred. One snowy owl, seen on Samish Flats, had a white head but the body was so heavily barred that it appeared almost charcoal gray. Therefore not all snowy owls look like a large, white rock sitting in a field.

It lives and nests on the ground, therefore look for it in open fields on the ground or on a low perch -- fence post, rock, stump, cabbage, hummock, or low building.

It is very exciting to see a snowy owl and it may be ten years before another invasion occurs. Keep your eyes open for snowy owls here in Snohomish County and call Terri, 435-8602, or Marianne, 337-4777 to report your sightings.

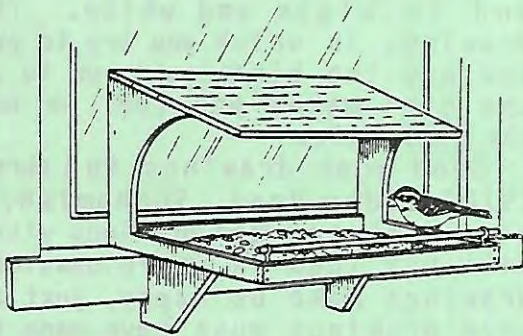


BIRD SEED SALES

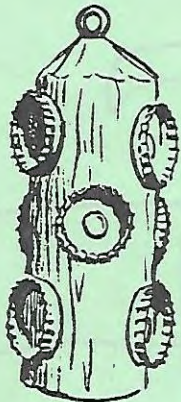
PAS is still selling bird seed for your backyard feeders. We have black Russian sunflower seeds and a wild bird seed mix available in 10 and 50 pound bags. Ten pounds for \$5.00 or 50 pounds for \$25.00. This amount includes sales tax as well as a donation to PAS.

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 |



hanging suet log



bottle cap suet log

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.

GRANTS TO PILCHUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY

GTE (General Telephone) announced recently the award of two grants to Pilchuck Audubon Society. The grants were requested of GTE by two of their employees and PAS members, Margo Shepard and Peter Hurley. The two grants total \$600 out of a total \$1400 requested.

The grants are awarded for specific, non-operational projects. The PAS projects were sea lion barge preparation, the Corson Research document, Adapt-a-Quad publishing costs, and the static display for trumpeter swans.

The \$600 will be placed in our reserve funds category for application to the projects. Specific allocations will be a PAS board decision.



A PEREGRINE FALCON BAND RECOVERY From a Press Release

Bud Anderson, a biologist with the newly-formed Falcon Research Group, reports that one of six migrant peregrines that he captured and banded this fall near Neah Bay, Washington, was recovered at the Pacific Missile Test Site, 30 miles west of Los Angeles, California. The falcon, an immature female, was found under a power pole and appeared to have been electrocuted.

This particular peregrine was banded on October 3rd and recovered eight days later on October 11th. In that time, she had flown 1100 miles, an average of 138 miles per day. This is the first record of a banded peregrine migrating down the west coast of the continental United States. It confirms that a fall peregrine migration of unknown extent is occurring in western Washington.

The Falcon Research Group plans to establish and operate a raptor banding station this spring on the Cape Flattery peninsula to explore the newly discovered hawk migration in greater detail.

In the meantime, they are interested in any and all reports of large falcons (i.e. peregrines, prairies, and gyrfalcons) in western Washington. Sightings can be reported to them at 822-9690.

WHY DO WE WATCH BIRDS?

By Laurel Carraher, Education Chair

Have you ever thought that the people in Audubon Society are pretty funny--hiking through the woods and fields, jerking out their binoculars and asking what kind of bird it is and where is his nest? Sometimes it is cold and rainy, and often it is very early in the morning. Why would people act this way?

Actually, there are many reasons. One reason is that birds play an important part in the ecology of the world. The word ecology comes from two Greek words that mean "study of the home". When we study the homes of birds and other animals we find that all their homes are an important piece in a puzzle. It is important by itself, but must fit together with all the other pieces to make a complete picture. We want to make sure that the birds are comfortable in their homes so that all the parts of nature can do well.

Another reason is that the grace and beauty of birds make us feel good. Birds can fly (which one cannot?), and flying has fascinated man from the beginning of time. Their gliding and swooping makes our spirit soar; it makes us feel free and playful to watch birds. From the first cave drawings to our drawing and photography today, people have tried to capture the "essence" of birds. The Vikings carved birds into the helms of their ships, and inside the

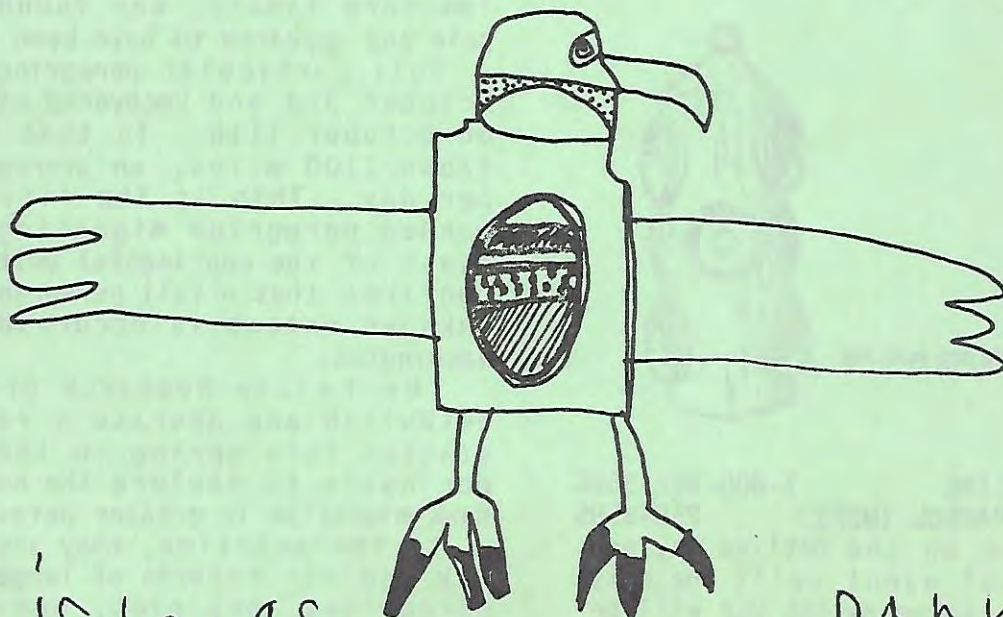
Kid's Corner



Pyramids the Egyptians placed pottery and jewelry adorned with bird images. The American Indian used many images of birds in carvings, blankets, boats and headgear. And, of course, the founders of our country chose the Bald Eagle (out of all the other animals) to be the symbol of our country: a symbol of freedom, integrity, and strength.

Many of us watch birds because they are a miracle and we want to protect and enjoy them. And birds are still one of our favorite subjects to draw. This drawing is by Nicholas Dankers. He is 6 years old and lives in Sultan, WA. We hope some of you will share your drawings of birds, too. The drawings need to be 5x5 inches or smaller, and in black and white. They can be drawings in which you try to put down just the way the bird looks, or to show the way the bird makes you feel, or how you think the bird feels.

Send your drawings to Laurel Carraher, 19107 Badke Road, Snohomish, WA 98290. Please share your drawings with us, and we will put them in future newsletters. Your drawings make us happy, just as the early cave drawings must have made those people feel safe and good.



Nicholas

Dankers

BIRD SIGHTINGS THROUGH DECEMBER 9TH

- Nov 10 A COMMON LOON was seen on Steamboat Slough. (Curt Howard)
- Nov 11 Joan Lucas discovered some CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEES and a VARIED THRUSH in her yard in Everett.
- Nov 11 PINE SISKINS were seen for the first time in eight years by Joan Lucas in her backyard.
- Nov 13 Two LESSER YELLOWLEGS were seen on the Skagit Flats by Steven Howard. Also seen was a small flock of DUNLIN west of Arlington along Highway 530.
- Nov 13 A small flock of DUNLIN was observed north of the Everett Sewage Ponds and a DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT was seen flying over Ebey Slough. (Terri Spencer)
- Nov 16 Virginia Eagleton saw a female NORTHERN HARRIER carry away one of her banty chickens. According to the Bent Birds of Prey book, the northern harrier is the "Henhawk" of eastern Montana.
- Nov 18 A SHORT-EARED OWL flew alongside the Marshland Road in the car headlights for a quarter of a mile. (McKnights)
- Nov 21 A COMMON MERGANSER was seen on the Stillaguamish River near I-5 by Mary Esther Kelley. She also had a pair of GOLDENEYE on her pond.
- Nov 24 Two PEREGRINE FALCONS and a dark-phase ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK were seen on the Samish Flats. (McKnights)
- Nov 24 Near Beaver Lake in Skagit County, a PRAIRIE FALCON while roosting in an alder tree was being carefully studied through a window mounted scope. An adult SNOWY OWL was resting on a small hummock in a field near the Jansen Access on the Skagit Flats. Soaring together near Sedro Woolley were two ROUGH-LEGGED

- HAWKS, one a dark-phase and the other a light-phase. (Joyce Kelley)
- Nov 28 A BALD EAGLE was seen flying near the Stillaguamish River.
- Nov 29 A SHARP-SHINNED HAWK visited the backyard trying to catch birds at the feeder. (Marianne McKnight)
- Nov 30 One male and two female HOODED MERGANSERS are residing on a front yard pond where Eileen Pelkey can watch them from her window.
- Dec 4 While looking for snowy owls on the Samish Flats, Dianne Duffy, Lee Minshull, and Marianne McKnight saw a NORTHERN SHRIKE, WESTERN MEADOWLARKS, numerous hunting NORTHERN HARRIERS, ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS, RED-TAILED HAWKS, an immature BALD EAGLE, a PEREGRINE FALCON, and one SNOWY OWL.
- Dec 7 A GREAT EGRET was seen by Rick Witscher at a farm near Arlington.
- Dec 8 Six SNOWY OWLS were seen within a half mile circle on the Samish Flats. Also in the same vicinity were a flock of approximately 50 BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS. (Gerald & Marianne McKnight)
- Dec 8 A GREAT-HORNED OWL was spotted in a tree on the Skagit Flats. (Bonnie Phillips-Howard)
- Dec. 9 Four SNOWY OWLS, six BALD EAGLE four LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE, three ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS, 50 TRUMPETER SWANS, and many more fascinating species were seen on the Samish flats. (Terri & Allen Spencer)

CALL BIRD SIGHTINGS TO

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Terri Spencer/Steven Howard | 435-8602 |
| Marianne McKnight | 337-4777 |

***** DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY'S PROFILE IS JANUARY 8TH *****

Pilchuck Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1618, Everett, Washington 98206



| |
|--|
| Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Marysville, WA 98270 Permit #66 |
|--|

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

| |
|--|
| Gerald & Marianne McKnight 3526 - 113th Pl SE Everett, WA 98204 |
|--|