

# Pilchuck Audubon Profile

MARCH 1985

VOLUME XIII NUMBER 7

## PILCHUCK AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

### 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

### MARCH 12th, TUESDAY

Red Cross Building, 26th and Lombard, Everett at 7:30 p.m. in the Boeing room. Use the 26th street entrance. Dr. Doug Yearout, D.V.M., will present a slide program on the oil spill at Whidbey Island and its effect on the birds. See the article on page 5 for further information.

### MONTHLY PROGRAM

### MARCH 16th, SATURDAY

Leaders: Terri Spencer and Steven Howard (435-8602). Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Lynnwood Park and Ride Lot (48th Ave. W & 204th St. SW). This is a large, lovely, urban park in Seattle where rarities are often seen. There is a loop trail through the woods, fields, and to the bluff. A fun way to get some exercise and see a variety of bird life. Bring boots, lunch and binoculars.

### FIELD TRIP: DISCOVERY PARK

### MARCH 23rd, SATURDAY

Leader: Teresa McKnight (337-4777). We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Lynnwood Park and Ride Lot (48th Ave. W & 204th St. SW). Because of a snowstorm on February 9th, this trip was cancelled. We will try it one more time. 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

### APRIL 6th & 7th, WEEKEND

THIS TRIP IS BY RESERVATION ONLY. WE CAN TAKE ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF PEOPLE. Call Bonnie Phillips-Howard (652-9619) for reservations. We will be given a guided tour by Bud Anderson, and others of the Falcon Research Group, of this, perhaps the most prolific hawk migration route through Washington. See article on page 5.

### FIELD TRIP: HAWK WATCH, CAPE FLATTERY



## THE CODE OF THE WEST

By Curt Howard

I am an immigrant from the midwest. When I was growing up, I perceived the West as a mystical, exotic place with a special code of ethics that emphasized concern for life and most of its forms. Living here today, and having come to love the land, I still feel that this personal code of right and wrong typifies the West. Yet, as I drive our freeways and become more of a participant in our community, I sense a slow, steady wearing away of our standard, an erosion of our fabric of life.

You and I lead a life of miracles, of unbelievable luxuries, and inconceivable convenience. Yet we pay a price for this opulence in the form of stress, violence, stinking air, greasy water, and food contaminated by the very products used to produce our "abundance". For example, the individually wrapped slice of cheese, wood screw or tea bag provides the plastic which goes in our fireplace or the newest technological breakthrough, the waste-to-energy incinerator. In both these places it is burned with paper and creates dioxin (among others) which the EPA says is unacceptable in any amount.

Plastic seems to cost less, but its real cost, when considered as a waste which will become a health hazard, is prohibitively high.

You and I buy these so call conveniences and so encourage the proliferation of waste, to be landfilled or burned. By so doing we are asking our governments to provide us with miracles; to solve the enormous problem of environmental pollution that we create on a daily basis.

I say it is time for the West to reestablish the Code. It is time for each of us to examine our own Code, to become more sensitive. Our existing lifestyle is not necessarily degraded by reducing our consumption. As a people we must accept the responsibility to reduce consumption, eliminate waste and recycle.

## RAFFLES

For the past several months PAS has held exciting raffles at our monthly program meetings. In December Keith Lehn was the lucky winner of a beautiful picture drawn and donated by Libby Mills. In January PAS member Dave Mundell made a beautiful blue bird house (won by Bruce Kelley) and a suet

or peanut butter log feeder. For February Bill Lider made a unique nuthatch house. Curt Howard has promised rhododendrons for March and April.

Tickets are 25 cents each with proceeds going into our general operating fund. If any one has ideas about the raffle or has made something special to donate call Susie Schaefer, 771-8165.

## ANNUAL MID-WINTER BALD EAGLE SURVEY

By Terri Spencer

On January 6th eighteen adults and a handful of kids braved the cold (29 degrees) and unpredictable weather to survey the bald eagle population in three assigned areas.

Since 1962 the survey has been done in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mid-Winter Waterfowl Inventory in Washington state. In 1979 the National Wildlife Federation coordinated state, federal and private sectors in a combined nationwide Bald Eagle Survey. Washington participants (in 1981) included 39 state agencies, seven federal agencies and numerous private organizations (including local Audubon societies) and individuals. These participants are coordinated by the Washington Department of Game.

The state is divided into sections with each organization or individual receiving a section(s). Pilchuck Audubon's assigned sections were: the Seven Lakes area to the mouth of the Snohomish River; Whidbey Island from Deception Pass State Park to Sleeper Road; and Conway to Bayview State Park. Having a large turnout, we were able to split into three groups and cover our areas more completely.

Only one adult bald eagle was seen in the Seven Lakes area. In the Whidbey Island area an adult was seen at North Beach and three at Ala Spit. The Conway to Bayview area was the most productive where a total of ten, both adult and immature, were seen.

The Conway group ended by touring the Breazeale Sanctuary where Curt Howard and Ed & Beth Burrow observed an immature golden eagle being harassed by two adult bald eagles.

The results of all our hard work will be tabulated and then compared to previous years' totals to identify fluctuations in population, critical wintering habitat and range variations.

Thank you to all who participated. We hope to see you again next year.



\$  
Pilchuck Audubon can get a 1% cash  
rebate on all purchases from OLSON'S  
FOOD, TOP FOODS, HAGGEN FOODS, HAGGEN  
HALLMARK STORES, and THRIFTY FOODS.  
Send your cash register slips to  
Pilchuck Audubon Society, P.O. Box  
1618, Everett, WA 98206.  
\$

LETTER RE DECEMBER OILSPILL  
By Dr. Doug Yearout D.V.M.

It has been a long month indeed both physically and mentally since the Whidbey Spill. I have learned a lot about the science of de-oiling and after-care problems, some we can deal with and some that get worse no matter what you do. I have also become acquainted with some very nice people from all walks of life, brought together with a cooperative common goal, the care of the birds. These people showed me the true meaning of unselfish dedication to a cause.

Now that most of the fungal spores of chaos have settled and all but a handful of volunteers have gone back to a normal life, I begin to hear criticisms on a more personal note of which I would like to clear the air. The birds are being cared for by five licensed non-profit wildlife clinics and three licensed bird breeders. In the majority of cases the communication has been fantastic between the groups and myself. Together we have shared frustrations and solved problems that only cooperation of this type can solve. There have been some negative comments and unprivileged inquiries as to the financial situation of the donations made to the oil spill wildlife fund. On these financial matters let this letter answer these questions once and for all.

A wildlife fund has been established from private and public donations secured during and after the spill. The media did an excellent job in spreading the news of our needs. Two addresses were published to solicit donations: the South Whidbey Wildlife Clinic, and the Wildlife Care Center of Everett. Money sent to the Wildlife Care Center of Everett has been deposited in a NOW Account at Frontier Bank and is collecting interest. I have no knowledge of the amounts sent to the Whidbey Wildlife Clinic. Persons incurring out of pocket expenses for bird care, including electricity for

heat lamps, bird related long distance calls, gasoline, supplies, ferry trips, etc. are asked to forward to me their receipts so that compensation can be made. The Coast Guard and Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have extended to us a budget that will cover some of these same expenses, and if they will reimburse them we should take advantage of the opportunity until it is exhausted before tapping the wildlife fund.

When all expenses have been met and all the birds have been released, the balance of the account will be split into equal parts and distributed to the non-profit wildlife rehabilitation clinics for ongoing annual animal care needs. Every effort has been made to use donated money for specific items that the donor has requested, i.e. \$200 donated by the Seattle Zoological Society was earmarked for purchase of feeder goldfish. There will be no single party or group enjoying profit or monopoly on this money. These decisions are mine and those of the Board of Directors of the Wildlife Care Center of Everett and have been discussed with all the groups involved, including the President of the Washington Wildlife Rehabilitation Council. I had not intended to become Comptroller, only to be a good wildlife Veterinarian and to share and extend any of my experience or expertise where it is wanted. My only concern is for the scientific and professional rehabilitation of these birds and the earliest possible release of those birds that are ready.

Release is an easy word to say and one that I wish I could have said more than I have to date. Survivability is the real key to successful release and when these birds are released we will know that they have every opportunity to survive in the harshness of their environment. If we are not confident that they are ready to go then they will be rehabilitated a little longer, i.e. for better weather, better health, better feathers, etc. These decisions must be weighed against the possible set backs that can occur in captive situations. We have the best possible current information available to us, and some of the most experienced authorities on the West Coast at our disposal.

Share your frustrations with others. Keep your minds open to other ideas, and be optimistic. The human endeavor and learning experience is just as valuable as the eventual release of the birds. Think of the future. It will happen again, hopefully though, never in our own backyard.



## THINKING ABOUT SHARING AND WOOD DUCKS

By Laurel Carraher

I was so excited to receive this drawing of a wood duck by Allen Spencer in the mail. Allen is ten years old and he lives in Arlington, WA. I am thrilled that another one of you is willing to share with us, and it got me thinking about the importance of sharing. The fact that we can look at ourselves and the world around us and help each other by sharing what we learn, is what makes us, as human beings, very special creatures.

The first thing I noticed about Allen's drawing was it is not just of the wood duck, but includes the environment, including a bird sitting in a tall tree. What kind of bird likes to sit majestically in high tree snags, as this one does? My guess is an eagle. They like to observe the water so they can swoop down and catch fish. So in this environmental puzzle the tall trees must be near the water. When we observe this we know that we cannot cut down these trees or we will make it impossible for the eagles to have the home they need to feel comfortable and to prosper.

We expect to find trees in the environment with wood ducks because these ducks, strange as it sounds, are truly birds of the forest. They nest in hollow trees and pileated woodpecker holes, and especially love to eat nuts found in the woods. The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds says the throat and crop of one wood duck contained 56 acorns!

When it comes time to build her nest with down which she plucks from her feathers, the hen will often return to the nest where she was born. She lays one egg a day for about 9 to 13 days. Then, two or three days before hatching, the chicks begin making sounds within the eggs, and the hen answers back with low clucks. Just 24 hours after they hatch, the hen moves outside and begins calling her chicks. The chicks trust completely in whatever their mother is telling them because, one by one, they poise themselves on the edge of the nest and fling themselves at least 30 feet to the ground! Then the hen leads them, sometimes as far as a mile, to water.

If you know of a place near a pond or a marsh suitable for a wood duck box, you might want to build one. It is a large box, and must be put high in a tree with a ladder. The Birdhouse Book by Don McNeil is an excellent source for learning how to build these boxes. It says these ducks

## Kid's Corner

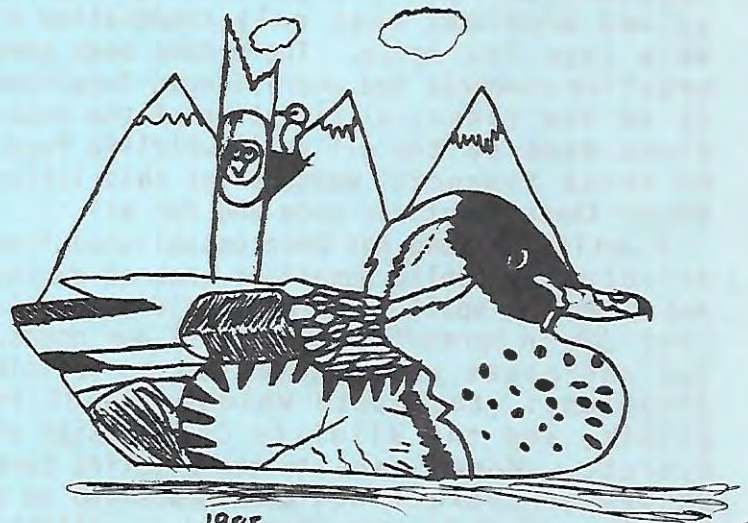


appreciate four inches of sawdust in the bottom of the box, and it's a good idea to install four inch wide hardware cloth (1/4 inch mesh, galvanized) between the floor and entrance on the inside, as a ladder for the ducklings. You need to check your boxes in January or February and discard old eggs, bee and wasp nests. Paul Dye of the Northwest Waterfowl Sanctuary says flying squirrels like these boxes to nest in, and you need to clean them out if you want the wood ducks to come back. Your boxes might also attract kestrels, hooded mergansers, screech owls or golden eyes. Wouldn't that be great? Then you might just want to build a new box for your wood ducks.

The Audubon Society Encyclopedia says, "it is fair to call the elegant wood duck drake the most beautiful duck in North America". Sorry hens!

Obviously, Allen spends a great deal of time observing wood ducks in order to be able to show us so much detail in this drawing. He shows his respect and caring; he honors the bird, by observing so closely and sharing what he sees.

I am anxiously awaiting drawings from more of you. Please send you drawings to Laurel Carraher, 19107 Badke Rd, Snohomish, WA 98290.



1995



by  
Allen Spencer



## MARCH MONTHLY PROGRAM

Our March program meeting will be an especially timely one. Dr. Doug Yearout, J.V.M., will present a slide show and discussion on the recent oil spill at Whidbey Island. He intends to take us on a step-by-step journey, starting with the oil spill and ending with where the birds are now.

Many questions will be answered: What are the rehabilitation problems? Where are the birds now? How long before they can be released? How well organized was this latest rescue effort? What can we do to be more organized next time? What sort of medical treatment was given?

Many volunteers (including our own Stirling Lantz) gave of their time, supplies and donations. This promises to be a most enlightening topic.

### JOB OPENINGS MALHEUR FIELD STATION

Full time, and part time seasonal cooking positions are available from late March to October 31st. Room & board provided during employment. Duties include meal planning & preparation, serving and clean-up. Food service experience helpful but not essential for all positions. Applications for shorter periods of time also welcome. Send resume and references to Directors, Malheur Field Station, P.O. Box 260E, Princeton, OR 97721. Phone: (503) 493-2629. We are an equal opportunity employer.

### HAWK WATCH (OR RAPTOR RHAPSODY)

Pilchuck Audubon Society is very fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to Cape Flattery, the northwestern-most section of Washington State, for a guided tour to see migrating hawks. Expect to see up to 500 hawks in one day. Each variety of hawk found in Western Washington has been seen migrating through Cape Flattery.

Bud Anderson, under the auspices of the Falcon Research Group, will be conducting research (banding and counting) in the Cape Flattery area during April and May. PAS has donated \$100 towards this effort. In return we were promised a field trip and this is it!

We will leave Saturday morning, April 6, and begin our birding around Port Angeles. There will be many stops before we reach Neah Bay late Saturday afternoon. A large and colorful variety of seabirds can be seen at each stop. One year we saw rhinoceros

auklets so close we felt we could reach out and touch them. If we have time we will visit the Makah Museum in Neah Bay on Saturday afternoon.

We will stay overnight in Neah Bay where camping opportunities and several motels are available.

On Sunday morning we will meet with Bud Anderson for our hawk tour. If the hawks are not plentiful that day, there still exists wonderful opportunities for a variety of bird life and, perhaps more exciting, it is the time of the great Grey Whale migration. We will leave the area Sunday afternoon and arrive home that evening.

Make your reservations early as we can only take a limited number of people. Call Bonnie Phillips-Howard (652-9619) for more information and reservations.

### 48TH ANNUAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK March 17 - 23

Actor Eddie Albert and Rowlf the (Muppet) Dog will appear in radio and TV ads promoting this year's theme: SOIL - WE CAN'T GROW WITHOUT IT. The emphasis on soil conservation helps commemorate the 50th anniversary of the USDA's Soil Conservation Service.

Free education kits for teachers are available from the National Wildlife Federation, Dept. NWW85, 1412 - 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20036. Children may write for their own poster at Dept. C-85.

### AVIAN POX By Curt Howard

We have received a number of inquiries regarding Avian Pox. The following information was summarized from The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds, John Terres, 1980.

Avian Pox is also known as foot, bird and fowl pox. It is caused by a virus with at least four strains, each of which is infectious for a particular host, but limited to birds.

Most infections are reported as mild, however heavy mortality can occur. Avian Pox produces warty protuberances on the head or feet of a bird. Deformed feet and missing toes also seem to be related to the pox. It is contagious, transmitted by direct contact or indirectly from common contacts, and through insects feeding first on an infected bird. Duration of the symptoms have been observed to last from 80 days to 13 months.



## SPOTLIGHT ON BIRDS: BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

By Sally Lيدر

This hardy little creature is likely to be out flitting around in almost any kind of weather. Even the bitter cold of winter doesn't seem to slow down this agile flier. One estimate is that a black-capped chickadee can change directions in midair in 3/100 of a second! Perhaps that is why it is so entertaining to watch one at a feeding station. This little dynamo will zoom in, snatch a sunflower seed and jet away to perch on a nearby tree limb, where it will hold the seed firmly with its toes and open the seed by a series of quick thrusts with its sharp beak.

The black-capped chickadee is less than five inches long and weights a mere 10 or 11 grams (1/3 ounce) roughly equivalent to the weight of four pennies. It is easily identified by its jet black cap and bib, white cheeks, gray back, and buff-colored belly. The sexes are identical in this species, and the immature birds cannot be distinguished from the adults. The notes you will hear are: a soft tsick; a clear chick-a dee-dee-dee; a plaintive whistled hee-hee, heer-heer, or fee-bee-a, fee-bee-a, given during the breeding season by both males and females.

*Parus atricapillus*, the black-capped chickadee, is a member of the family Paridae which also includes the titmice. This species is found throughout the northern half of the lower U.S., Canada, and Alaska. In Washington, three other chickadee species are found: the chestnut-backed chickadee, the mountain chickadee, and the boreal chickadee which occurs only in the higher mountain forests of the northeastern corner of the state.

The habitats preferred by black-capped chickadees are open deciduous woods and stream bottoms. They are commonly found in the lowlands of the Puget Sound region. This is the chickadee species most likely to be seen in city parks and residential areas.

Black-capped chickadees forage in roving bands of 8-12 birds during winter, and generally do not migrate any great distance. They spend most of the time searching rapidly among the branches for insects or their eggs or larvae. It has been estimated that 70% of their diet consists of animal matter, and 30% is vegetable matter.

The breeding season for black-capped chickadees in Washington is late April to July. Some pairs of chickadees may actually mate for life. Most chickadee pairs raise

two broods each summer - an adaptation to make up for the 70% to 80% mortality rate experienced during the first year of life.

Black-capped chickadees are cavity nesters, frequently excavating their own hole in a decaying stump four to eight feet above ground. They will also build their nests in natural cavities, woodpecker holes, or birdboxes. The nest is cup-shaped, constructed of plant fibers, hairs, wool, moss and leaves, and lined with feathers or other soft materials. The diameter is four inches outside, and one and a half inches inside, and the depth is two inches outside and one inch inside. The nest territory defended by the male may include eight to seventeen acres of orchard or woodland. The female lays one egg a day for six to eight days, although she may lay up to ten. The eggs, which are white, with mahogany-colored dots, hatch in 12 -13 days. The chickadee parents are kept busy feeding the young 6 to 14 times per hour! The offspring fledge at about two weeks of age, but continue to be fed by their parents for two to three weeks while learning to feed themselves.

The average life span of a black-capped chickadee is two to three years. However, there are bird banding records of chickadees living up to 12 years. One last interesting fact - the ubiquitous black-capped chickadee, which is so at-home in Washington, also happens to be the state bird of Maine and Massachusetts!



BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

## ZOO ACTIVITIES

"Amazing Insects of Trinidad" is the title of a slide lecture by Tom Boyden, UW doctoral candidate in zoology/botany. Features work being done at Simla Research Station and close-up photography of plants and insects. On Tuesday, March 26th, 7:30 p.m., at the Zoo ARC, 55th & Phinney N, Seattle. \$1 - \$2 donation requested.



## 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  
Syd 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:  
Linda Evans
- \* Membership: 435-3750  
Virginia Clark
- \* Board Positions

### RIVER EXPERIENCES Press Release

Four unique Audubon focused river trips are planned for this spring by Oregon River Experiences, Inc.

May 18-22: Owyhee River in Southeast Oregon. Naturalist Dick Lamster (President of Lane County Audubon) will be along. See the nation's newest "Wild and Scenic" River, with its spectacular desert canyon scenery and plenty of birdwatching opportunities.

May 24-28: Owyhee River. Mike Houck, Director of Research for the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry will serve as naturalist.

May 24-27: Rogue River natural history trip with naturalist Dan Gleason. Dan is an expert birder, and a University of Oregon biology employee.

May 24-27 John Day River natural history trip with naturalist Mike Uhtoff. Mike was Director of Portland Audubon for nine years. The John Day River is a calm river with few rapids, wonderful vistas, and great birding.

Cost per person for Audubon members is \$290 for the Owyhee trips (\$340 regular), \$250 for the Rogue (\$265 regularly), \$245 for the John Day (\$265 regularly).

For more information about these trips contact: O.R.E. Inc., 1935 Hayes St., Eugene, OR 97405. Phone (503) 342-3293.

## SPRINGWATCH

### CAMP KIRBY - SAMISH ISLAND

June 8-9

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** Featuring an incredible variety of activities, from smore quaffing, kite flying, clam digging (and eating), crabbing (and eating), beach walks, tide pool explorations and forest walks. Workshops and instructions on clam digging, crabbing, canoeing, plant identification, bird identification, photography and ? Join our evening campfire, where we will sing and lie and tell tall tales.

We need a few select volunteers to launch Springwatch. Call Curt Howard, 652-9619.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Susie Schaefer, Chairperson

The PAS nominating committee met last month and have nominated the following:

President	-	Curt Howard
Vice-president	-	Bill Lider
Treasurer	-	Thomas Paine
Secretary	-	Bonnie Phillips Howard

Nominations may be made from the floor at the April 9th program meeting when the election of officers will take place.

### CONSERVATION GAME LICENSES

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

PAS is 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.



**PAS BOARD UPDATE**  
By Sally Lider, Secretary

The PAS board of directors has met twice since the beginning of 1985, and it's time again to bring you, the members of PAS, up to date on what has transpired at those meetings.

First of all, the board voted unanimously to donate \$100 to the Falcon Research Group. This group, represented by raptor biologist Bud Anderson, asked for our donation to help fund a bird banding operation on Cape Flattery to obtain data on the newly discovered West Coast hawk migration.

At the January 7th board meeting, the decision was made to sell our lot on Protection Island to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for \$2000. The money will be placed in a restricted fund until a decision is made on its future use.

Acting upon a recommendation from the recycling sub-committee, the board decided to take a position against the idea of a garbage incinerator for Snohomish County. Information of the hazardous air emissions from garbage incineration was presented by Mike Grubb, who has been researching this topic for many months.

Lastly, the board authorized payment of one year's membership dues (\$15) to the Puget Sound Alliance. This is a new organization, focusing on water quality problems in Puget Sound. PAS will be represented by Margo Shepard.

**SEA KAYAKING IN SAN JUAN ISLANDS**  
Press Release

The San Juan Islands are a major wintering area for many waterfowl and the unobtrusive sea kayak is an excellent vehicle in which to approach and observe marine birds. Loons, grebes, cormorants, herons, sea ducks, peregrine falcons, bald eagles, black oystercatchers, murrelets, and murre are all island residents. One of our stops is on Yellow Island, owned and managed by the Nature Conservancy. It is renowned for its array of spring wildflowers which peaks in April.

All ages are welcome, no experience is necessary. We use only stable, comfortable and safe kayaks which are fun and easy to use. Kayaks and all related equipment are provided by us. Tours are limited to ten people. Tours will be on March 23rd, 30th, April 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th.

Cost is \$35 per person for Audubon members. Transportation from the ferry and overnight accommodations can be arranged. We encourage carpooling.

For further information and reservations contact Lori Wilson, Route 1 Box 84F, Eastsound, WA 98245. Phone (206) 376-4699.

**BOWERMAN BASIN & PELAGIC BIRDING**  
From Helen Engle

A very special field trip (April 28th, 5:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) is being organized to take in the peak migration of shorebirds at Bowerman Basin around high tide in the early a.m. and then sail out of Westport for the continental shelf and its pelagic birds.

This trip follows the Seattle meeting of the Board of Directors of National Audubon Society and many of the directors are planning to stay for the exceptional birding of such a field day. Leader of the Bowerman Basin segment is Steve Herman; leader of the pelagic trip is Terry Wahl; logistics are being coordinated by Helen Engle.

Space is limited. Reservations must be in before April 1, 1985. To sign up for your place on the Westport boat send partial payment of \$10.00 to: T.R. Wahl, 3041 Eldridge, Bellingham, WA 98225. You will receive details by return mail.

**BIRD SEED SALES**

Eventhough we are all hoping the worst part of winter is over, there is still a long time to go before we can quit feeding the birds (if we started this winter) as they become dependent on our feeders as a food source.

Pilchuck Audubon is still selling black Russian sunflower seeds and a wild bird seed mix. They are 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 SIGHTINGS THROUGH FEBRUARY 8TH

Jan 1 A BARN OWL was seen around 105th & Evergreen Way in Everett. (Kathy Green)  
 Jan 1 An adult BALD EAGLE was observed on Highway 530. (Denise Putnam)  
 Jan 13 A PRAIRIE FALCON and a SNOWY OWL were observed at Ocean Shores. (Fred Bird)  
 Jan 19 Eight DUNLIN were seen at the Montlake Fill. (Seattle Audubon Hotline)  
 Jan 20 A GLAUCOUS GULL was seen at the Olympia dump. (SAH)  
 Jan 25 A NORTHERN SHRIKE and two SHORT-EARED OWLS were seen at Magnuson Park.  
 Jan 25 Two BALD EAGLES were seen flying near Woodway. (Sandy and Dierdre Kennedy)  
 Jan 26 TRUMPETER SWANS were seen along Norman Road; two SNOWY OWLS were spotted between Hat Slough Bridge and Stanwood; a MOCKINGBIRD was observed on the Thomle Road near Stanwood; and several SHORT-EARED OWLS plus one female YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD were seen near Camano Island. (Bud Anderson)  
 Jan 28 An immature BRANT has been seen with a flock of CANADA GEESE near the Walter E. Hall golf course. (Judy Atkins)  
 Jan 30 A flock of WATER PIPITS were seen on the Boe Road near Stanwood. (Curt Howard)  
 Feb 1 A GYRFALCON was flying near Stanwood. (Elmira)  
 Feb 3 A MERLIN, 12 EVENING GROSBEAKS and many PINE SISKINS have been coming to her Edmonds feeder. (Susie Schaefer)  
 Feb 7 A BALD EAGLE was perched in the large deciduous tree along the Marsh

Road. Last winter an adult bald eagle stayed in the same area for over a month. (Marianne McKnight)  
 Feb 7 An adult BALD EAGLE was seen near the Hewitt Ave. trestle. (Steven Howard)  
 Feb 8 Thirty CANADA GEESE were seen feeding in the fields north of the Everett Sewage Ponds.  
 Jan A COOPER'S HAWK, LINCOLN'S SPARROW and NORTHERN SHRIKE have been seen regularly at the Montlake Fill. (SAH)  
 Jan A greater variety and larger number of birds are visiting Dona Ferro's feeders this year. PINE SISKINS and a RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET have been first time visitors this winter. Other visitors have been 25 EVENING GROSBEAKS, PURPLE FINCHES, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES, a RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD and VARIED THRUSHES.

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

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\* 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 \*  
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\* For additional help or Membership information contact Virginia Clark, 435-3750, evenings \*  
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RECYCLING FORUM  
By Nancy Salvadalena

Recycling of grass clippings, leaves, vegetable scraps, etc. through composting can help to reduce the solid waste problem while creating valuable soil amendments for your garden.

Thanks to Helen Wilson of Yakima Valley Audubon for her letter on the subject. She combines composting and tomato growing and gets excellent results. A tube three feet wide and four feet high is constructed from nine by four foot mesh fencing and placed in the garden. She fills it with layers of grass clippings, dirt, leaves, and fruit and vegetable scraps (no onions or rhubarb leaves). In the spring, tomato plants are set about eight inches from the bin and are supported if necessary. At the end of the season, the fencing is moved to another spot and started again. In the spring the old compost is spaded into the soil. Because there is no turning, this is a slow process but it has worked well for her.

My version is also slow but fairly simple. On one half of a four by eight foot area of the garden, I start a pile with layers of leaves, clippings, dirt, fruit and vegetable scraps and seedless weeds (no animal fat, meat, or bones). The layers are watered to keep the pile moist as a "wrung-out sponge". I always cover the fruit and vegetable scraps to reduce the chance of flies and odor. About once a week I turn the pile over to the other half of the area. I stop composting during the cold winter months and then, in the spring, spade it into the flower beds.

For most efficient composting the pile should be at least three cubic feet and receive plenty of air. For faster results, add a sprinkling of a high nitrogen source, such as bloodmeal, a complete fertilizer, or a layer of manure. Smaller particles will decompose faster. A friend sometimes runs fruit and vegetable scraps through the blender and pours this directly into the soil.

Mulching helps to keep the soil cool and moist so that you can water less and pull out weeds more easily. A layer of leaves, grass clippings, straw, and compost can be used for this purpose.

**UPDATE** I received a reply from the Coca Cola Company about their future production of plastic pop cans. They stated that Coca Cola "will not introduce a package into the marketplace that does not meet their requirements of container recycling". This did not make me feel any more at ease since we can not now recycle their plastic two-liter bottles.

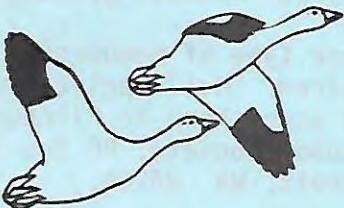
A similar letter to the Hunt-Wesson Company about plastic containers for cooking oil brought this reply: "The plastic used has full approval of the USDA and presents no health risk." They, too, skirted the issue.

Let's keep informed about future developments and let companies and stores know of our concerns.

DEADLINE FOR APRIL'S PROFILE  
IS MARCH 12TH

**Pilchuck Audubon Society**

P.O. Box 1618, Everett, Washington 98206



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Gerald & Marianne McKnight  
3526 - 113th Pl SE  
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