

SEPTEMBER 1985

VOLUME XV NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER 8, SUNDAY FIELD TRIP: POTLUCK & LATE SUMMER WALK Host & Hostess: Bruce and Mary Esther Kelly (435-2024). Come join us for relaxation in the country. Bruce and Mary Esther will host this potluck at their five-acre homesite northwest of Arlington. They have a very creative "barn style" home with a small pond which attracts ducks all year long. We will meet at their home at 2:00 p.m. and walk in the various areas on or near their property. Afterwards we will lounge and chat. Please bring a potluck dish to share and your own place settings. Coffee and tea will be provided. A large grill will be available so bring your hot dogs, hamburgers, or whatever and cook your own. Every age welcome. Call the Kelly's for directions.

SEPTEMBER 13, FRIDAY

NOTE OUR NEW DAY AND PLACE. Snohomish Co. PUD Building, California and Virginia, Everett. Enter parking lot on Virginia. See page 3 for details. We will meet at 7:30 p.m. Follow the "Audubon" signs. A good way to start off the fall birding season, our September program will highlight the great birding available in Snohomish County. Several of PAS' expert birders will share their favorite birding spots and regular and unusual sightings.

SEPTEMBER 14. SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: HIKING IN THE CASCADES Leader: Margo Shepard (1-784-8182). Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5. This will be an all-day, fairly rigorous hike. Be in good conditin for this one! Bring a lunch and snacks, water, warm clothing and raingear. Wear sturdy hiking shoes. Call Terri Spencer (435-8602) for more information.

SEPTEMBER 28, SATURDAY

Leader: Terri Spencer (435-8602). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the bank building at Smokey Point, exit 206 off I-5. Take a peaceful fall walk around a small lake. We have seen merlin, wood ducks, warblers, caspian tern and tundra swans on previous walks. We may visit the interpretative center. Bring raingear, dry clothes, a sack lunch and binoculars.

OCTOBER 11, 12, 13, WEEKEND

SEMI-ANNUAL STATE AUDUBON CONFERENCE The Conference for Washington State Audubon chapters is held twice a year in Ellensburg. This fall the Conference will be hosted by Palouse Audubon Society. Call Curt Howard for more information (652-9619). All welcome.

OCTOBER 19, SATURDAY

FIELD TRIP: CRANBERRY BOG Leader: Ramona Curtis (691-6823). Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Granite Falls High School. We will be exploring a unique ecosystem close to home. Experience a real cranberry bog. Wear warm clothes. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy at Ramona's house after the trip.

FIELD TRIP: LAKE TENNANT

MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETING

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - by Curt Howard

The beginning of our program season starts soon. It means that summer and its delights will slowly recede (bad!). It also means that I will be able to see again and talk to a great number of people (good!).

It also means that those ideas and philosophies I have pondered and meditated on now require more concerted action. I would like to share with you and get your ideas and feelings on one of those thoughts which has plagued me for some time. This thought of mine revolves around the apparent concept prevalent in regulatory agencies and governmental units which states that there is an acceptable level of pollution. The concept makes me feel slightly ill at ease, a bit nauseous. Under this concept a clean environment can be polluted up to levels considered dangerous. This alarms me for a number of reasons. The first reason is that the decision is made by agencies traditionally favoring industry. The second is that I object to living on the edge of disaster, and the third is that the acceptance of toxics is insidious. As we become more exposed, we tolerate higher levels, until such killers as the smogs known in Mexico City, London, Los Angeles and Tokyo become commonplace. How can we meekly acquiesce to the need for remaining indoors because it is too foul to be outside? When will our acceptance of pollution end? When will the needs of the people come first? Must we wait until a shopping trip to the mall is reduced to a series of lurching steps from one oxygen station to the next? At this point will we be too inflicted with a grey unwellness, too debilitated to protest?

On the bright side, many great things are still available to us. For instance, take an evening walk at the Skagit Wildlife Headquarters, as we did one evening in July. We encountered about 30 varieties of birds, some unusual, such as the black crowned night heron. And, yes, four sightings of the great horned owl. All sightings included the birds in flight over a fair distance, which would tend to eliminate the suggested use of cardboard cutouts, mirrors and strings.

For further good times and to meet some fine people, come to our program meetings and field trips. I look forward to seeing you.

PAS BOARD REPORT - by Curt Howard

On July 13, 1985 your Board of Directors held an all day planning session at the Warm Beach Conference Center. The first part of the meeting was conducted as a regular Board meeting. At this portion, payment of some recently surfaced old debts was authorized. New business consisted of contributing an additional \$100 to the Falcon Research Center, \$100 to the Snohomish County Evergreen Coalition and \$25 to the Friends of the Columbia Gorge. We also expressed a willingness to assist Paul Dye in erecting an artificial eagle's nest platform at the Corson Wildlife Recreation Center.

I am pleased to make the following announcements: (1) Pilchuck Audubon has doubled the size of its Janssen Sanctuary near Snohomish with the acquisition of 2+ acres from the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad for \$500 (taken from the \$2000 received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when we sold our Protection Island lot); and (2) Pilchuck has been recertified by National Audubon for another year.

The second part of the Board meeting consisted of updating new Board members and brainstorming all positions and committee functions.

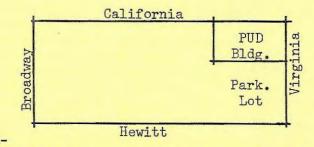
WE SELL BIRD SEED !!

PAS now sells bird seed year round. Buy some soon and get a headstart on feeding your birds this fall and winter. Black Russian sunflower seeds and wild bird seed mix are available in 10 and 50 pound bags. Ten pounds for \$5.00 or 50 pounds for \$25.00. Six sales outlets are available for your convenience. Bird seed will also be available at each program meeting.

Stanwood:	Curt Howard	652-9619	Granite Falls:	Sandy Howe	691-5720
Snohomish:	Joyce Kelley	568-5974	S. Everett:	Marianne McKnight	337-4777
Edmonds:	Susie Schaefer	771-8165	N. Everett:	Julie Winchell	259-4733

PAS PROGRAM MEETINGS - 1985-86

This year we have a new meeting <u>day</u> and <u>place</u>. We will be meeting on the <u>second Friday</u> of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the <u>Snohomish Co. PUD</u> <u>building</u> (south basement level; enter on Virginia). Please call Curt Howard, 652-9619, if you need further directions.



This year promises many interesting programs, including such topics as tracking and observing wild-

life, conservation issues in Snohomish County, wildlife drawing, stargazing and a look at loons. Members and nonmembers alike are welcome at our meetings (as well as our field trips) and some of the programs will be scheduled especially for families. Programs usually last 1-2 hours and end with refreshments and good conversation. Join us September 10 for our special Birding in Snohomish County program.

SANCTUARY UPDATE

Our wildlife sanctuary has grown to a total size of 4.13 acres! PAS has acquired an additional two acres adjoining the originally donated 2.13 acre parcel. Land ownership is a relatively new experience for PAS, and thanks to you, our members, it's working. The two acre parcel was purchased by PAS from the Chciago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad for \$500. Through use of monies from the sale of our lot on Protection Island we were able to acquire this additional acreage--an important step in protecting part of a suburban wetland wilderness which totals approximately 25 acres. It is our desire and intent that the entire 25 acres be protected and we are working towards that end. The list of bird species, documented since 1979 and compiled this spring by Dr. Dennis Paulson of the Burke Museum and Joyce Kelley, PAS, is lengthy--132 species. In addition, the number of mammal species is impressive. PAS members should be proud of their efforts to protect one small but important wetland in Snohomish County. Yet there is much more to be accomplished. If you have ideas to share or are willing to help us reach our goal of protecting this area from development, please contact Joyce Kelley, 568-5974 (evenings). She will be more than willing to talk with you or even give you a guided tour. This special place is worthy of unequivocal protection.

SPRINGWATCH 1985 - by Curt Howard

Due to limited space, the person typing this page (my wife) says we can't print my lengthy report, detailing all the exciting Springwatch happenings. Too bad, because we had a wonderful, magic time. Thanks to Mary Joiner and everyone who worked and those who came. Attendance this year was 63 adults and 21 children. Camp Kirby is a great place. We were prepared for rain but both days were warm and sunny. While everything did not go as planned, everyone was relaxed enough to make the glitches glitter.

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THE SNOHOMISH RIVER ESTUARY

The value of the Snohomish River estuary for flood protection, through flood water storage, velocity control and water retention, as well as its tremendous value as part of the cycle supporting life and resources considered important by man, has been recognized for years. Documentation of studies reiterating these values has been proliferating and many of these studies recommend acquisition of key parcels to preserve the hydrologic, ecologic and economic character of the estuary.

Early this year Snohomish County commissioned Shapiro and Associates to develop a preservation and acquisition plan for those key parcels.

The Snohomish River Wetlands Units Preservation Management Plan has now been completed by Shapiro and Associates and is being presented to the Snohomish County Council. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consisting of environmental organizations,* land owners, government agencies (Departments of Ecology, Fish and Game, etc.) and county and city planners developed this plan together with Shapiro and Associates. The TAC suggestions were incorporated in the completed study that went to the Snohomish County Council. Shapiro and the TAC are strongly recommending a project coordinator be hired immediately to facilitate acquisition of these lands. Also, a citizen's advisory committee will be appointed to work with the coordinator and project planners.

It is now time for citizens to write letters to their Snohomish County Council persons urging them to accept this Shapiro plan, hire the project coordinator and immediately form a citizen's advisory committee. A copy of the final management plan will be available at the Snohomish County Planning Office in the near future. If you are interested in more information or in helping on this issue, call Curt Howard, 652-9619.

*Laura Zalesky represented Pilchuck Audubon; the other citizen environmentalist was Lorena Havens, who represented Friends of the Snohomish River.

RECYCLING FORUM - by Nancy Salvadalena

Last year at an Audubon meeting, someone (I'm sorry that I don't remember who) told me about a book called <u>Found Objects</u>. It is an interesting book and can help you to look at an apparently useless object in a new light. The author takes such things as tree stumps, rocks, old cans, and boxes and uses them as art objects or for such useful purposes as tables, chairs, and shelves. An old door becomes a table top, a plastic plant flat makes a handy serving tray, and plastic film cases are recycled into totable salt and pepper shakers. Wallpaper samples can be used as attractive placemats and, with their labels removed, plastic bottles become vases. I was especially interested in the reuse of the styrofoam forms used in packing radios, etc. As art objects they were a little far out for me, but certain shapes did look like they would be useful as lightweight serving trays. Also, I have discovered that children like them for making doll houses, and they come in handy for building models for school projects.

Since reading <u>Found Objects</u>, I've tried to look at discarded items from a different perspective. Plastic yogurt cups have become reusable drinking glasses, and a plastic strawberry container now organizes vitamin bottles on the kitchen counter. Check out garage sales, alleys, and your own backyard. Many free items headed for the dump can become useful again as magazine racks, planters, etc.

Please call (337-7458) or write (2227 Burley Drive, Everett, WA 98204) with your recycling ideas or questions.

STREAMSIDE BUFFERS - by Peter Hurley

In these days of unbalanced budgets and tight revenues, government can no longer afford to subsidize as much as in the past. We must return to the attitude that, in most cases, an individual is responsible for the consequences of his actions. In the case of fisheries, individuals have not been responsible for the consequences of not retaining a greenbelt along streams, lakes and rivers. This lack of responsibility has caused the significant dimunition of a public resource, our fisheries, and has led to the need for government to subsidize fisheries with hatchery programs. State and local government can reduce the need for future subsidies and return the responsibilities for fisheries protection to individual property owners by requiring streamside greenbelts.

Fisheries are diminished primarily by habitat degradation, including storm water runoff polluted with gas and oil, silt and sediment from erosion (both stream bank and from land clearing), and lack of dissolved oxygen (depleted when the water is warmed by the sun from lack of tree cover). Streamside buffer requirements would reduce habitat degradation, therefore lessening future needs for government funding of hatchery programs.

Do streamside buffers impose an undue burden on property owners? Are they an unfair taking of land? I think not. The greenbelt would still be privately owned. The property owner would still be able to use the area for passive recreation. The individual would still be able to use their property while upholding their responsibility not to diminish public resources or harm the local economy.

In summary, by requiring a 50-200 foot greenbelt strip for all new development along streams, lakes and rivers in Snohomish County, the County Council would shift much of the responsibility for fisheries protection from the government back to the individuals who cause the need for hatcheries.

If you would like to help pass this legislation in Snohomish County or would just like to be kept informed, write to me at the Snohomish County Evergreen Coalition (P.O. Box 468, Snohomish, WA 98290) or call 355-7239.

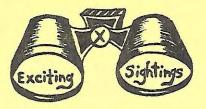
ANNUAL BACKPACK #3 - by Curt Howard

This year's backpacking field trip was to Gothic Basin, also known as the Valley of the Moon, high above the ghost town of Monte Cristo. The old road to Monte Cristo has been washed out and closed two miles before the trail head. Way last century, Mr. Rockefeller pulled out of the Monte Cristo area because the railroad bed washed out so frequently. It cost Rockefeller money; the trail cost us sweat and time.

Our backpack was in late July during the hot days, and sweat we did. The trail is one of the steepest I have been on. The 3.6 mile trail took 4-1/2 hours up. Our base camp was at 5000 feet, near the shore of a small lake which was still half covered with ice. Swimming was brief. The weekend was a true mountain wilderness experience, as promised, heightened by the cool evening breeze which slipped down the immense snow field above us and by an almost full moon and clear skies.

ATTENTION GROCERY SHOPPERS: 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 Gerald McKnight, 3526 - 113th Pl SE, Everett, WA 98204.



BIRD SIGHTINGS THROUGH JULY

- May 12 A WESTERN KINGBIRD was observed on Camano Island (Kay & Dave Thoreson)
- May 12 A WANDERING TATTLER, BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, ARCTIC TERNS, FORK-TAILED STORM PETREL, FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER, SABINE'S GULL, BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS and 1000 FULMARS were the more exotic birds seen off the Columbia River Jetty (Fred Bird)
- May 14 32 EVENING GROSBEAKS were observed at an Arlington home (Virginia Clark)
- May 14 A WARBLING VIREO was observed in the Warm Beach area (Curt and Bonnie Phillips-Howard)
- May 16 4 OSPREY and 2 SPOTTED SANDPIPERS were seen near the mills in North Everett (Steven Howard)
- May 18 A RED-THROATED LOON and 8 TURKEY VULTURES were highlights of a trip to Dungeness Spit (Fred Bird)
- May 19 An OSPREY was seen flying over an Arlington home (Terri Spencer/Steven Howard)
- May 19 A WILSON'S WARBLER was spotted at Chase Lake (Susie Schaefer)
- May 19 6 VIRGINIA RAILS, 3 SPOTTED SAND-PIPERS, and 2 YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS were observed at Nisqually NWR (Fred Bird)
- May 22 A pair of CALIFORNIA QUAIL were seen walking on a neighbor's roof in Edmonds (Ed & Beth Burrows)
- May 22 40-50 TRUMPETER SWANS were seen flying over a house near Arlington (Steven Howard)
- May 25 A WESTERN TANANGER was seen near Tulalip Bay (Blanch Causey)
- June 2 A WESTERN KINGBIRD was observed along the Suiattle Road in a clearcut (Terri Spencer & Susie Schaefer)
- June 22 2 LAZULI BUNTINGS, several CHIP-PING SPARROWS, 3 COMMON NIGHTHAWKS displaying, a SPRUCE GROUSE and VAUX'S SWIFTS were seen in a clearing up the Suiattle River Road (Terri Spencer)
- July 11 The AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES are back feeding on the thistles near Clearview (Anne Grubb)

July 19 2 OSPREYS were seen flying over the sloughs near Marysville (Steven Howard)

- SEND YOUR SIGHTINGS TO Terri Spencer/Steven Howard 23329 - 27th Avenue NE Arlington, WA 98223
- CALL BIRD SIGHTINGS TO Terri Spencer/Steven Howard 435-8602
- OTHER SIGHTINGS Seattle Audubon Hotline 1-526-8266 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.

JETTY ISLAND/EVERETT PARKS DEPT. - by Curt Howard

On July 29, the Everett Parks Dept. held the first meeting of a steering committee which will serve in an advisory capacity on the use of Jetty Island by the Parks Dept. Members are the Snohomish County Extension Service, Pilchuck Audubon, the Washington Department of Game and the Everett Parks Department. We examined a plot plan proposal to use the central portion of the island for 5 days in August.

As you read this, it is too late to participate in the free program and too early for me to know how it went, but it sounds good!! Pilchuck needs a representative for this committee. If you would like to volunteer, please call Curt Howard, 652-9619.

BIRDING ON CAMANO ISLAND - by Kaye and Dave Thoreson

On April 20, 17 intrepid birders, several of them novices who had attended Sally van Niel's irding class, met at Smokey Point on a cold, unpromising day. We were rewarded as the sky cleared, the air warmed, the sun shone all afternoon, and we saw (or heard) 50 bird species.

We made 2 stops on the mainland, first on Norman Road where we saw many songbirds, one special sighting being western meadowlarks. At the Stanwood Sewage Lagoon, we saw dozens of ruddy ducks, lesser scaups and shovelers. We also saw cinnamon teal, Canada geese, widgeons, buffleheads, a northern harrier--and a river otter.

Proceeding on to Camano Island, we headed for the state park where, while enjoying our picnic lunch, we watched dozens of surf scoters and the resident harlequin ducks. Also sighted were western and horned grebes, common loons and a raven.

At Utsalady Point we were sheltered from the wind and it was beautiful as we sighted a black gillemot, red-necked and eared grebes, white-winged scoters, great blue herons and a red-throated loon (just to name the highlights).

We made more stops along the Island's northern coast and arrived at Triangle Cove just before high tide. The Cove lived up to its name of Miniature Bowerman Basin. First the greater yellow legs came in; not hundreds, but a few dozen, along with dozens of western sandpipers and a few semi-palmated sandpipers. Then as the water rolled in faster, wave after wave of long-billed dowitchers arrived, huddling together on the rapidly disappearing mudflats, until they all stood on shore, a miniature picture of what we had just seen of Bowerman Basin in the Seattle Times. What a thrill it was for all of us to experience this--and so close to home!

As we were getting scopes gatherd up and preparing to get into our cars, a belted kingfisher ame screeching into view, posed about 30 feet above the water, dived straight down and came up with a fish for his dinner, a fitting climax to an exciting day. We gathered for our potluck supper and ate--and ate--just as hungry as the birds.

LOOKING AT OUR WORLD

DESERTIFICATION - by Susie Schaefer (extracted from Earthwatch News, Vol. VI, No. 4)

Drought, disaster and death in Africa have come to the attention of celebrities, politicians and relief organizations. And yet the world's deserts continue to grow at the rate of 80,000 square miles a year. Desertification is defined as "the process by which desertlike conditions appear in formerly nondesert areas as a result of the destruction of the equilibrium of fragile ecosystems through excessive economic activities."

Desertification has three prime causes, each of which is exacerbated by drought. The first cause is overgrazing and overcultivation. Farmers replant fields before they have had a chance to recover from intensive cultivation, causing destabilization of root systems and water conservation, which in turn causes the soil to dry out and become eroded by wind and rain. Herders respond to economic pressures by increasing the size of herds which consume all vegetation, again leading to soil erosion. The second cause is deforestation, usually cutting of trees for firewood or to provide more grazing land. Ironically, irrigation is the third chief maker of deserts. Poorly designed systems can do more harm than good by promoting the buildup of salt in the soil.

Although the statistics of desertification are grim, there is hope for improvement. For the most part, that hope lies in restructuring our approach to agriculture and the environment.

PAS NEEDS SPEAKERS

PAS needs speakers! Throughout the year many clubs and organizations ask PAS for speakers at their meetings. We would like to broaden the choice of speakers we can provide.

Are there special environmental issues dear to your heart? Is there a particular bird or type of bird you know a lot about? Is there a slide show you do now and then that "always wows them"? <u>Please</u> share your knowledge and concern for the environment with others by signing up for the PAS Speakers Bureau.

Take a few minutes to fill out the form below and send it to: PAS Speakers Bureau, c/o Burrows, 20319 - 92nd Avenue West, Edmonds, WA 98020. If you want more information before signing up, call Beth Burrows at 775-5383.

NAME:
ADDRESS:
TELEPHONE NUMBER:
TOPIC(S) YOU WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT:
DAY(S)/NIGHT(S) OF THE WEEK YOU HAVE AVAILABLE:

CHECK ONE:

I have given talks/demonstrations before.

I have NOT given a talk before but would like to.

WELCOME NEW PAS MEMBERS!



The following have recently joined National/Pilchuck Audubon Society: EDMONDS: James Reeder, Diane Swensen, Carol Carnahan, Nan Jessberger, Raymond Nelson, Ms. D. Storm, Vera Keller, Cheri Ault, Carl Johnson and Sandra Crain. EVERETT: Sandra Sieber, Wanda Adams, Douglas Davidson, David Davis, Julia Haviland, Claire Watson, Judy Mae Webb, John and Louise Whittle, Henry Bjorn, Robert Hupton, Maccauley Associates, Joyce Andersen, Florence Blake, Sylvia Anderson, Fred Gylland, Dr. Verner Tovrea and Dr. Stanley Wilson. LYNNWCOD: Casey Williams, W. Jones, Mr. B. Clute, Evan Broderson, Daniel McClary, and Michael Nesse. MARYSVILLE: John Hosner and G. Curtiss. MOUNTLAKE TERRACE: Beverly Gunn, Aleta Mueler and Gertrude McKee. MUKILTEO: Claudia Dilgard and Jerry Robinson. MONROE: Kevin Knox. SNOHOMISH: Mr. and Mrs. Van Valin and John Ferrera. STANWOOD: Dorothy McKay and Cindy Cutforth.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS - 1985-1986

*President: Curt Howard - 652-9619

- *Vice President: Bill Lider - 776-0671
- *Secretary: Bonnie Phillips-Howard - 652-9619
- *Treasurer: Thomas Paine - 259-3845
- *Conservation: Anne Grubb - 668-4462
- Solid Waste & Recycling: Conservation Subcommittee Mike Grubb - 668-4462
- Toxics and Toxic Wastes: Conservation Subcommittee Don Kusler - 334-6781
- *Education: Beth Burrows - 775-5383
- *Field Trips: Terri Spencer - 435-8602
- *Finance: Sandy Howe - 691-5720

- *Programs: Susie Schaefer - 771-8165
- Newsletter Committee: Sally Lider - 776-0671 Lee Minshull - 258-1175 Bonnie Phillips-Howard - 652-9619
- Bird Sightings: Terri Spencer - 435-8602
- Eagle Count Coordinator: Terri Spencer - 435-8602
- Christmas Bird Count: Bill Lider - 776-0671
- Sanctuaries: Joyce Kelley - 568-5974
- Publicity: Syd Carlow - 337-7458
- Hospitality: Nancy Salvadalena - 334-8308
- Corson Research: Linda Evans
- Snohomish River Estuary Study Coordinator: Laura Zalesky - 337-2479
- Membership: Virginia Clark - 435-3750
- Sea Lion Coordinator: Sterling Lantz - 745-3235
- *Board Positions

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * Application for joint membership in National Audubon Society and Pilchuck Audubon Society.* * Includes National Audubons'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 * desired. Mail application * * ADDRESS _____ and your check to Pilchuck * * * Audubon Society, PO Box 1618,* * CITY _____ STATE ___ ZIP CODE ____ Everett, WA 98206. * * * * \$30.00 SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL \$21.00 * SUPPORTING \$100.00 INDIVIUAL CONTRIBUTING \$250.00 FAMILY \$38.00 SUSTAINING \$50.00 SENIOR CITIZEN FAMILY \$23.00 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

THE CONSERVATION DECAL - by Bob Byrne, Washington State Department of Game

The Washington Department of Game has realized for a long time that a lot of the public utilization of the 600+ access areas that it owns and maintains is by people other than those who are paying its bills--namely the hunters and fishermen. In order to determine the magnitude of this utilization, a survey was conducted. This survey confirmed the obvious--over 60 percent of the use was by nonhunters or nonfishermen. That figure is not bad, but it also does not get the bills paid.

In 1982, the Department approached the Legislature with this information and attempted to obtain funds to defray the cost of this public service that the Department was providing. Rather than dipping into the General Fund, the Legislature opted to go with a "use-fee" system; hence, the conservation decal was born.

The Department has lost money on the conservation decal program during the program's first three years (1983, 1984, 1985). As ridiculous as it seems, the cost of printing the actual decal exceeded the revenues that it generated. However, the vast majority of the recipients received the decals free with their hunting or fishing license. The nonhunting and nonfishing public either was not aware of the need to purchase one or chose not to. The revenue that was received from the "general public" was not enough to cover the costs of printing the decal, let alone help defray the cost of maintaining the areas.

After being appraised of the problem, the 1985 Legislature opted to change the decal to a personal license. This move eliminated the tremendous printing cost associated with the program.

In addition, this legislation broadened the user base on which to draw funds. This is in line with original intent of the creation of the decal system, which was to generate funds to help maintain the 600+ access areas. At the same time, the Legislature also increased the costs of all the user-fees that the Department was receiving. The rationale for doing this was to maintain consistency in the fee hikes and also to assist the Department in generating badly needed revenues.

Considering the fact that in many cases, the <u>only</u> public access on a particular lake or other area is from a WDG access site and that there are over 600 access sites around the state, the new \$8 fee (plus \$1 for the seller) does not seem unreasonable.

Conservation licenses are generally available at sports shops, certain discount stores and/ or drug stores. They can also be obtained at the WDG Regional Office, 16018 Mill Creek Boulevard, Mill Creek. (Ed. note: PAS will again sell conservation licenses at each monthly program meeting.)

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