

LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

FROM

THE DISHMAN HILLS



November 1977

AUDUBON JUNIORS HIKE IN HILLS

Children aged 2½ years and up nature-explored on a field trip conducted by Spokane Audubon Society into the Dishman Hills November 11. In spite of their sometimes noisy exuberance, they saw fifteen kinds of birds, a late chipmunk, coyote tracks and many colorful mushrooms and lichens. A big highlight was finding a pygmy owl, which entered a hole in a dead aspen, a hole which apparently belonged to a hairy woodpecker, which repeatedly looked in and then tapped on the outside, apparently trying to get the visitor to leave, but with no success. Of course lunch was another high point, beside East Pond, which we hope some day we can buy to guarantee its protection as part of the natural area now owned by Spokane County and The Nature Conservancy.

LAND NEGOTIATIONS PROGRESSING

Encouraging progress is being made on acquiring 140 acres more to add to Dishman Hills Natural Area, according to A. D. (Sam) Angove, superintendent of Spokane County Parks and Recreation Department. We hope to have definite news for you in the January issue of the bulletin.

Recycling never was better, thanks to higher prices and many of you readers who are helping. See story on page 2.

Any persons interested in taking part in the Christmas week Bird Count of the National Audubon Society should call Warren Hall, WA 4-8043 for arrangements. No matter if you are not an "expert". You will be scheduled with a more experienced observer, or you could serve as a "feeder watcher".

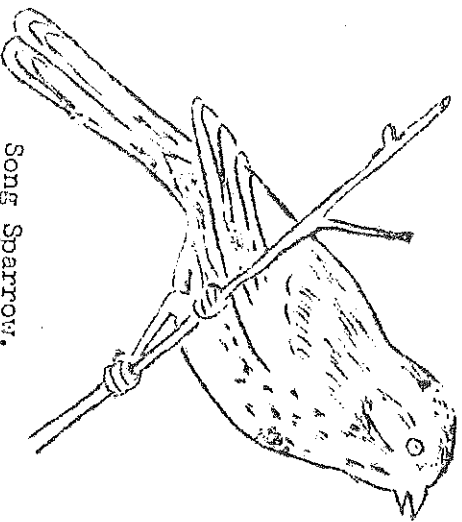
WILD CREATURES CONFRONTED BY EARLY WINTER

Winter brings problems to the wild community as well as to people but the problems of each are often rather different. Snow and cold, unless extreme, scarcely affect the movements of birds and mammals, in striking contrast to humans with their dead batteries, sliding and spinning wheels, snow-blocked roads and fog-bound airports. But, like people, they must eat fairly regularly and since most wild species do not store up food, this means daily trips for groceries. The chickadees, nuthatches, kinglets, crossbills and pine squirrels have it relatively easy for their food is above the snow, in the trees, but ground feeders like pheasants, quail, house finches, sparrows and juncos have it tougher.

Then is the time we can give them a hand or rather a handout. Placed in sheltered spots, grain will help the former two and wild bird seed will bring the finches and juncos as well as occasional song sparrows. Of course house sparrows are always there to get their share. Even the chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers will, if you live near the woods, gladly gobble up suet hung out for them. A mixture of peanut butter, melted fat and ground cereal such as wheat will help balance their diet with some protein.

While the wild things don't have to heat their homes with oil, wood, gas or electricity, they still have to keep warm. They put on more clothes in the form of denser fur or feathers. Physical activity also helps. Another energy-saving trick is to stay out of the wind--remember Ira Joe's chill factor--seeking shelter in a dense evergreen or thicket, creeping into a den or spending the night in a tree cavity. Their own body heat does the job but they have to eat more to meet this added energy demand.

Wild things have another advantage. They don't find it necessary to run over to the Coast to visit relatives over the



Song Sparrow.

Winter may bring a song sparrow visitor to your yard if you have a feeder supplied with wild bird seed and particularly if you have trees, dense bushes and perhaps a brush pile in the corner of your garden. Rich, dark brown with a heavily spotted breast, it stands out from among the usual house sparrows and house finches. In the spring he (or she) might even stay around to nest, though they usually prefer a rural location near water. At any rate, come February, you almost surely will hear his cheery song announcing the coming spring.

DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSN., INC.
E. 10820 Maxwell Ave., Spokane, WA 99206
Phone (509) 926-7949

RECYCLING GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME

A non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of some of the natural environment of the Spokane area so people can enjoy it and learn from it.

Helen E. Liningger, president
Thomas H. Rogers, vice-pres. & editor
Bernice Ammons, secretary
David T. Lenters, treasurer

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Warren A. Hall

We invite you to join personally in the work of the organization.

Don'tions and membership dues are tax-deductible.

Monthly meetings are at Kiwanis Camp Caro, South 625 Sargent Road, Dishman. Boar meeting is at 7 p.m. and general meeting is at 8 p.m. the fourth Wednesday. You are cordially invited to attend both the board meeting and the program.

Have you seen any eastern Blue Jays?

These birds have been penetrating the Pacific Northwest increasingly in recent years. If you sight any, we would appreciate knowing it. Call us at 926-7949. Please record date, place and number of birds. (NOT Steller's Jays) Recycling, cont. from col. 2.

All metals (iron, steel, old car batteries, copper, brass, lead, aluminum (no "tin" cans, however)).

Alaska Steel, E. 3410 Desmet, Mon.-Fri., 8-4:30, Sat., 8-12.

Our Dishman Hills land fund income from recyclables looks as if it will go over the 1000 mark for the first time this year. Here is the latest on turning in recyclables:

Clean cotton rags. 25¢ a pound. Call Bernice Ammons, 924-0077, to arrange for pickup or bring to monthly meeting at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Rd.

Paper.

Spokane Recycling Products, E. 3407 Main, takes newspaper, \$30 a ton for 500 lb. or more, \$20 for less, corrugated cardboard at \$15 and "colored ledger" (white but not slick paper such as typing, ditto, mimeo, junk mail but no envelopes) at \$25 Mon.-Fri., 8-4:30, Sat., 8-12. We have an account there to credit Dishman Hills Association; please leave your name. Climate Control Insulation Service, E. 5113 Railroad St. (turn west off Panther Road on Sharp until you reach Railroad St.) newspaper at \$30 a ton, any amount, Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5. Also see American Recycling Corp. below. Beer bottles. 50¢ for case of 24 (except Coors).

B & B Distributors, N. 1004 Ruby, Lucky Lager and Heidelberg, also aluminum cans, Mon.-Fri., 11-2.

Rake's Mountain Distributors, N. 1800 Langley (just north of Trent), Olympia, Hann's, Buckhorn, also aluminum, Mon.-Fri., 10-3.

Joey and Nick August, E. 4010 AIKI, Rainier & Rheinlander, Mon.-Fri., 11-4. Coors Distributors, E. 6715 Mission,

Coors, 30¢ a case, 1¢ each for quarts, Mon.-Fri., 9-5; also 415 N.W. Blvd. in Coeur d'Alene, Sat. & Mon., 10-4. Aluminum cans, foil, TV dinner dishes.