



# LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

## FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

DECEMBER 1985

### WINTER PRESSURING WILDLIFE TOO

It is no surprise that this November was the Spokane area's coldest and snowiest on record. For wildlife this suggests a tough winter, increasing their energy demands. Their stored fat helps keep them going now but when that is gone in late winter, they could be in real trouble.

In the Hills the only wintering birds are those that can find their food in the trees and bushes, the ground feeding juncos and flickers having left for the less snowy valleys and suburbs. Nuthatches and red crossbills gobble up seeds from pine and fir cones; chickadees and nuthatches, joined by goldencrowned kinglets and brown creepers from the mountains, search out insects in the trees. An occasional hairy woodpecker digs beetle larvae from snags. Ruffed grouse depend mostly upon buds and fruit of shrubs. Great horned owls hunt for grouse, cottontail rabbits and mice and pygmy owls pursue small birds and mice. Mice no doubt appreciate winter, as they can search for seeds in the relative safety of their snow-covered runways. Porcupines eat the young bark of pines. Coyotes eat about anything they can find, animal or vegetable, including apples and sedge leaves. Ravens and magpies hope to scavenge on occasional dead animals. It is a lean time for predators and scavengers.

A good turnout of outdoor lovers from four year olds on up enjoyed Spokane Audubon Society's discovery hike in the Dishman Hills November 17. Snow made every thing beautiful but showed no animal tracks at all. Cottontail rabbits and mice apparently are at very low points in their population cycles there this winter. A highlight of the trip was Larry Thieman's leading us to a porcupine den in a rock crevice. It also showed evidence of having been used by marmots, now snugly hibernating.

We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving some of the natural areas of the Spokane Area for people to enjoy and learn from.

Helen E. Lininger, President; Thomas H. Rogers, Vice-President and bulletin editor; Doris Allgood, Secretary; David E. Lentes, Treasurer; Larry Thieman, Legal Advisor. Board of Directors (in addition to officers): Gary Brewster, Omar Carroll, Margaret Haggin, Bernice Hahn, Ann Kachinsky, Don Kachinsky, William McMillan, Ambrose Priestly and Larry Thieman.

We offer slide programs on the Dishman Hills and other outdoor subjects, and guide service on hikes in the Hills. No charge for these. Our monthly meetings during the winter months are at Riverview Terrace Retirement Apartments, E. 1801 Upriver Drive, the fourth Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. You are welcome to attend.

### DONATIONS FOR LAND LAGGING

Donations are lagging for meeting the quarterly payment of \$6340, due December 15, on our 140 acre addition to Dishman Hills Natural Area. November donations came to only \$865, hence we must draw heavily upon our reserve fund, which we are depending upon to help carry us through the five year contract period. We urge you to continue contributing now. Your gifts are fully deductible from your 1985 income tax. Please send all that you can!

Our warm thanks to the following who have donated since the listing in our November bulletin. If you contributed in late November, your name possibly will not appear until January.

Mrs. Harold T. Anderson, Aubrey Lee White Garden Club, Barbara Bailey, Amsel B. Barton, Janice Bennett, Kathryn Bernard, Mary Briggie, Vera Carpenter, Omar E. Carroll, Leta Chapman, Joan G. Chesbrough, Cirque de Fleurs Garden Club, Charles V. Cornell, Mildred & Brian Dameron, Mr./Mrs. David D. Deline, John P. Dodson, Mr./Mrs. G.S. Fergin, Frieda Foth, Dick Gardner, Nicolin J. Gray, Mr./Mrs. Donald Hagan, Mr./Mrs. Charles W. Hammond, Mr./Mrs. Harold N. Heaton, Mr./Mrs. P.R. Heggen, Mr./Mrs. George W. Herrington, Sandra J. Hollar, Blanche Holsten, Home Garden Club, George F. Ingraham, Mr./Mrs. L. H. Horgens, Karl K. Krogue, Carl Lundberg, Manito Garden Club, Mr./Mrs. Harold Mingo, Mr./Mrs. John W. Miller, Helen E. Nelson, Mr./Mrs. William B. Nourse, Mr./Mrs. Warren S. Peterson, Mr./Mrs. Robert L. Pohl, Mr./Mrs. Ambrose Priestley, James C. Roberts, Mr./Mrs. Thomas H. Rogers, Norma J. Rosenberger, Elizabeth M. Saunders, Mr./Mrs. John A. Shermer, Mr./Mrs. Emerson Schuck, Lee M. Smith, Mr./Mrs. John E. Sonneland, Dr. Roy C. Stewart, Irene B. Tomlinson, Susan P. Virnig, Dr./Mrs. Owen Wiley, Mr./Mrs. Richard Wolfe and Mr./Mrs. James R. Wilharm.

Because of Christmas, our December meeting date has been changed to December 18, same place, same time. A Merry Christmas to all of you and a Happy New Year!

Please use this form when sending contributions (Contributions are income tax deductible)

Account No. 12450

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Land purchase fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Memorial for \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Dues (\$10) New? \_\_\_ Renewal? \_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Student or Living Lightly (\$5)

Please make checks payable to Dishman Hills Natural Area Association and mail to David E. Lentes, Treasurer, P.O. Box 141561, Spokane, WA 99214. Many thanks!