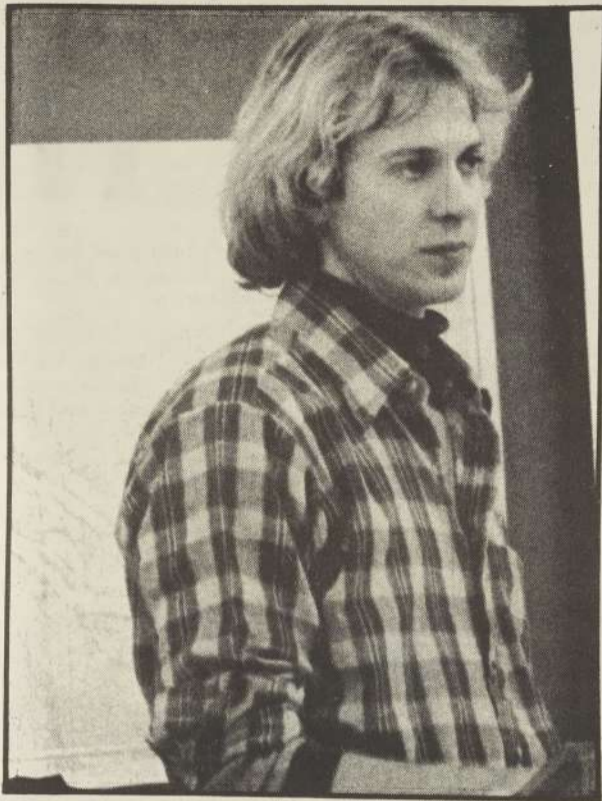


Bald Eagle population concerns Anderson



AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBER, Dave Anderson, speaks on bald eagles at Canby Union High School Thursday, Nov. 4.

Staff Photo by Brett Bigham

**By Brett Bigham
Of The Print**

Dave Anderson, a member of the Portland Audubon Society gave a lecture and slide show on the bald eagle populations of Oregon and the Northwest Nov. 4 in Canby.

Anderson studied the lower Columbia River basin last March through July to help establish the number of eagle nests and eagles in the area.

"The heavy salmon and winter waterfowl shows that at one time there was probably a lot larger population in the lower Columbia," Anderson said. "This year there were five sightings of eagles nesting in the 13 nests found in that area. Three of these pairs stayed on their nests." The other two pairs stopped incubating their eggs.

"Spring was particularly bad as weather goes. Which caused poor nesting. In the lower Columbia, of the four nests we only had one nest hatch, with only one bird," he said.

"This brought up the question of why they left," Anderson said. The possible reason for this is clear cutting around the nests by lumber companies. It is illegal to cut down a tree

with an eagle nest in it so often they will remove the trees surrounding an eagle tree. This leaves both the tree and the nest open to the weather. Often these trees will die because of root exposure. "This puts the eagles in danger because the limbs are weakened," he said.

"Nests have been recorded at up to 1000-2000 pounds. They add more every year," he said.

Clear cutting is not the only danger to the eagle. "One of the biggest problems seems to be gunshots. Local people will just be out target practicing and not know," Anderson said. There was even a case where people were shooting at one of the nesting trees itself. "A lot of times when you tell people they will say OK. I didn't know there were birds in the area. Others don't want to be told anything." Gunshots can upset and frighten the eagles.

"We're trying to work through the legislature to give property owners a tax break for leaving a buffer zone around a bald eagle's nest. We would like to see a 300 foot radius of trees left around each nest," he said. This would help to protect the eagles from exposure as well as curiosity seekers.

"Oregon lost 50 percent of its nests this year to bad weather," Anderson said. Approximately 300 of this state's 685 to 700 eagles nested this spring. "The young per nest was only .7 this year. A normal years average is 1.2."

Anderson also spoke on the Chilkat Valley Project. This part of Alaska housed over 3500 bald eagles this November. The reason for this is a late salmon run due to higher water temperatures in the Chilkat River from thermal heat. "That area constitutes a major eagle strong hold," he said.

The Chilkat Valley area had been marked for logging, but in June the governor of Alaska signed a bill to protect the eagles' habitat. "As far as eagles go that's a good step," Anderson said.

Anderson studied biology and natural history until he moved to Portland and was accepted on a two year program by the Audubon Society in 1977. He is still continuing his work for the society.

On Nov. 16 the Society will be sponsoring a lecture on Common Birds in Winter at 7:30 at Canby Union High School.

Recycling week kicks off improved operation

**By Kari Gassaway
Of The Print**

John Inskip Environmental Learning Center will show off its new recycling depot during a three day Resource, Re-use and Recycling Conference the week of Nov. 15 at Clackamas Community College.

"The basic thrust of this

depot is to set an example and serve the public in knowledge on recycling. It is also a money saver for the college," ELC Director Project Jerry Herrmann said.

"The temporary recycling center that the new depot is replacing was a 12 by 24 storage shed. The first year we recycled five or six tons and

now we are doing about 35 tons a year. With this new depot I don't know what to anticipate but probably a minimum of 70 tons," Herrmann said.

The site of the new depot necessitated a complete facelift for the parking lot. "We recycled the landscape and tried to make it attractive to wildlife. The site is a reclaimed industrial area," Herrmann said. To helpentice the wildlife such plants as Colorado Spruce, a good seed source and Wysteria, for its aesthetic value and pealike seed, were used.

Recyclable items were also used in the transformation of the site. "We used giant pressure treated timbers from an old bridge on Marine Drive, broken curbs for the new road and boulders for landscaping," Herrmann said. "We also took advantage of a lot of people who needed to work off fines, the drift of this, being we were able to use a lot of skills of people and resources that otherwise would have gone to waste."

When ELC considered the new depot they went to the Metropolitan Service District and asked for approximately \$5,000. "Half of that went for labor," Herrmann said.

"Our main purpose is to inform the public, and we will do this through the students we get through the ELC each year, visiting communities, attending

recycling conferences and the people we expect to come through with recyclable items at the depot," Herrmann said.

A salmon bake with Congressman Ron Wyden and other officials on Wednesday, Nov. 17 will highlight the opening of the new depot. During the recycling week a conference will be held on Monday with experts from Metro, DEQ, private enterprise and public service agencies to review past,

present and future in the recycling issue.

The Environmental Learning Center is located in front of the Art Center. The depot accepts clean glass, crushed cans with ends and labels removed, office papers, computer paper, newsprint, cardboard, used motor oil in closed containers, clean plastic containers with labels removed (hard or soft), and segregated aluminum, copper and steel.



STUDENTS ATTEMPTED TO get ahead at the College's Career Market Wednesday, Nov. 3 in the Community Center.

Staff Photo by Troy Maben

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