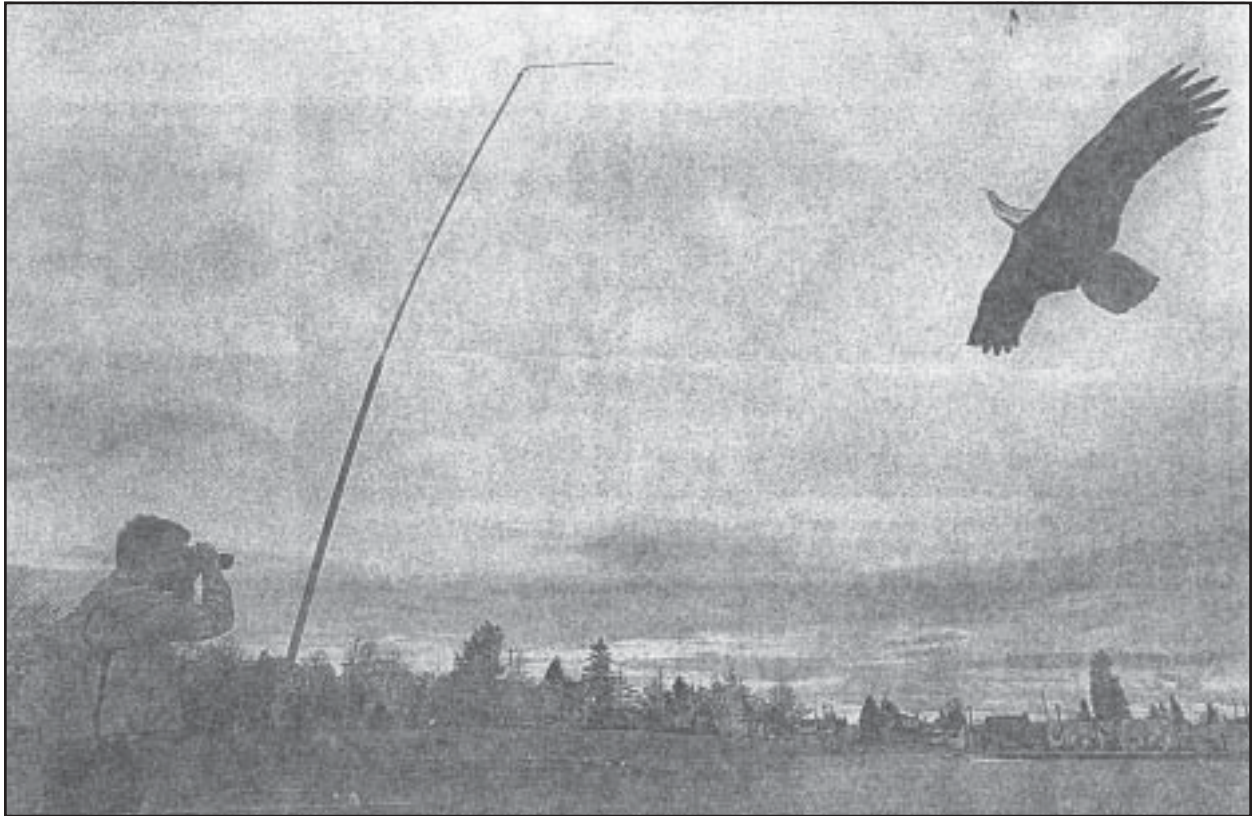


SEATTLE POST INTELLIGENCER

Flying to the rescue



Mike Bonoff of the Seattle Water Department attempts to identify several birds swimming in the The Great Lake Reservoir, while an eagle kite flutters above the water. The kite, with a 5-foot wingspan, has proven effective in keeping sea gulls away.



The Jackite Eagle

Gull deterrent never poops out

The Seattle Water Department has tried everything over the years to keep sea gulls and Canada Geese away from Seattle's water supply, including fireworks, "scary yellow and black floating eyes," an inflatable alligator, "dead" geese decoys, flash tape and "dead" sea gull decoys.

Some diversions have worked better than others, spokesman Bart Becker said. And the one now being used at Green Lake Reservoir – a menacing looking bald eagle kite – seems to be working better than expected.

For the past four years, an average of 34 sea gulls a day have visited the reservoir during January, and 24 a day during February. But since the fake predator has been in flight, nor one sea gull has decided to test the kite's legitimacy.