

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society  
Editor: Shirley Sturts - E4615 Fernan Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 -  
664-5318

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## CALENDAR CHECK

(Registering for a field trip is not required but if you register the leader will call you if the time or meeting place is changed)

### APRIL 18 TUESDAY BOARD AND REGULAR MEETING

Time: 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Regular meeting

Place: Iron Horse

Regular Program:

Phil Waring will make a slide-illustrated presentation on wildlife in Alaska. Phil will describe interesting experiences he and his family have had with wildlife (mostly mammals) over the 21 years they lived there.

### APRIL 23, SUNDAY FIELD TRIP KOOTENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Leader: Wallace Keck, 664-4029

Meet: Panhandle Supervisor's Office parking lot on Kathleen Ave. 1/2 mile west of US Hwy 95 N.

Activity: Kootenai Wildlife Refuge is located 5 miles west of Bonners Ferry. The small 2,764 acre refuge encompasses a wide variety of habitats. We should hear Ruffed Grouse "drumming" and snipe "winnowing" while looking for spring arrivals, newly hatched Canadian Geese, and the pair of Bald Eagles which have nested there the past few years. Bring a sack lunch and good walking shoes. There are some foot trails on the refuge.

### APRIL 29 SATURDAY ENDANGERED SPECIES SYMPOSIUM

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Place: Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane 4340 West Fort George Wright Drive.

Purpose: To raise awareness about endangered species and promote citizen activism for information call (509) 838-4912

APRIL 28-30  
COLORADO PELICAN FESTIVAL  
For information write: Platte & Prairie Audubon Society, PO Box 3354, Greeley, CO 80633 or call: 303-330-5082 or 303-351-0166



### MAY 19-23 SPRING MIGRATORY BIRD CONFERENCE IN BOISE

Information and registration form was included in the February

Newsletter For more information call (303) 499-0219

### MAY 27 SATURDAY MOYIE RIVER FLOAT TRIP

Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Leader: Nancy Mertz (Audubon Member and rafting guide with ROW) day 765-0841 or eve. 765-5254 Limited space sign up early

Cost: \$79 inc. lunch (if 10 Audubon members sign up otherwise \$87)

See the March Newsletter for trip description or call Nancy.

## \*\* LOCAL CONSERVATION \*\*

By Wallace F. Keck

A few weeks ago I received a flyer reading "Endangered Species Act Alert! Two bills to kill ESA before the U.S. Senate". I've been thinking a lot about the ESA lately--probably because its up for reauthorization and may face its own extinction. In today's political climate, it's on everyone's mind. Just last week, a realtor and a logger's wife cornered me on the subject. They argued that since extinction is a natural phenomenon, we should quit spending money to keep them on life support.

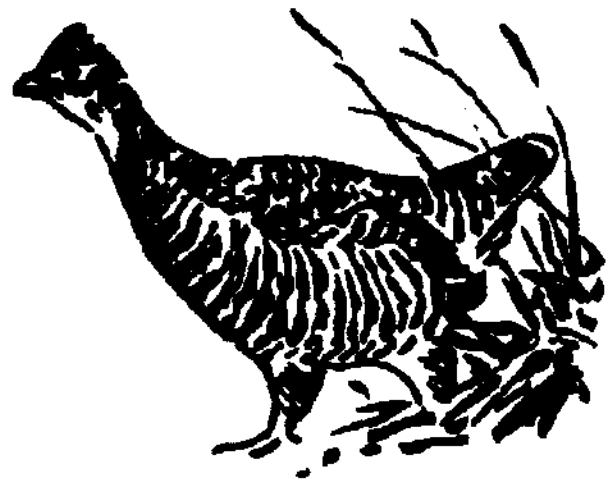
Yes, extinction is a natural phenomenon, but it is the exponential rate which is the issue. Considering just the bird world for a moment, we can see the need for concern. Between 1600-1800 (200 years) 25 species of birds became extinct. Between 1800 and 1950 (150 years) 78 became extinct. Based on current statistics, scientist estimate that a total of 50 bird species will be lost between 1950 and the fast approaching century mark. Compared to reptiles and amphibians, the birds appear to be fortunate.

It takes no stretch of imagination to know that *Homo sapien* is the industrious omnivore which causes the vast majority of extinctions. In 1973, Congress and the President had the courage to pass legislation empowering citizens to reverse the decline--and there have been many successes, most notably our National symbol which was down-listed last year.

I have seen 14 endangered and countless threatened species so far. Each, along with those common for the present, have brought contentment, understanding, strength and beauty to my time on this earth. How can I (indeed, anyone) contribute to the untimely extinction because it is more convenient and economical than changing attitude or lifestyle?

Perhaps it is easy to pass judgement on a species one has never seen. One of the best actions we can take to reverse the decline is to become familiar with that which we are condemning. Make a point this summer to see a Woodland Caribou or Harlequin Duck. Join up with a Native Plant Society field trip and discover the fragile beauty clinging on the edge of development. Soon you will come to the conclusion that all life has value which far exceeds the almighty dollar.

On the other hand, we should also make the point to tour a sawmill, chat with a farmer, and learn how ore is processed into the things we cherish. While we must never compromise to the point of sacrificing a species, we must also understand all the ramifications of the ESA and look for innovative solutions. So far, it appears Congress is not trying very hard.



HEATHHEN

## Bird Quotes Quiz

(Bird watching  
inside Literature)



Check your bird/literary IQ. There are many memorable quotes, poetry, and quips about birds. How many can you recognize? Who said.....

(see answers on page 4 - send quotes to the editor for future newsletters)

Shakespeare was a keen observer of nature. He mentions over 50 birds in his writings.

"...to relish a love-song, like a robin redbreast..."

"...The wren with little quill..."

"...daffodils, That come before the swallow dares..."

"We talk with goblins, owls and sprites."

"It was the owl that shriek'd, the fatal bellman, which gives the stern'st good night"

"It was a lover and his lass,  
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,  
That o'er the green corn-field did pass  
In the spring time, the only pretty ring time,  
When birds do sing, hey ding a ding, ding  
Sweet lovers love the spring."

"So, when he had occasion to be seen,  
He was but as the cuckoo is in June,  
Heard, not regarded....."

## BITS AND PIECES

Gertie Hanson found this disturbing news article in the Spokesman Review 2/1/95

### Polluted Reservoir Killing Thousands of Migratory Birds

(San Jose Mercury News)

Silva, Mexico - "In what Mexican and U.S. officials are calling an environmental catastrophe up to 40,000 migratory birds have died since November after drinking contaminated water at an irrigation reservoir."

"Hundreds more are dying every day, raising concerns that nearby residents may be exposed to the same toxic hazard."

"As environmental groups fill mass graves on the banks of the government-owned Silva Reservoir, farmers and industry leaders bicker about what poison caused the disaster. Scientists blame the contamination on waste water flowing from the vast tannery industry in nearby Leon, a city of more than 867,000 people."

"These are migratory birds and they're coming from Canada and the United States. They fly long distances to find their tomb in the Silva Reservoir," said Homero Aridjis, leader of El Grupo de los Cien, Mexico's more prominent environmental organization.

The dead birds include American coots, American avocets, black-necked stilts, mallards, ruddy ducks, Northern shovelers, and both blue and green-winged teal, biologists say. None are classified as an endangered species.

Local doctors are reporting cases of skin rashes, headaches and intestinal problems among children who have played in the water or handled dead or sick birds.

Industrial waste water continues to flow into the 7 square-mile reservoir, and despite the overpowering stench it is still being used to irrigate wheat, corn and bean crops



## OBSERVATION POST

Observers: Karen Boarders (KB), Kris Buchler (CB), Pat Cole (PC), Gertie Hanson (GH), Bryan Helmich (BH), Ron Jurcevich (RJ), Wallace Keck (WK), Al Leiser (AL), John W. Nigh (JWN), Zoltan Porga (ZP), Jimmie J. Reynolds (JJR), George Saylor (GS), Richard Smart (RS), Shirley Sturts (SHS), Scott Reed (SR), Susan Weller (SW).

1. Western Grebe 5 Higgins Point, CDA Lake Feb. 2 (WFK)
2. Tundra Swan several hundred migrating through starting Feb. 21 Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management Area (didn't stay long - during this time water levels remained over flood stage) (JWN): 100+ arrived at Kootenai NWR on Feb. 26 with more arriving over the next several days (JJR)
3. Greater-White Fronted Goose 10-12 Hells Gate State Park area in Lewiston March (GS)
4. Snow Goose 1 in with 100+ Canada Geese feeding in fields out on Rathdrum Prairie end of January (RJ)
5. Redhead 32,500 Pend Oreille Lake Jan. 6 Winter Waterfowl Survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (done by air) (PC,BH) 9 species and 38,476 individual ducks were counted on this survey - Redheads were far ahead in numbers)
6. Bald Eagle 1 Kilarney Lake March 26 (SHS): 2 adults present most of the winter peak of 8 was recorded the first week of Dec. 1994. Kootenai NWR (JJR)
7. Golden Eagle 1 Farragut State Park March 15 (AL reported to WK)
8. Gryfalcon 1 immature male Rathdrum Prairie Dec. 7-8 (RJ)
9. Prairie Falcon 1 State Line near the race track Mid Feb. (RJ)
10. Wild Turkey 12 Potlatch Hill March 14-21 (KB); 36 Cataldo Slough (SW)
11. Sandhill Crane 40,000 Platte River, Nebraska March 18-19 (SR)
12. Killdeer 6 Hells Gate State Park area March 4 (GS): 1 Potlatch Area March 5 (ZP)
13. Blue Jay 1-5 still coming to Jack's feeder (CDA) as of March 13 (JM) and 1 to a Moscow feeder as of March 24 (Birding Hot Line)
14. Violet-Green Swallow returned March 6 to Cataldo Slough (SW): 24+ Spokane River/Hwy 95 Bridge March 18 (SHS): 2-3 Farragut State Park March 25 (WK)
15. Chestnut-backed Chickadee 5-12 Potlatch Hill March 1-21 (KB)
16. Bewick's Wren 1 Deep Creek Potlatch area Jan 19 and again Feb. 28 (ZP)
17. American Dipper 1 Rainy Creek, Priest lake area near Elkins Resort March 3 (RS) 1 Gold Center, Potlatch area Feb. 26 (ZP)
18. Western Bluebird 2 (1st arrival date) near Potlatch Feb. 25 (ZP)
19. Northern Shrike 1 Cataldo Slough Feb. 28 (SW): 1 Lane Marsh south of Rose Lake March 26 (SHS): 1 Deep Creek near Potlatch March 5 (ZP)
20. Orange-Crowned Warbler 2 Hells Gate State Park area March 4 (GS)
21. Rufous-sided Towhee 1 Potlatch area (1st arrival date) March 12 (ZP)
22. American Tree Sparrow 4 Dec. 3, 1994 Four Corners near Potlatch (ZP)
23. Western Meadowlark 2 Deep Creek, Potlatch area (1st arrival date) Feb. 25 (ZP)
24. Pine Grosbeak 2-15 seen between Jan. 15 - Feb. 11 Potlatch area (ZP)

Answers to Quotes Quiz from page 3

Two Gentlemen of Verona - A Midsummer Night's Dream - The Winter's Tale  
- Comedy of Errors - McBeth - As You Like it - Henry IV part I

\*\*Correction Wallac Keck wrote the The Book Review in the March 1995 Fish Hawk Herald



## IN MEMORIAM DARREL CAVANAUGH

Darrel Cavanaugh, a member of our Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter, died in June of 1994. He also belonged to the Elks, Green Peace, Sierra Club and was a life time member of the Veteran of Foreign Wars. He taught science at Project ODA. He was very popular with students and highly respected by his peers. In 1986, he was awarded Teacher of the Year.

Gertie Hanson tells me that Darrel and 2 of his sons went on a Christmas Bird Count with her team and visited his back yard feeder. Gertie says "The day was very cold and Darrell was a great sport!"

Our sympathy and support go out to his wife Marilyn and children. The family has requested that any donations in his memory be made to Green Peace, P.O. Box 3720, Washington, D.C. 20007-0220.

## MORE ON WOODPECKERS

(Taken from Audubon Leader Jan. 1995)

Woodpeckers seen in the woods are pretty, but when they start making holes in your home, they quickly loose their charm. There may be several reasons for this behavior. In the early spring woodpeckers will drum on hard surfaces. they will stop once a territory has been set up. It is possible that there are insects under the shingles and these are a food source for the bird. In many suburban areas, dead trees are cut down leaving few places for woodpeckers to take a home or a winter roost. A young bird may not yet know the difference between your home and a dead tree!

Patch up holes and place heavy plastic on top of the areas so that the woodpecker cannot get a grip. Make a strong solution of cayenne pepper and water, put it in your garden sprayer and

spray the area where the woodpecker has been. The pepper will sting the bird's tongue and encourage it to move elsewhere. The solution should be reapplied after a rain. In addition use streamers or other items that will flap in the wind to scare the bird. Woodpeckers are a protected species and permission must be obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service before a bird can be destroyed.

## EARTH DAY APRIL 22 WEAR BLUE AND GREEN

(A letter to all from Floyd Schnakenberg, Northeast PA Audubon Society - Taken off the Audubon Forum.)

We are asking you to join us in celebrating Earth Day by wearing blue and green on April 22, 1995. In fact we are asking our nation and world to join us in this demonstration of solidarity for our planet and our home: Mother Earth.

Displaying red, white and blue on the Fourth of July, or green for St. Patricks Day have become successful and popular ways to make a statement on a particular issue or Day.

Let's show we care about our earth and parade her colors? Wear any blue and green colors: Ribbons, tie, shirt, etc.



Located at 6005 N. Division  
Hours: M-F 10-6 Sat. 9-5 Sun. 12-5

Wild Birds Unlimited will donate 5% of your purchases back to our Audubon Society Chapter. Be sure to mention that you are a member and present your membership card or a copy of the Fish Hawk Herald with your name on it

## THE BIRD FEEDER SURVEY RESULTS

### OBSERVERS:

Jane Badraun (JB) Rathdrum Prairie (farm land, forest edge)  
 Karna Borders (KB Emerald Estates north of Hayden lake (residential)  
 Barbara Dorrell (BD) Squaw Bay, Cda Lake (forest, wetland edge)  
 Mary Manning (MM) Cda city (residential)  
 Theresa Potts (TP) Arrowhead Road (edge of city, Ponderosa Pine, bushes, small trees)  
 Lee Strelz (LS) Emerald Estates north of Hayden Lake (residential)  
 Shirley Sturts (SHS) Fernan Lake (forest, near lake)  
 Barbara Wardsworth (BW) Mt. Coeur d'Alene area (Forest)  
 Roger Young (RY) Fernan Hill (edge of residential, forest) didn't count Feb. 1-15

The number represents the total number of birds seen at 9 feeders on 1 date during the following 4 time periods.  
 The initials represent the feeders that were reporting the species in order of the largest number counted

NAME OF BIRD SPECIES	DEC. 15-31	JAN. 1-15	JAN. 16-30	FEB. 1-15
Ruffed Grouse (WB)	6	6	6	6
Ring-necked Pheasant (JB LS)	4	3	-	4
California Quail (RY)	25	25	20	-
Downy Woodpecker (LS,BW,JB,SHS,RY,KB)	9	8	8	5
Hairy Woodpecker (JB,BW,LS,RY,KB)	9	7	4	6
Northern Flicker (LS,BW,TP,JB,KB,RY)	12	13	8	7
Pileated Woodpecker (LS,BW,JB,KB)	3	2	2	3
Gray Jay (BW)	-	-	4	4
Steller's Jay ((BW,BD,LS,KB)	15	12	12	12
Black-billed Magpie (JB,LS)	9	7	8	10
B-C Chickadee(BW,LS,JB,BD,RY,BD,SHS,MM)	32	34	23	23
Mt. Chickadee(BW,KB,JB,TP,SHS)	15	17	17	20
Chestnut-backed Chickadee (BW,KB)	7	7	8	7
Red-B Nuthatch (BW,LS,KB,SHS,RY,JB,BD,MM)	25	19	23	20
Pygmy Nuthatch (JB,TP)	5	8	5	4
Brown Creeper (JB,BW,LS,TP,BD)	5	2	6	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet (JB)	-	-	1	2
European Starling (JB)	-	-	2	-
Song Sparrow (BD,JB,SHS)	3	3	2	3
Dark-eyed Junco(RY,LS,BD,KB,JB,TP,SHS)	51	56	18	26
Cassin's Finch (BD)	2	-	-	-
House Finch (LS,JB,TP,RY,KB,MM,BD)	59	49	75	72
Red Crossbill (JB)	-	-	1	-
Pine Siskin (LS,BD KB)	3	-	1	10
American Goldfinch (LS)	2	-	-	-
Evening Grosbeak (BW,KB)	1	2	35	150

Bird species in count area but not using feeders or provided water: Great Blue Heron (BD)

Bald Eagle (BD), Red-tailed Hawk (BW,BD), Ring-necked Pheasant (BD) Ruffed Grouse (BD), Wild Turkey (BD,BW) Barred Owl (BW), Downy Woodpecker (TP), Northern Flicker (BD), Pileated Woodpecker (SHS) Black-billed Magpie (BD,MM), Raven (BW,JB,BD,RY), R.B. Nuthatch (MM), Brown Creeper (SHS) American Robin (MM,TP,JB), Varied Thrush (JB), Red Crossbill (TP)

Bird species using feeder and/or water provided but not on any count date at that feeder: Wild Turkey (BW), Black-billed Magpie (MM), Mountain Chickadee (BD)

## American Birding Association Code of Ethics

Birders have an obligation to protect wildlife, the natural environment, and the rights of others and to provide leadership by adhering to general guidelines of good birding behavior.

- I. **Birders must always act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds or other wildlife. *In keeping with this principle, we will***
  - Observe and photograph birds without knowingly disturbing them in any significant way.
  - Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing birds.
  - Only sparingly use recordings and similar methods of attracting birds and not use these methods in heavily birded areas.
  - Keep an appropriate distance from nests and nesting colonies so as not to disturb them or expose them to danger.
  - Refrain from handling birds or eggs unless engaged in recognized research activities.
- II. **Birders must always act in ways that do not harm the natural environment. *In keeping with this principle, we will***
  - Stay on existing roads, trails, and pathways whenever possible to avoid trampling or otherwise disturbing fragile habitat.
  - Leave all habitat as we found it.
- III. **Birders must always respect the rights of others. *In keeping with this principle, we will***
  - Respect the privacy and property of others by observing "No Trespassing" signs and by asking permission to enter private or posted lands.
  - Observe all laws and the rules and regulations which govern public use of birding areas.
  - Practice common courtesy in our contacts with others. For example, we will limit our requests for information, and we will make them at reasonable hours of the day.
  - Always behave in a manner that will enhance the image of the birding community in the eyes of the public.
- IV. **Birders in groups should assume special responsibilities. *As group members, we will***
  - Take special care to alleviate the problems and disturbances that are multiplied when more people are present.
  - Act in consideration of the group's interest, as well as our own.
  - Support by our actions the responsibility of the group leader(s) for the conduct of the group.
  - As group leaders, we will*
  - Assume responsibility for the conduct of the group
  - Learn and inform the group of any special rules, regulations, or conduct applicable to the area or habitat being visited.
  - Limit groups to a size that does not threaten the environment or the peace and tranquility of others.
  - Teach others birding ethics by our words and example.

COEUR D'ALENE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Shirley Sturts 664-5318

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Introductory National Membership \$20

Newsletter Subscription Only \$5

A membership with the National Audubon Society entitles you to chapter membership with the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society and the receipt of the bimonthly Audubon magazine and the chapter newsletter, The Fish Hawk Herald. New Members should send their name and mailing address along with their check made payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY and mail to:

Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Membership  
P.O. Box 361  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

National Audubon Chapter  
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