



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society

Editor: Shirley Sturts - E4615 Fernan Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 -664-5318

APRIL 1999

VOLUME 8 No 8

PAGE 1



CALENDAR CHECK

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

APRIL 19 MONDAY REGULAR MEETING: THOREAU: WILDERNESS AND THE WILD

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Spokesman Review Building
608 Northwest Boulevard

Program: William C. Johnson, Professor of English at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston will present this talk which weaves together biography, ecology and aesthetics toward a better understanding of Thoreau's wilderness thought and art. It begins with an overview of Thoreau's life (as writer, observer, handyman, walker and surveyor) as it moves between civilization and nature, and in turn presents selections from his writing that show how nature comes alive and takes on meaning in his art. Thoreau prods us to explore our own experience of nature, in both critical and creative ways. The talk concludes by suggesting how Thoreau's insights on "the wild" shed light on current discussion and debate about wilderness. Johnson encourages the audience to begin a dialogue on wilderness and the wild, so Thoreau's insights can be taken back into everyday lives.

William Johnson is a Pacific Northwest native. He is the author of *What Thoreau Said: "Walden"* and *The Unsayable*. He has won fellowships from the Idaho Humanities Council, the Idaho Commission on the Arts, the University of Montana's Environmental Writing Institute, and Oregon's Fishtrap.

He has been named Idaho Writer in Residence for 1998-2001 and is the author of a book of poems, "Out of Ruins", which will be published this spring.

This program is made possible by support from Boise Cascade Corporation and by funding from the Idaho Humanities Council, a state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

On Sunday April 18th, Professor Johnson will present an Idaho Writer In Residence "Celebration of Poetry" reading at North Idaho College. The program is open to the public and will be in the evening. Watch the newspapers or call the college for the exact location and time.

APRIL 16-18 FRIDAY-SUNDAY SPRING AUDUBON CONFERENCE

"Wet Lands of the Inland Northwest"

It will include a panel discussion, workshop, and tour. See Feb./March Newsletter for more information

APRIL 22 THURSDAY EARTH DAY

The beginning of Audubon's WatchList program - see article on page 6

APRIL 26 MONDAY

John James Audubon's Birthday

MAY 1--2 SATURDAY/SUNDAY LOON FESTIVAL

Location: Loon Echo Resort - Stryker, Montana (30 miles North of Whitefish)

Information: call 1-800-956-6632

Activity: International Loon calling championships, Loon art show, Loon childrens' drawing contests, dance, a presentation by Lynn Kelly and field trips are among the many activities planned.

FIELD TRIPS

Please register for the field trips. It helps to plan the trip and to call participants if the time and location changes.

APRIL 8 & 23 THURSDAY & FRIDAY MICA BAY SURVEY

Time: 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop Road turn off

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Activity: Beginner bird watchers welcome.

APRIL 12 & 26 MONDAY BLUE BIRD TRAIL

Time: 9:30 a.m. (time and day could change)

Meet: East side of Rosauers Parking Lot

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Activity: We will look for Blue Bird nesting activity as we check the condition of the boxes on the Gertie Hanson Blue Bird trail - make repairs - and do general birding along the way.

APRIL 20 TUESDAY BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG: TUBBS HILL

Time: 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Meet: 10th Street parking area east side of Tubbs Hill

Leader: Roger Young 664-4179

Activity: We will tour Tubbs Hill starting from the east side to look for early spring migrants and to see what wildflowers are blooming. (This trip was scheduled in March but was canceled due to rain and snow.)

APRIL 24 SATURDAY Q'EMILN TRAILS - POST FALLS

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet: East side of Rosauers Parking Lot

Leader: Cynthia Langlitz 762-0890

Activity: This will be a half day trip to look for returning migrants and waterfowl on the Spokane River. This will be a hiking trip so bring hiking boots or good walking shoes and drinking water.

APRIL 29-MAY 3 THURSDAY-- MONDAY MALEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

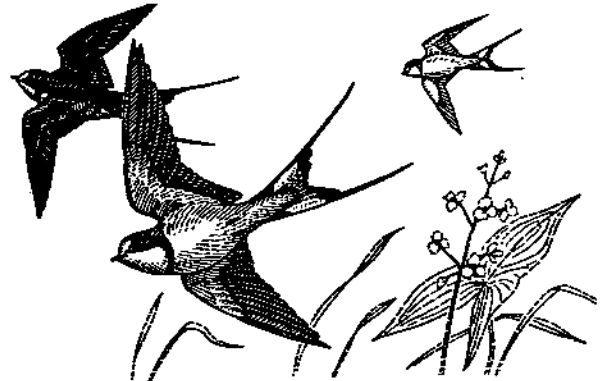
Leader: Stephen Lindsay (work #) 667-3418 For information call Stephen Lindsay or Cynthia Langlitz 762-0890

MAY 8 SATURDAY MIGRATORY BIRD DAY CENSUS

Leader: Susan Weller 682-3413

Activity: This is a continent-wide bird census conducted under the sponsorship of Partners In Flight. The purpose is to measure the migration of the so-called "neotrops" - those birds that are with us during their summer nesting season only.

To take part in your local census call Susan Weller 682-3413.



THE BARN SWALLOW—MAN'S FRIEND

Though it formerly nested on rocks, the barn swallow generally builds its nest nowadays on the walls of buildings. Like all swallows, it captures a great many insects in the course of its graceful flight. This seven-inch songster is among the tamest of wild birds.

INLAND EMPIRE NATURAL RESOURCES YOUTH CAMP

Audubon has always encouraged its members to get involved in conservation issues. If you know a teen who wants to make a difference for wildlife and other natural resources, maybe you should tell him or her about Inland Empire Natural Resources Youth Camp (IENRYC). The camp is an outdoor classroom on Lake Coeur d'Alene. Students learn about wildlife, soil and water, forests and rangelands. They even design a land use plan that incorporates all they have learned in a very practical way. Activities at IENRYC are hands-on and interactive. They are designed to help the campers develop teamwork and leadership skills. They are led by natural resource scientists and university faculty who also discuss career opportunities in natural resource fields. And of course canoeing, campfire programs and other outdoor events are part of the program.

The week-long camp is open to students who will be 14 to 16 years old in June. This year's camp is June 14-20. It costs \$190, and some scholarships are available through the Kootenai-Shoshone Conservation District. The conservation district also has a short video you may borrow to learn more about IENRYC. For more information about natural resources camp, call Jenny Taylor at 666-9898.

THE SEARCH FOR THE EURASIAN WIGEON

Field trip for March 20
Shirley Sturts leader

As ten of us gathered for the field trip to Cataldo, the main topic of conversation was what were our chances of seeing an Eurasian Wigeon. Stephen Lindsay had found one there a few days earlier. Our group of birders included: Kris Buchler, Janet Callen, Phil and Judy Waring, Karen Lamb, Peggy Schnell, George Saylor, Lynn Sheridan, Jenny Taylor and myself. At the Rose Lake Junction with I-90 we were joined by Lisa Hardy from Kingston.

The Eurasian Wigeon breeds from Iceland eastward across Eurasia to the Pacific Coast. It is a rare but regular winter visitor on both coasts of North America and it can sometimes be found inland. In North Idaho one or two are regularly seen during spring and fall migration in flocks of American Wigeon.

The male Eurasian Wigeon can easily be distinguished from the American Wigeon by its reddish-brown head and cream-colored forehead and crown. The American Wigeon has a white forehead and crown and a gray head with a green patch through the eye. Both have the characteristic white patch in front of a black patch in the tail. The females are difficult to tell apart. Some Eurasian females have heads tinged with rust but the gray morph does not and is very similar to the American Wigeon. About the only way to be sure is to hold the bird in your hand and look at its axillars or "wingpits". The axillars in the Eurasian are dusky (not white as in the American). Now that you have run through the marsh and caught yourself a female wigeon you are asking yourself, "What part of the bird are the axillars?" I didn't know either and had to look it up. To find out, look in front of any bird guide for the page showing the parts of a bird.

After identifying 6 Violet-Green Swallows and 1 Rough-legged Hawk at the Rose Lake Junction we drove down the Canyon Road to the Hardy Loop road where Stephen had seen an Eurasian Wigeon last week. There were a lot of waterfowl to identify: 40+ Mallard, 75+ Canada Goose, 12+ Northern Pintail, 2 Bufflehead, 1+ Pied-billed and Red-necked Grebe, 12+ Common Goldeneye, 60+ American Wigeon. Our best find were 3 Hooded Merganser and a pair of Barrow's Goldeneye.

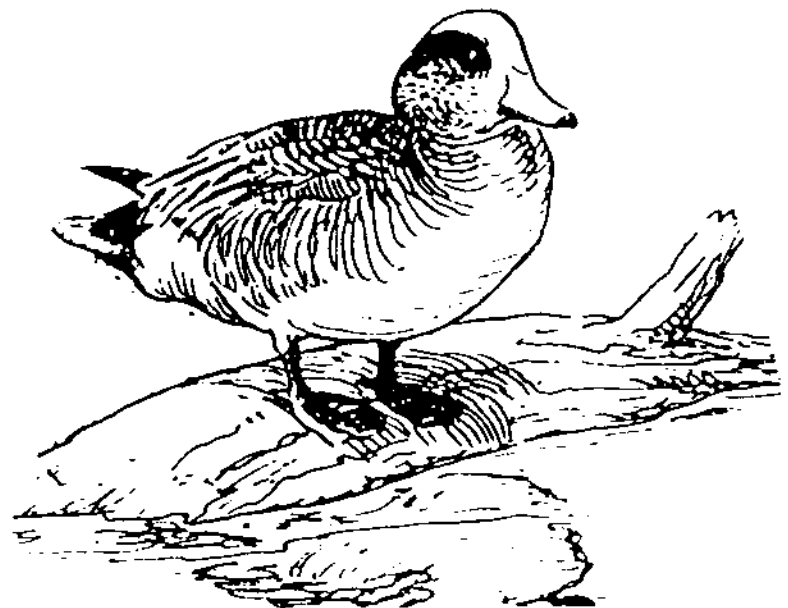
We almost gave up on our quest for the rare Eurasian Wigeon when Lisa, who had been diligently checking every duck through her scope, called out "Eurasian Wigeon"! It was sometime before the rest of us could locate the bird. When we did find where Lisa told us to look all we could see was a small flock of wigeon with their heads sticking up above the grass. However, as we

looked more carefully we saw that one of these heads was reddish brown with a cream colored crown. While all the American Wigeon were moving through the grass, the Eurasian stood as if frozen in place. Could it be one of those bird-like sticks that I'm always identifying? Surely not! We patiently waited and watched. Finally it moved along, came out in the open, and we all got good views. Indeed it was the elusive Eurasian Wigeon that we had come to find!

The flooded fields along River Road, the south side of I-90, provided us with our largest numbers of migrating waterfowl: 2000+ Mallard, 500+ N. Pintail, 1000+ Canada Goose, 350-400 Tundra Swan, 30 Redhead, 25 Ring-necked Duck, 6 Bufflehead, 2 Lesser Scaup and 2 Common Goldeneye.

Other species along our route included: Red-winged Blackbird, Black-capped Chickadee, Winter Wren, Northern Flicker, Steller Jay, Red-tailed Hawk, American Robin, Song Sparrow, American Coot, Killdeer, Wild Turkey, Violet-Green and Tree Swallow (Rose Lake), Belted Kingfisher (Bull Lake), Great Blue Heron and Gull sp..

Before heading home we stopped at Lane Marsh just south of Killamey Lake and added a pair of Wood Duck making a total trip list of 33 species. I'll have to confess, we made one more stop. Can this bird group ever pass a chance for a latte? There is a little latte hut located between Rose Lake and Porter Lake. There were lots of Red-winged Blackbirds at the latte owner's feeder. He told us he feeds about 150 of them all winter.



THE RESPLENDENT QUETZAL

by Phil Waring



THE QUETZAL--SACRED BIRD OF THE AZTECS
The green, amber, black and white named is one of the most beautiful birds of the world. Its tailfeathers grow into one long, columnar, iridescent quetzal.

Judy and I had completed our Elderhostel trip in Costa Rica with well over 100 new birds added to our life lists. They included birds we had never heard of before such as the Blue Dacnis, Montezuma Oropendola, White-necked Puffbird, King Vulture, and Volcano Hummingbird. A bird that we did want to see, and had not, was the Resplendent Quetzal. This bird is becoming increasingly uncommon in Costa Rica because of the destruction of its habitat. It feeds almost exclusively on wild varieties of avocados in the cloud forests.

The Monteverde Forest Reserve is listed in all guide books of Costa Rica and is noted as one of the best places to observe the Resplendent Quetzal. We were prepared to visit the reserve until a guide mentioned the name of the Finca de Serrano as a location with even better prospects.

Other seemingly knowledgeable people encouraged our visit to the Serrano Family Farm in the Telemanca Mountains south of San Jose, the capital.

Early one morning Judy and I left the Hotel Europa with a change of clothing, our binoculars, and bird book in our daypacks and took a bus to San Isidro de el General, towards Panama on the Pan American Highway. About forty miles from San Jose, we were dropped off along the highway. To our relief, a rustic sign advertised the Finca de Serrano and a dirt road led away from the highway. We followed the road for one quarter mile, passed two small homes, some pasture land, and arrived.

The lodge was a simple log building with a metal roof. A large dining and meeting area with stone fireplace was available to guests. Our lodging was a small A-frame cabin with no heating. Both nights at the cabin we used all six blankets to stay warm. The view from the cabin displayed the rolling forested mountain tops. At various times clouds worked their way across the mountains. The farm had been partially logged until Eddie Serrano realized that once the timber was gone, his income would be drastically reduced. He used the already logged areas for a dairy farm. The rest he opened as a birding destination. He and his family spoke little English but were friendly and helpful hosts. The food was simple and good. My favorite was large trout raised in nearby ponds.

The first morning our guide Carlos, a grandson of Eddie, led us along trails up and down the mountain side. We saw and identified many birds including new ones to our life lists. At one point Carlos led us off the trail up the mountain. Finally he directed us to a pair of Quetzals high in the understory tree cover. The male with his brilliant red, white and green plumage stood out with his 24 inch tail coverts. The female was more demur with less red and green and a shorter black and white barred tail. We watched them until we were ready to continue birding. Altogether we saw 10 Quetzals during our two day stay. We were delighted that we had this opportunity to observe the Resplendent Quetzal in his native habitat and enjoy our stay with the Serranos. As we were leaving the farm, Judy was invited to try catching a trout in the local pond. She did.

BIRD SEED FOR SALE

A FUND RAISER FOR AUDUBON

50# Black Oil Sunflower \$16.00

Tax included

Niger (Thistle) \$1.40 a pound

(available at meetings)

Tax included

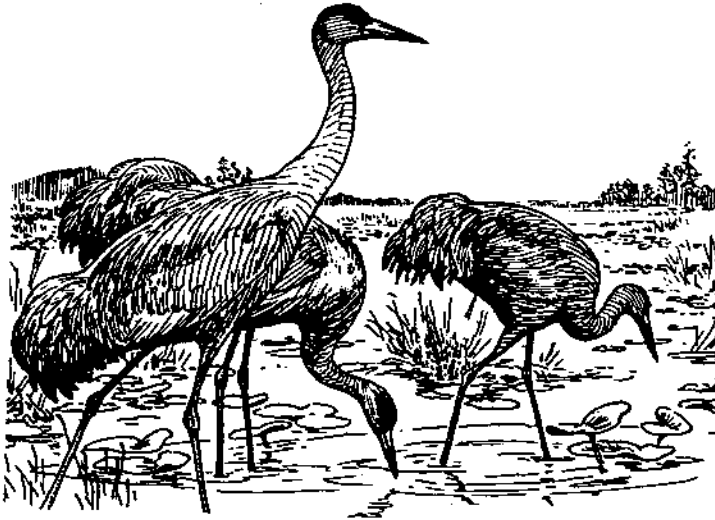
**All proceeds go to the Coeur d'Alene
Audubon Chapter**

Call Janet Callen at 664-1085

SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL

MARCH 27 - 28

Kris Buchler



Several Audubon members made it to Othello, Washington this year to observe the migrating Sandhill Cranes. The town has turned this into an "Event" and offers everything from a wildlife art show and sale, a series of lectures on wildlife and natural subjects, to several great field trips for birders and one for geology buffs. Visitors can go independently to observe the cranes and explore Columbia Wildlife Refuge or take advantage of the festival's trips and knowledgeable bird guides.

Phil and Judy Waring, Roger Young, Theresa and David Potts and Kris and Ed Buchler all made the trek on different days. Besides observing about 2000 cranes, Ed and I saw 50 other species of birds. Most notable were the Long-billed Curlew feeding in alfalfa fields, the very first Yellow-headed Blackbird, Dunlin and the Burrowing Owls. These owls are benefitting from a restoration project that provides pipes sunk into the ground at a 45 degree angle. These replace burrows that collapse in the sandy soils.

The cranes are only in the Othello/Moses Lake region for about three weeks as they feed and rest on their migration north. Before agriculture was established there, the cranes did not frequent the area. The winds dictate the length of the stay. The powerful south winds we had may encourage the birds to utilize them and move out early.

1st verse of a song "Wren Boys"

*The wren, the wren
the king of all birds,
St. Stephen's Day was
caught in the furze;
Although he was little,
his honor was great.
Jump up, me lads, and
give him a treat.*

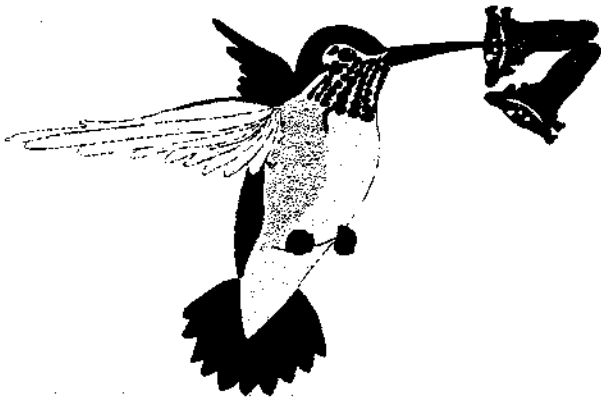
by M. Grant Norton

MICA BAY SURVEY

Participants: Kris Buchler, Corine Cameron, Bill Gundlach, Jerry Hanson, Theresa Potts, Shirley Sturts, Roger Young, Barbara Zimmer

Species	March 12	March 22
Pied-billed Grebe	11	-
Horned Grebe	4	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	3
Tundra Swan	14	-
Canada Goose	131	3
	3 pr on nests	
Mallard	169	126
Northern Pintail	4	-
American Wigeon	8	-
Green-winged Teal	-	3
Barrow's Goldeneye	3	-
Bufflehead	7	-
Common Merganser	23	2
Bald Eagle	1	-
Red-tailed Hawk	1	-
Wild Turkey	22	-
Killdeer	3	1
Ring-billed Gull	3	-
California Gull	1	1
Belted Kingfisher	2	-
Downy Woodpecker	3	-
Northern Flicker	1	1
Swallow sp.	1	-
Black-C Chickadee	3	3
Mountain Chickadee	1	2
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	2	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	-
Brown Creeper	3	-
Winter Wren	2	-
Western Bluebird	1 f	-
American Robin	23	22
Waxwing sp	2+	-
Song Sparrow	7	12
Dark-eyed Junco	12	6
Red-winged Blackbird	8	7

ATTRACTING BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR GARDEN IS EASY: With the Audubon Habitat Collection from Monrovia



Monrovia, a leading grower of container plants, and the National Audubon Society are making it easy for people to create a backyard environment that is friendly to a variety of birds and butterflies. Beginning in Spring 1999, select garden centers nationwide will offer the Audubon Habitat Collection of plants. "Look for plants in Monrovia Crafts and green colored containers with a special Audubon label," explained Pam Wasson, director of marketing at Monrovia. "Posters and bedmarkers will identify the collection in the garden center, and informational brochures that you can take home will have handy tips for success." Each of the 200 plant varieties in the collection was selected by the highly respected National Audubon Society.

According to a spokesman for the National Audubon Society, Jesse Grantham, through this joint effort with Monrovia, we believe we can educate gardeners about the important role plants play in a healthy environment, and how those plants complement each other in the survival and health of birds, insects, and other wildlife. "We hope to introduce millions of people to birds and the relationship between the two. With an understanding of that relationship, people may be greater advocates for the protection of their environment".

Grantham points out that the two leading American pastimes are gardening and bird watching. "Birders are interested in learning how to attract birds to their own backyards, and gardening enthusiasts can add diversity to their gardens with plants that help attract beautiful birds and butterflies. This is just a natural fit, and the Audubon Society is so pleased to be working with Monrovia to encourage people to garden for wildlife."

Founded in 1905 and with over 550,000 members in 518 chapters throughout the Americas, the National Audubon Society advances its mission to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

To find the nearest garden center offering the Audubon Habitat Collection, call toll-free 1-888-Plant It! For a free brochure about gardening for birds, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to: Monrovia Audubon Habitat Collection, PO Box 1385, Azusa, CA 91702-1385

I called the 1-888 number above and found 11 Garden Centers in Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Hayden Lake, and Post Falls that offer the Audubon Habitat Collection. (Editor's Note)

Capitalization of Bird Names

From Chapter Networker Spring 1998

"It might be helpful to go over a few of the general rules of written bird names. When writing your own name you always capitalize your first and last name - same with birds. You capitalize first and last name e.g. Scarlet Tanager or Winter Wren, Black Rail etc. If referring to unspecified birds, use lower case letter, e.g., herons; that sparrow on the ground.

If a species has a three-word unhyphenated name, all three words are capitalized e.g. American White Pelican. Many birds have compound or hyphenated first or middle names. Only the first letter of the compound name is capitalized: Red-throated Loon, or Long-billed Curlew. However, if a bird has a compound last name, then both parts of the compound name are capitalized e.g. Easter Screech-Owl, or American Golden-Plover."

Web site for AOU checklist -
<http://www.audubon.org/bird/na-bird.html>.

THE BIRD FEEDER SURVEY RESULTS

FEEDERS: *Reported all 4 periods; -f missing Feb.; -j missing Jan.(2nd 1/2)

* Marilee Benson (MB) north of Athol

* Kris Buckler (KB) Armstrong Hill just east of CDA

* Carolyn Cozzeto (CC) Garwood

* Barbara Dorrell (BD) Squaw Bay, CdA Lake (forest/wetland edge)

* Kathleen Guns (KG) Travino Drive, CDA

-j Theresa Potts (TP) Arrowhead Road (edge of city Ponderosa Pine/bushes/small trees)

* Lynn Sheridan (LS) 16th Street, CDA

* Jan Severtson (JS) Fairmont Loop Road, CDA

* Shirley Sturts (SS) Fernan Lake (forest, near lake)

-f Phil/Judy Waring (PW) Bancroft Ave. CDA

-f Roger Young (RY) Fernan Hill Road, CDA

The first number represents the total number of birds seen at 8 feeders on 1 date during the following 4 time periods.

The number in () is the number of feeders the bird was present at.

The initials represent the feeders that were reporting the species in order of the largest number counted. Numbers in () represents the number of feeders reporting this species.

NAME OF BIRD SPECIES	DEC.15-31	JAN.1-15	JAN.16-30	FEB.1-15
Sharp-tailed Hawk (TP)	1 (1)	-	-	-
California Quail (RY,KG,CC)	74 (3)	15 (1)	43 (2)	-
Ring-necked Pheasant (RY,KG)	2 (2)	2 (2)	3 (2)	-
Ruffed Grouse (KB,CC)	1 (1)	-	-	2 (2)
Mourning Dove (SS)	-	-	-	1 (1)
Downy Woodpecker (MB,BD,SS,KG,JS,CC)	4 (4)	5 (4)	5 (4)	7 (5)
Hairy Woodpecker (SS,BD,KB,MB,KG)	3 (2)	5 (3)	6 (4)	6 (4)
Northern Flicker (KG,MB,CC,LS,BD)	5 (4)	1 (1)	5 (3)	2 (2)
Blue Jay (CC)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)
Steller's Jay (CC,BD,LS,MB,RY)	7 (4)	10 (3)	12 (4)	15 (4)
Black-Billed Magpie (KG)	6 (1)	5 (1)	4 (1)	3 (1)
B-C Chickadee (LS,BD,MB,KB,RY,SS,PW,TP,CC)	39 (7)	38 (9)	32 (6)	19 (5)
Mt. Chickadee (KG,MB,LS,JS,TP,SS,KB,PW)	10 (5)	16 (8)	8 (4)	8 (4)
Chestnut-b Chickadee (KB,BD,JS)	5 (2)	2 (1)	1 (1)	5 (3)
Red-b Nuthatch (KB,BD,MB,JS,SS,TP,CC,LS)	15 (8)	14 (8)	10 (5)	6 (2)
White-b Nuthatch (TP)	1 (1)	-	-	-
Pygmy Nuthatch (BD,KG,SS,RY,MB,TP)	17 (5)	22 (3)	10 (3)	14 (4)
Song Sparrow (BD,LS,SS)	6 (2)	-	1 (1)	-
D-e Junco (BD,KG,MB,LS,RY,PW,SS)	34 (5)	29 (6)	66 (7)	24 (4)
House Finch (LS,RY,BD,KB,MB,KG,TP)	50 (7)	32 (5)	48 (4)	49 (5)
Pine Siskin (KB)	31 (1)	37 (1)	-	2 (1)
Red Crossbill (KB)	6 (1)	-	-	-
House Sparrow (LS,PW)	20 (1)	29 (2)	15 (1)	10 (1)
European Starling (LS)	-	10 (1)	-	-

Species (other than reported on count days) using feeders and/or water but not during count dates:

Black-capped Chickadee KG (1-2 in Dec. and Jan.), JS

Blue Jay MB (2 on Jan. 10)

Steller's Jay 5 KB on several dates

Red-winged Blackbird BD 1 male Jan. 31

FEEDER SURVEY CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Species in count area but not using water or food provided:

Canada Goose BD,LS,MB (overhead);
 Mallard and Bald Eagle BD
 Mourning Dove, Steller Jay, Am.Crow JS
 Common Raven: MB (2 residents)
 American Robin: TP (Dec. 28 & Feb. 11),
 LS (Jan.30), BD (Feb. 1), BG (11 Feb. 5)
 Townsend's Solitaire: KB, TP (Feb 4 times)
 Bohemian Waxwing: BG 12-20
 Winter Wren: TP Dec. 28

BEHAVIOR REPORTED:

—Carolyn reported that the Blue Jay always comes in with the Steller's Jays. The Steller's Jays are the more aggressive and will chase the Blue Jay away but he/she is always with them the next morning.

—Kathleen reported when it was very cold 2 finches sat in her water dish for 5-10 min. (the water dish has a warmer to keep the water from freezing). She became worried that this behavior would be harmful to them. They flew off eventually.

AUDUBON'S WATCHLIST PROGRAM

As you know, dozens of bird species are endangered as a result of alarming population declines caused by human-induced factors like habitat destruction, pesticides and invasion by non-native species. Saving species pushed to the edge of extinction is difficult, costly and politically charged. Thus citizens and conservationists require an early warning system that focuses attention on species at-risk before they become endangered - a system that shifts the agenda from reactive, last-minute rescue attempts to preventive action.

Audubon's WatchList program is a positive, non-regulatory solution with a clearly defined goal - keep birds common while they're still common. The WatchList leads the conservation community from rearguard responses to a strategy that puts citizens in the vanguard, actively setting the agenda for protecting the birds they care about. Since Audubon's leadership with the WatchList began in 1996, your advice and participation on all fronts, from scientific 'ground-truthing' to grassroots activism, has been the key to Audubon's WatchList conservation successes - for this we thank you!

This spring for the first time, Audubon will lead the WatchList agenda with newly released 'State Watchlists'. Given the greatest conservation victories today takes place locally, we are adapting the WatchLists's concept of keeping common birds common to address local concerns.

The WatchList Program has successfully given the public a picture of which birds are at-risk nationally, but it is now time to see how species are faring and which species are real priorities at the state-level. Audubon and its colleagues in Partners in Flight are working together to create state-level of focus for their educational outreach and on-the-ground conservation initiatives. State Watchlists will form the bedrock of bird conservation science at Audubon, driving action-oriented state and local conservation plans. In turn, State WatchLists will give citizens, private land managers and local bird groups the tools they need to focus their energies and resources on their local priority birds - the birds that matter to them most.

Audubon's WatchList efforts will begin on Earth Day, April 22 and continue through the spring coinciding nicely with John James Audubon's birthday on April 26 and our spring Birdathons. As the millennium comes to a close and our birds return to their spring and summer homes in North America, its time now to reflect on how the state's birdlife has deteriorated since John James Audubon walked the Earth over a century ago. The WatchList program, with its clear goal to keep common birds common, is the perfect vehicle for galvanizing action to protect birds-at-risk.

A visit to the WatchList web site:
<http://www.audubon.org/bird.watch> will keep you informed about what's new with the Watch List.



OBSERVATION POST

Observers: Janet Allen (JALL), Ed and Kris Buchler (EBUC,KBUC), Janet Callen (JCAL), Jerry Hanson (JHAN), Kathy Henderson (KHEN), Cynthia Langlitz (CLAN), Karen Lamb (KLAM), Stephen Lindsay (SLIN), Kristen Philbrook (KPHI), Theresa Potts (TPOT), George Saylor (GSAY), Lynn Sheridan (LSHE), Shirley Sturts (SSTU), Roger Young (RYOU), Barbara Zimmer (BZIM)
 RBA Rare Bird Alert for Northern Idaho - Eastern Washington -Northeastern Oregon Phone (208) 882-6195 or Internet-Web Site:
<http://pimacc.pima.edu/~cwilliamson/index.html>

1. Great Blue Heron: 12 (at nesting trees) Fernan lake March 6 (LSHE)
2. Turkey Vulture: 1 (1st spring arrival) Mica Bay, CDA Lake March 30 (SLIN)
3. Tundra Swan: 20 Hauser Lake March (KLAM); 22 flying over Rimrock Road (Hayden Lake area) March 23 (KHEN)
4. Wood Duck: 1+ Mica Bay, CDA Lake March 27 (JHAN) March 30 (SLIN)
5. Northern Pintail: 1+ Silver Beach, CDA Lake March 29 (SLIN)
6. Northern Shoveler: 25+ Silver Beach, CDA Lake March 29 (SLIN)
7. Eurasian Wigeon: 1 Cataldo slough around March 12-13 (SLIN)
8. Harlequin Duck: 1 Spokane River along the NIC Dike Road March 14 (TPOT) March 15 (SSTU,SLIN,KBUC) March 18 (PWAR,JWAR) + other observers
9. Common Goldeneye: 2-16 Fernan Lake all of March (SSTU,KBUC)
10. Bufflehead: 12-100+ Fernan Lake all of March (LSHE,SSTU,KBUC)
11. Common Merganser: 2-8 Fernan Lake all of March (SSTU,KBUC)
12. Hooded Merganser: 1 Mica Bay, CDA Lake March 27 (JHAN) March 30 (SLIN)
13. Osprey: 1 Wolf Lodge Bay, CDA Lake March 20 (GSAY) & 1 Fernan Lake March 31
14. Red-tailed Hawk: 1 Armstrong Hill, CDA March 29 (KBUC); 1 Cougar Bay, CDA Lake March 31 (KBUC,SSTU)
15. Rough-winged Hawk: 1 imm. CDA airport March 15 (there for past 3 weeks) (CLAN); 8 Hayden Lake City (Dakota Ave.)- hanging around together riding the thermals possibly starting their northern migration-March 16 (CLAN)
16. Bald Eagle: 1 Sandpoint, Pend Oreille Lake Feb.9 and 4 Clearwater River March 7 (KPHI) 2 all March Fernan Lake (KBUC) Cougar Bay (RYOU)
17. American Kestrel: 1 Mica Flats March 12 (SSTU,KBUC,BZIM,TPOT,CCAM,RYOU); 1 Mica Bay, CDA Lake March 30 (SLIN)
18. Gray Partridge: 2 Rathdrum Prairie (near Hayden) March 22 (CLAN)
19. Ruffed Grouse: 1 Armstrong Hill March 15 (KBUC)
20. Wild Turkey: 7 Armstrong Hill March 15 (KBUC)
21. Killdeer: 3-4 north of Hayden Lake (City) March 15-27 (CLAN)
22. Common Snipe: 1st heard Mica Bay, CDA Lake March 29 (JHAN)
23. California Gull: 1 Spokane River (NIC Dike Road) March 14 (TPOT)
24. Mourning Dove: 2-4 Fernan Lake feeder daily (SSTU)
25. Belted Kingfisher: 1 Fernan Lake March 23 (KBUC)
26. Hairy Woodpecker: 2 Armstrong Hill/Fernan Lake Feeders (KBUC,SSTU)
27. Downy Woodpecker: 1 feeder 16th Street CDA March 13 (LSHE)
28. Horned Lark: 12+ north of Hayden Lake(City) March 15 (CLAN)
29. Violet-Green Swallow: 3 (1st arrival) Thompson Lake March 5 (SLIN); 1st seen Armstrong Hill, CDA March 23 (KBUC)
30. Chestnut-backed Chickadee: 2 Armstrong Hill feeder, CDA March 29 (KBUC)
31. Brown Creeper: 1 Armstrong Hill, CDA March 6 (KBUC)
32. Winter Wren: 2 Cougar Bay March 31 (KBUC,SSTU)
33. American Dipper: 2 East Eagle Creek near Murray March 27 (CLAN)
34. Western Bluebird: 1 pr north of Hayden Lake (city) March 23 (CLAN); 1 Mica Bay, CDA Lake March 30 (SLIN), 1 pr Cougar Bay, CDA Lake March 30 (KBUC,RYOU)
35. Mountain Bluebird: 1 Rimrock Road (Hayden Lake) March 23 (KHEN); 1 pr. north of Hayden Lake (city) March 26 (CLAN); 2 pr Cougar Bay, CDA Lake March 30 (KBUC,RYOU)
36. Varied Thrush: 3 East Eagle Creek near Murray March 27 (CLAN); 2 Rimrock Road north of Hayden Lake March 13 (KHEN)
37. Red-winged Blackbird: 1 Ponderosa Golf Course March 14 & 1+ Fernan Lake March 16 (LSHE)
38. Spotted Towhee: 1st observed Mica Bay, CDA Lake (March 10 (JHAN); 1st Armstrong Hill feeder March 12 (KBUC); 1st at feeder Fernan Lake March 16 (SSTU); 1 Rimrock Road (Hayden Lake area) March 23 (KHEN)

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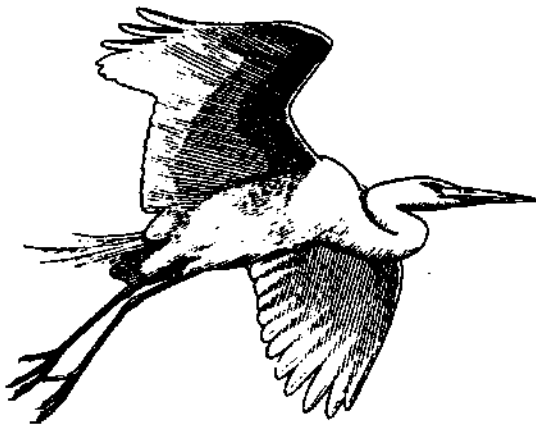
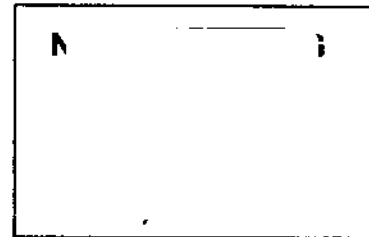
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Introductory membership is \$20.00 for individual or family. Members receive 6 issues of Audubon magazine and the chapter's local newsletter. Please make check payable to the National Audubon Society and mail to Jan Severtson, Membership Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter, P.O. Box 361, Coeur d'Aene, ID 83816

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**National Audubon Society
Coeur d'Alene Chapter
P.O. Box 361
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816**



GREAT EGRET

Ardea alba