

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society



APRIL 2000

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 7

BOARD MEETING

Date: April 3, Monday

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Home of Theresa Potts

MARCH PROGRAM

Date: April 17, Monday

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: First Presbyterian Church

521 Lakeside

Program: "Grizzly Bear of North Idaho"

Presented by Brian Johnson from the Idaho Fish and Game Department

membership that our board has never been in better working order. Take the initiative of newsletter editor Shirley Sturts. Shirley is certainly helping to move our chapter into the Twenty-first Century. In case you haven't noticed, Coeur d'Alene Audubon now has its very own Web Page! Shirley worked very hard on this project and would love to hear from you at her E-mail address if you have any thoughts or suggestions. Thanks Shirley, for keeping us current and relevant in the modern digital age!

Some of our officers have been working for Coeur d'Alene Audubon since the beginning as well. Ronn Rich has been a board member, vice president, president and treasurer. Our first organizational meeting was held in the basement of Ronn's bank. Membership secretary Jan Severtson and husband Herb have had working positions since the start. Besides serving as president and conservation chair, Mike Mihelich has always been involved in some aspect of the group and is now Idaho Audubon Council president.

Some of our officers have at least five years of service: Janet Callen has been head of fund-raising, president and currently serves as hospitality chair. Kris Buchler drove our education program and now sits shotgun as vice-president. If George Saylor hasn't been with us five years, his contributions sure make it seem so. George has moved from hospitality chair to his current position as education and library chair.

Lastly, some of our officers may not have as yet put in the long-term service of those I've already mentioned, but they are working on it! Field trip chair Bill Gundlach takes us far and wide to explore new habitats and to seek out new bird species.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Susan Weller

The key to keeping a volunteer organization functioning is to keep things moving forward. If the group of people managing the organization starts to stagnate behind the scenes it may spell doom for the working body. The people who keep the lifeblood (membership) of Coeur d'Alene Audubon flowing may be found at our monthly board of directors meeting. The initiative of our officers and board members provides for me a continual source of surprise and delight!

I have been involved with our chapter since the very beginning, and I am pleased to report to our

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Lynn Sheridan is our current secretary and it is her notes taken during board meetings that appear in the Fish Hawk Herald. Lynn also arranges one heck of a nice center-piece for our monthly membership meetings. New board members Theresa Potts and Janet Allen are dedicated volunteers whose input is invaluable to the group. If you have never perused the pages of historian Nancy Aley's Audubon scrap books, you should. I feel privileged to be surrounded by so much talent, imagination and enthusiasm. A two-hour board meeting will barely contain all of their good ideas and discussions.

By the way, some of you may be happy to welcome back an old friend from our newsletter's original masthead. Remember the flying osprey clutching the fish that once graced the front of our newsletter? An art student in NIC's graphic design program agreed to re-pen the original and scan it into the computer for us. Thank-you Jason! Tee shirts with our osprey design will soon be available.

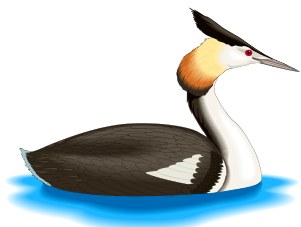
for several weeks. There was a pair of each there on Tuesday.

Kris' feeders had several visitors including one lone Ruffed Grouse, a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Cassin's Finch, Stellar Jay, Dark-eyed Junco and House Finch. Early that morning I heard a Varied Thrush and had heard a Great-horned Owl hooting the night before.

Shirley joined us and we explored some new software - Thayer's "Birds of North America." We are still learning how to use this but it is terrific. We took several of the many quizzes which include photos, video and range maps. They are arranged by many topics from favorites to regions to behavior, etc. Answers can be by multiple choice or typing a name. Sound is available. This is a wonderful resource as it has total guide information as well as an identification capability. You type in field marks and it will narrow your choices for you. There are many new products out there so let members know if you have a favorite.

BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG - MARCH 7

Kris Buchler



Threatening rain turned into sun as three of us explored the shoreline of Lake Coeur d'Alene from Silver Beach to Bennett Bay. Jan Severtson, Lynn Sheridan and Kris

Buchler found a few birds in the hour but no great numbers. Grebes were most prevalent with 4 Red-necked, 2 Pied-billed, 1 Horned and 16 Western, who were beginning to show some courting behavior. The bay in front of Tony's Restaurant hosted 4 Common Merganser and a few of the Western Grebes. A small raft of 5 Common Goldeneye floated off the point. The little pond near the entrance to the resort golf course has been home to Mallards and Buffleheads

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

SPRING ARRIVALS

Shirley Sturts

It is time to start looking for returning summer residents (of the feathered variety) and those just migrating through our area. I would appreciate your sightings of first arrival dates. Can you beat the record for early arrival? The dates include latilong 2 only (Kootenai /Shoshone/Benewah)

The median date is based on arrival dates I have collected over the past 30 years. The dates I use are the first date the bird was reported by someone. This isn't always the first arrival date but it does give us an indication as to when we should expect the species to show up in our area.

A continuation of Spring Arrival Dates from the March Newsletter

SPECIES	Median Date	Earliest Date
Nashville Warbler	May 1	April 16
Rufous Hummingbird	April 23	April 6
Flycatcher (Empidonax)	May 3	April 8
Willow Flycatcher	May 2	April 28
Calliope Hummingbird	April 23	April 12
Yellow Warbler	April 22	April 12
Sora	May 5	April 23
Solitary Vireo	May 4	April 23
Orange-crowned Warbler	May 1	April 19
Spotted Sandpiper	May 3	April 19
Vaux's Swift	May 5	April 6
Black Tern	May 13	May 7
Black-ch.. Hummingbird	May 9	April 25
Townsend's Warbler	May 3	April 20
Macgillivray's Warbler	May 6	April 15
Eastern Kingbird	May 17	May 4
Western Tanager	May 15	May 3
Black-h Grosbeak	May 13	May 7
Western Kingbird	May 20	May 8
Western Wood-Pewee	May 17	May 8
Warbling Vireo	May 13	April 16
Cordilleran Flycatcher	May 14	April 27
Swainson's Thrush	May 22	May 2
Red-eyed Vireo	May 18	April 16
Yellowthroat	May 12	May 6
Gray Catbird	May 23	April 20

APRIL FIELD TRIPS

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE: April 11, Tuesday
 TIME: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.
 MEET :

LEADER: Theresa Potts 765-0229

ACTIVITY:

XX
 XXX
 XXX

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES: April 7 and 21 Friday
 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95
 LEADERS: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318
 Kris Buchler, 664-4739

ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours twice a month counting birds in the Mica Bay area. Beginner birders are welcome to join us.

BOUNDARY CREEK WMA

DATE: April Saturday
 TIME: 6:00 a.m.

MEET: East side of Rosauer's Parking Lot
 LEADER: Susan Weller 682-3413

ACTIVITY: Pat Cole, Wildlife Biologist for the Idaho Fish will show us around this newly established wildlife preserve. We have been asked to help with finding out what bird species are using the area. Pat has nominated the area an "Important Birding Area". Certain species must be present to qualify the area for this designation. Bring a lunch, water and money for a possible restaurant stop on the way home.



**BIRD SEED FOR
SALE**

**50 LB Black Oil Sunflower
Price Reduced to \$12.00**

Niger (Thistle) \$1.50 LB

**Available at Regular Meetings
Or call Janet Callen at
664-1085**

**Price includes sales tax
All proceeds benefit
Coeur d' Alene Audubon
Society**

THE BIRD FEEDER SURVEY RESULTS

FEEDER OBSERVERS

*Reported all 4 periods -

*Marilee Benson (MB) just north of Athol
 *Kris Buchler (KB) Armstrong Hill
 Carolyn Cozzetto (3) (CC) near Garwood
 *Lisa Hardy (LH) near Kingston
 Jan Severson (2) (JS) Fairmont Loop Road
 *Shirley Sturts (SS) Fernan Lake

*Zella Bloxom (ZB) Stanley Hill
 *Elaine Coddling (EC) Stanley Hill
 *Ken Eppler (KE) near Silverwood
 *Theresa Potts (TP) Indian Meadows
 *Lynn Sheridan (LS) CDA 16th street
 *Roger Young (RY) Fernan Hill

The first number in () represents the number of feeders the bird was seen at.

The second number represents the total number of birds at those feeders.

The initials represent the observers reporting the species at their feeder. They are listed in order of the largest number of birds seen.

Bird Species	Observers	Dec. 15-31	Jan. 1-15	Jan. 16-30	Feb. 1-15	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	KB					1 (1)
Ring-necked Pheasant	TP,RY	(2) 4			(1) 2	
Ruffed Grouse	KB	(1) 1				
Wild Turkey	LH	(1) 3				
California Quail	EC,RY,ZP,,CC	(3) 90	(4) 82	(2) 69	(3) 42	
Mourning Dove	EC,SS	(2) 3	(1) 1	(2) 3	(1) 3	
Downy Woodpecker	MB,KE,LS,	(2) 4	(2) 5	(3) 6	(2) 3	
Hairy Woodpecker	EP,SS,KB,MB,EC,RY,JS	(4) 9	(4) 7	(7) 11	(5) 10	
Northern Flicker	TP,CC,ZB,KE,JS,LS	(2) 2	(2) 2	(5) 7	(2) 2	
Pileated Woodpecker	CC	(1) 2				
Steller's Jay	LH,KB	(1) 4	(2) 4	(1) 2	(1) 6	
Black-c Chickadee	ZB,LS,KE,MB,RY,LH,JS,KB,S S,CC,TP	(9) 43	(7) 30	(9) 42	(7) 30	
Mt. Chickadee	LS,RY,KE,SS,KB,MB,TP	(5) 16	(5) 9	(4) 11	(2) 3	
Chestnut-b Chickadee	JS,LH			(1) 2	(2) 5	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	CC,RY,KE,EC,ZB,MB,KB,SS, LS,JS,TP,LH	(9) 49	(8) 16	(10) 19	(8) 15	
Pygmy Nuthatch	SS,RY,TP	(2) 12	(2) 9	(3) 11		
Golden-c Kinglet	MB	(1) 6				
European Starling	LS,ZB		(1) 12	(2) 37	(2) 25	
Song Sparrow	ZB,LH,TP,SS	(2) 5	(3) 12	(4) 4	(2) 4	
Dark-e Junco (Oregon)	ZB,LS,RY,LH,TP,MB,KB,SS	(5) 38	(5) 28	(8) 58	(4) 51	
Dark-e Junco (SColored)	(KB)		(1) 1			
Cassin's Finch	EC,KB,KE	(2) 6	(3) 15		(2) 15	
House Finch	ZB,RY,MB,LS,TP,KE	(5) 76	(6) 79	(5) 56	(4) 15	
Red Crossbill	KE	(1) 4		(1) 25		
Pine Siskin	KB,ZB,RY,SS,LS,KE	(3) 25	(3) 62	(5) 151	(4) 124	
Common Redpoll	MB		(1) 12		(1) 20	
American Goldfinch	KE	(1) 9		(1) 25		

Evening Grosbeak	KB,KE,LH	(1) 1	(1) 10	(1) 95	(3) 87
House Sparrow	LS,ZB	(2) 8	(1) 2	(2) 8	
Totals	12 feeders 28 species				

SURVEY RESULTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

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Species in the count area but not using feeders or provided water

- (ZB) American Robin 27 Jan. 12, and 29, 35+ Feb. 5, Cedar Waxwing 76+ Feb. 5
Eurasian Starling 14 Feb. 5 (
- (EC) Black-billed Magpies brief stopover in pine trees
- (KE) Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 Dec.19, Common raven 4 Dec. 19 and 3 Jan. 10
Northern Pygmy Owl 1 Dec. 19, Ruffed Grouse 1 Jan. 10
- (LH) Behemian Waxwing, Townsend's Solitaire, Northern Flickier, American Robin all feeding - on the
Mountain Ash
- (TP) Black-billed Magpie 3 Jan. 16, Varied Thrush 1 Jan. 16, American Robin 2 Jan. 16
- (JS) American Robin Feb. 15 in crabapple tree
- (LS) Common Raven 1 Jan. 25, American Crow 1+ nearby all dates
- (RY) Cooper's Hawk 1 Jan. 18 and Feb. 21

Species using feeders and/or provided water but seen on count days:

- (ZB) Varied Thrush 1 Jan. 13
- (EC) Black-capped chickadees noted 9 times but not on count days
- (CC) Brown Creeper 1 Jan. 13, Evening Grosbeak 2 Jan. 14
- (KE) Northern Pygmy-Owl taking a bath Jan. 20, Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) 1 Feb. 5
- (LH) Pine Siskin 1 Jan. 23
- (TP) Pine Siskin 1 Jan. 1 and 15+ Jan. 23, Downy Woodpecker 1 Jan. 22, California Quail 1 - Jan.
23, Golden-crowned Kinglet 1 Jan. 23, Mourning Dove Jan. 25
- (JS) Mourning Dove 1 and Mountain Chickadee 2,
- (LS) Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 imm. Jan. 3
- (RY) Varied Thrush 1 Dec. 31

Comments on bird numbers and behavior :

- (ZB) "Today there were many birds in flocks of 6 or 7 species chirping and chattering and suddenly all went quiet. I looked and they were there but did not move - frozen in place. It lasted several minutes. I looked around the neighborhood for a predator but didn't see any."
- (CC) "We had many days in Dec. and Jan. that we had "not a bird" at our feeders" - last year she had lots of birds including a Blue Jay.
- (LH) "A single Song Sparrow was resident through the early winter. On January 9, I noted a second bird, somewhat thin and scruffy. The resident spent more time chasing the interloper away from the food than feeding. After a couple of weeks, I could not distinguish the two, 2nd they had reached some sort of truce. Apparently Song Sparrows that winter over remain quite territorial. "
- (LS) "Between Feb. 2 and Feb. 15 hardly had any birds, wondered if there was a hawk nearby."

