

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society
Editor: Shirley Sturts - 84615 Fernan Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 - 664-5318

DECEMBER 1994

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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)

DEC. 17 SATURDAY COEUR D'ALENE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Time: all day - check with section leader for time and meeting location. A \$5.00 fee for each participant is required. Feeder watchers are welcome please call Shirley if you are interested.

Leaders: Gertie Hanson 664-5318
Shirley Sturts 664-5318, Wallace Keck 664-4029, Pam Gontz (message phone 664-5318).

DEC. 17 SATURDAY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT POT LUCK

Time: Arrive at counts end. We hope to be sitting down to eat around 5 PM. Please come and share the days sightings and experiences with the other teams. Please come share with us even if you were not able to come out on the count.

Place: Herb and Jan Severson were kind enough to volunteer to be hosts again this year. Please call and RSVP so that they can plan seating and place settings. Phone 667-6209.

They live at 1460 Fairmont Loop.
Call for directions.

DEC. 20 TUESDAY REGULAR AND BOARD MEETING

Time: 6:30 PM Board Meeting

Time: 7:00 PM Regular meeting

Place: Iron Horse

Program: Scott Robinson from BLM will show a slide show on the Bald Eagle. We will have the drawing for the 50 lb bag of birdseed. To enter the drawing mail or bring with you the What's Up? questionnaire from the Nov. Newsletter.

**DEC. 28
INDIAN MOUNTAIN CBC**
Compiler: Don Heikkila 689-3349
If you are interested in participating call Don or one of the field leaders.
Shirley Sturts 664-5318
Area covered: Hayburn State Park and surrounding area to St. Maries
Susan Weller 1-208-682-3413
Area covered Medimont to St. Maries

JAN. 14, 1995 MIDWINTER BALD EAGLE SURVEY

Meet: Rustler's Roost Restaurant
Time: 7:00 AM Breakfast leave about 8:00

Leader: Susan Weller 1 (208) 682-3413 (call her for more information)
Members of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society are invited to participate in the 1995 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey organized by the U.S. Department of Interior. Since this is survey of Eagles we will move along at a fast pace to avoid re-counting individuals. Participants can get together after the survey is done to look for other bird species along Lake Coeur d'Alene or to spend more time viewing the Eagles.

** LOCAL CONSERVATION **

also Killdeer

By Wallace Keck, Conservation Chair

As promised, I will continue to keep members up to date on the Blackwell Island issue. I was pleased to see several take an interest in the subject at last month's meeting. We may not all agree on what we want, but at least we'll make informed decisions. On Saturday, November 19, a field trip to the Island was conducted. Scott Robinson, BLM Wildlife Biologist, was gracious enough to attend and help to answer some of our questions. Gertie Hanson, LaRene Adkinson, Shirley Sturts, Herb and Jan Severtson, and I met at 8 a.m. to walk the island, to discuss the best use of the property and possible location of a proposed boat ramp, and to list the birds. Despite the wind and pelting snow, we observed the following species: Common Raven, Northern Flicker, Pygmy Nuthatch, Red Crossbill, Mallard, Canada Goose, Bufflehead, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Common Goldeneye, Buteo sp. (probably a Red-tailed Hawk), Song Sparrow, and Ring-necked Duck. Tracks along the frozen mud flats included Great Blue Heron, White-tail Deer, and either Raccoon or River Otter. The water was low in the canals and absent from the marsh.



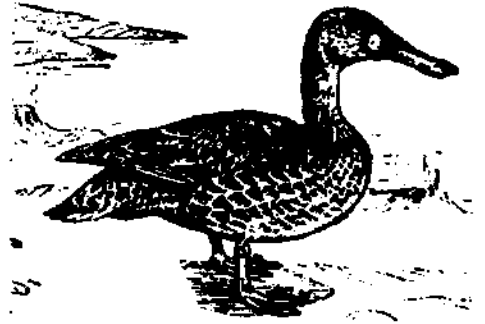
Some of the questions and concerns that should be raised at the January 10th public meeting, include:

- (1) Before rushing into development, we should reevaluate the problem of crowded boat ramps on the north end of Lake Coeur d'Alene. Does it continue to grow, or has the relatively new Higgins Point Boat Ramp relieved the pressure? Statistics would be helpful.
- (2) Vehicles towing large trailers would be turning off and onto Highway 95. This is a hazardous corner. What steps would be taken to account for safety?
- (3) If the east side of the Island is annexed into the city or zoned for a private RV park, what effects would this have on the use of a proposed boat ramp on the west side? Such development might immediately offset the purpose of the boat ramp (i.e. local users may immediately fill the void, without the ramp serving the needs of the community at large).
- (4) Dredging of the canals would be necessary for a boat ramp to allow access to the Spokane River. How might this effect spawning cutthroat trout which are known to use the canals, and how might this effect water quality?
- (5) How many boaters would be accommodated at a time (i.e. How big would the parking lot be?). How much greenspace and wildlife habitat would be lost?
- (6) Is it possible to provide a launch for non-motorized boats (canoes, kayaks, etc...), thus keeping the canals intact and impact low?
- (7) Are there larger motive at play here, such as bringing city water/sewer across the river for development in and around Cougar Bay?
- (8) Are there optional locations for a boat ramp on the north side of Lake CDA?

(LOCAL CONSERVATION CONTINUED)

I do not have the answers for these, nor will I take a stand on the issue until I have. Whether a boat ramp is constructed or not, we should go slow and be thorough in the process. Once development occurs, it is almost always forever.

As a side note, Gertie, Shirley, and I walked around the 12-acre BLM property on Cougar Bay, following the field trip. We observed grebes, numerous waterfowl, and an adult Bald Eagle. Birding in the blowing snow has got me pumped for the Christmas Bird Count. I hope you won't let the weather keep you from enjoying the wildlife of winter. See you on the 17th!

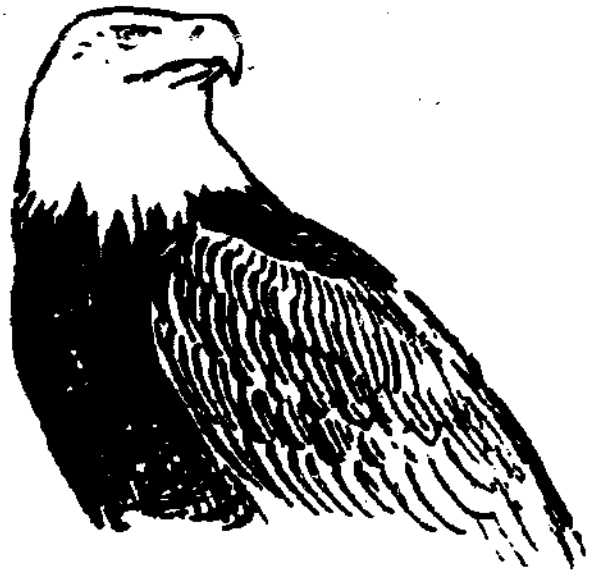


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EAGLE WATCHING TOURS OFFERED

By Wallace Keck

This year, Bald Eagles have been observed on Lake Coeur d'Alene as early as November 11, and there numbers will increase through December. To provide a unique viewing opportunity, Idaho State Parks, in cooperations with the Spokane River Queen, will be offering a series of 2-hour cruises in Wolf Lodge, Blue Creek, and Beauty Bays. Tours to observe eagles feeding on spawning Kokanee will begin at 8 a.m., November 26, December 10, and January 7. Tours to observe eagles soaring will begin at 2 p.m., December 4, 18, and January 15. Groups of 20-40 people may schedule a special tour during the peak viewing period of December 20, through January 5. Tours leaves Higgins Point Boat Ramp (I-90 Sherman Ave EXIT 15, then 5 1/2 miles south on Lake Coeur d'Alene Drive). Interpretation will be provided by Wallace Keck, Farragut State park Ranger. The Spokane River Queen has a heated lower cabin and enclosed top deck. The Queen's menu includes hot snacks and Holiday drink specialties. Tickets are \$10 per passenger and must be purchased in advance by calling (208) 765-2367. Audubon members who might be interested in serving as an assistant guide should call Wallace Keck at 664-4029 or 683-2425





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 6 - send quotes to the editor for
future newsletters)

"A nest of robins in her hair"

"Then smiling to myself I said
how like are men and birds!"

"And merry larks are ploughmen's
Clocks."

"A bird heard is as good as a bird
seen."

"You know he'd be a poorer man
If he never saw an eagle fly."

KILLARNEY LAKE FIELD TRIP

By Phil Waring

The field trip of Sunday, November 3rd was led by Ellen Scrivin. In attendance were Roger Young, Mike Blackbird, Theresa Potts, Judy and Phil Waring, Jenny Stern and Judd Calazone.

The weather was bad at the Fernan Ranger Station and turned to snow going over Fourth of July Pass. The snow continued for most of the trip but the hiking was enjoyable.

Sighted or heard were a Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Juncoes,

Great Blue Heron, Song Sparrow, Canada Geese, Black-billed Magpies, Pine Siskins, Black-capped Chickadees, a Northern Harrier, and an American Bittern

FORMER FOOTBALL STAR TEAMS UP WITH FEDERAL DUCK STAMP PROGRAM FOR 1994 ART CONTEST

This article was taken from the Audubon Forum on CompuServe

He may not be facing a 290-pound offensive guard, but former Washington Redskin Dave Butz found tackling the annual loss of 290,000 acres of wetlands equally formidable. Butz lent his weight to the wetlands conservation cause by participating in the 1994 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest sponsored by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service October 30-November 2, 1994, in Washington, DC.

The former defensive tackle served as an official contest judge for the event held annually to select the design for the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly called the Duck Stamp). Federal Duck Stamps, which cost \$15, are a required annual purchase for waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older. They are also popular among stamp collectors, wildlife artists, and others who wish to contribute to wildlife and habitat conservation.

Duck Stamps have raised nearly half a billion dollars to date, which has been used for the acquisition of 4.2 million acres of wetlands for the National Wildlife Refuge System. These areas are important habitat for waterfowl, other migratory birds, and hundreds of other plants and animals, including nearly

.....Duck Stamp Program continued

half the Nation's endangered species. Ninety-eight cents of every Duck Stamp dollar is used to acquire wetlands habitat.



"Part of the Duck Stamp program's success is due to its broad appeal," said Service Director Mollie Beattie. "While waterfowl hunters have been a major pillar of support for the program, many other Americans buy Duck Stamps as a way to directly contribute to wildlife conservation."

Duck Stamps can be purchased at most U.S. Post Offices, national wildlife refuges, and some sporting goods stores.

Created during the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s when waterfowl populations were plummeting, the Duck Stamp established the first permanent source of revenue to be used for habitat acquisition for the refuge system.

More than half of the wetland areas in the conterminous United States have been lost since Colonial times, and it is estimated that nearly 290,000 acres continue to be lost each year. About 400 species of Federally protected migratory birds depend on or frequent wetland areas. Wetlands also benefit people by recharging groundwater reservoirs, improving water quality through filtering, controlling erosion, and serving as a natural form of flood control.

Five people from the wildlife art and/or conservation community are chosen each year to serve as judges for the contest. Besides his legendary role as a Redskin, Butz participates in numerous conservation efforts and currently hosts

Suzuki's Great Outdoors on ESPN. "As an avid outdoorsman and duck decoy carver, I am proud to be a part of this great effort to conserve waterfowl and wetlands," said Butz.

Other contest judges include Geneva Barry, a philatelist and member of both the Louisiana and Alabama Ornithological Societies and the American Birding Association; Timothy Eisele, a respected outdoor writer and photographer with a strong background in ecology and waterfowl hunting, as well as a lifelong collector of Duck Stamps; Eugene German, a member of the New York Stock Exchange who has amassed a world-class Duck Stamp and art collection, and a charter life member and vice president of the National Duck Stamp Collectors Society; and Mark LaBarbara, an award-winning writer and photographer, chairman of the board of the Great Lakes Outdoor Writers Association, senior vice president of the North American Outdoor Group, and an avid collector of wildlife art.

The Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest is free and open to the public. This year, 585 designs were entered and were on display for viewing and judging in the Interior Department Lobby. In addition, Duck Stamp licensed products, including posters, T-shirts, mugs, calendars, caps, and other items featuring Duck Stamp designs were available for sale. Part of the proceeds from the sale of these products are used for wetlands acquisition.

Contest guidelines issued each year designate five species of North American waterfowl as eligible for portrayal so that all of them will eventually appear on a Duck Stamp. This year's designs depict the Canada goose, greater scaup, mallard, green-winged teal, and northern pintail. The winner of this year's duck stamp (announced Nov. 2) was Jim Hautman of Plymouth, Minn.. His winning stamp design (a pair of Mallard in flight), featured on the 1995-96 Federal Duck Stamp, will go on sale nation wide on July 1, 1995.

BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

This will be the 2nd annual local bird feeder survey. See results of last years survey in the March 1994 Fish Hawk Herold. Last year we had 7 feeder participants and 19 species of birds counted at local feeders. To participate in the feeder watch you are asked to count the birds at your feeder on four count days between Dec. 15 and Feb. 15. You are asked to spend at least one hour counting birds on the count day of your choice. I think it will be interesting to compare bird feeder populations from year to year. If you are participating Project Feeder Watch sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology you could do this one at the same time. If you are interested in participating call Shirley Sturts at 664-5318 to get survey form or pick one up at the Dec. 20th meeting.



OBSERVATION POST

Observers: Karna Boaders

(KRB), Kris Buchler (KSB), Coeur d'Alene Audubon field trip (CAS) Debbie Dumroese (DD), Kas Dumroese (KAS) Gertie Hanson (GH), John and Marty Hurst (JMH) Jack McNeel (JM), Ellen Scrivin (ES) Jan and Herb Severtson (JHS), Shirley Sturts (SHS), Dan Svingen (DNS) Faye Wright (FW)



1. Common Loon 2 Wolf Lodge Bay, CDA Lake Nov. 11 (WFK)
2. American Bittern 1 Killarney Lake Nov. 3 (CAS)
3. Cattle Egret 1 Clarkston, WA (Timothy State Park) Nov. 13 (JMH)
4. Old Squaw 1 male St. Maries sewage ponds Nov. 18 (DNS)
5. C. Goldeneye 12 Wolf Lodge Bay, CDA Lk Nov. 11 (WFK): 6+ Fernan Lk Nov.20-Dec.3(SHS)
6. Bufflehead 24 Wolf Lodge Bay, CDA Lake Nov.11 (WFK):12+ Fernan Lk Nov.2-Dec.3(SHS)
7. Ruddy Duck 1+ St. Maries Sewage Ponds Nov. 18 (DNS)
8. Northern Goshawk 1 Schweitzer Ski Basin Nov. 27 (SHS)
9. Bald Eagle 1 adult Wolf Lodge Bay CDA Lake Nov. 11 (WFK)
10. American Kestrel 1 Fernan Creek Nov. 20 (SHS)
11. Ring-necked Pheasant 1 Spokane River near Hiway 95 Nov. 13 (JHS)
13. Northern Bobwhite 2 seen in with the Quail on Stanley Hill (JM)
14. California Quail 30-76 seen all fall Stanley Hill Home (JM)
15. Glaucous Gull 1 imm Anderson Lake Nov. 18 (DNS)
16. Bonaparte's Gull 3 Anderson Lake Nov. 18 (DNS)
17. Barn Owl 1 Paradise Ridge 5 miles s. of Moscow Nov. 27 (DD)
18. Pygmy Owl 1 Fernan Lake Nov. 26 (SHS): 1 Potlatch Hill Nov. 30 (KB)
19. Blue Jay 2 Stanley Hill coming daily since 1st week of November (JM): 4 still present in Moscow (KSD)
20. Gray Jay 2 Killarney Lake Nov. 11 to present, Nov. 15 (ES)
21. Brown Creeper 1 Hayden Lake (north of) (KB: 1 Cataldo Area all fall (SW): 1 Fernan Lake Dec. 4 (SHS)
22. Western Bluebird 1 St. Maries Oct. 25 (FW)
22. Varied Thrush 1 Hayden Lake (north of city) Nov. 3: 1 Fernan lake Dec. 3 (SHS)
21. Swamp Sparrow 1 Blue Lake Road junction turning off to Anderson Lake Nov. 5 (DNS)

Answers to Quotes Quiz from page 1

Joyce Kilmet - John Greenleaf Whittier - William Shakespeare Love's Labors Lost - Roger Tory Peterson - John Denver

National Audubon Society



January
Costa Rica \$2395 from Miami Jan 5-15

February
Panama \$2195 from Miami Feb 11-19
Wolf Ecology Northern MN \$1250 Feb 11-18
Yellowstone Winter Ecology \$1250 Feb 25- March 4

March
Death Valley CA \$1150 March 4-11
Belize \$2295 from Miami March 20-27



July
Olympic Peninsula Ancient Forests \$1150 July 8-15
Venezuela: Llanos, Coast and the Andes \$2395 from Miami July 5-16

August
Mt. Ranier/Mt. St. Helens \$1150 Aug 5-12
Badlands/Black Hills \$1150 Aug 12-19
Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe \$995 Aug 19-26
Upper Mississippi River Canoe \$1095 Aug 26-Sept 2



November
Kenya: African splendor \$3195 plus air
Oct 28-Nov 13 - coast extension available

December
Amazon Rainforest Holidays Dec 23-30

note our new address!
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P.O. Box 530 Sandstone, MN 55072
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April
Big Bend TX \$1150 April 22-29

May
Southeast Arizona \$1150 May 6-13

June
Yellowstone Endangered Species \$1150 June 10-17
Yellowstone Nature Photography \$1375 June 17-25
Trinidad/Tobago \$1995 from Miami June 17-27



September
Glacier National Park \$1150 Sept 9-16
Ecology of the Wine Country CA \$ 1750 Sept 16-23
Boundary Waters Canoe \$995 Sept 16-23
Yellowstone Nature Photography \$1375 Sept 16-24

October
Yosemite/Sequoia Nature Photography \$1250 Oct 22-29
Churchill Polar Bears Photo (call for current cost) Oct 26-Nov 1
SW Canyonlands, UT \$1150 Sept 30-Oct 7



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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

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