

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society  
Editor: Shirley Sturts - 24615 Fernan Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 -  
664-5318

DECEMBER 1995

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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)

## REGULAR MEETING DAY EARLY THIS MONTH

The December meeting will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month: December 12th. We will go back to the third Tuesday for the January meeting.

### DECEMBER 12 TUESDAY REGULAR MEETING

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Idaho Fish and Game Office  
2750 Kathleen Ave.

Program: Susan Weller will present a slide program on the Birds of the Christmas Bird Count. We will also organize teams and areas to be covered on CBC day. If you are planning on being a CBC participant it is important to come to this meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting call Susan 682-3413 or Shirley 664-5318.

### DECEMBER 12 TUESDAY BIRDING WITH A BROWN-BAG

4th in a series of noon time birding

Time: 12 Noon - 1 p.m.

Meet: Corner of 23rd street and Fernan Hill Road

Leader: Roger Young 664-4179

Activity: Roger will take the group by his bird feeders on the way up Fernan Hill. Roger gets a variety of birds coming to his home on Fernan Hill including California Quail, Pygmy Nuthatch and Blue Jays (last year).

Take a break from your daily routine and go birding.

### DEC. 16 SATURDAY COEUR D'ALENE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT AND POTLUCK

Time: Count - all day

Leader: Susan Weller 682-3413,

Activity: Teams and areas will be organized at the regular meeting on Dec. 12. If you can't make the meeting call Susan 682-3413 or Shirley 664-5318. Beginning bird watchers are welcome. You can help the leaders spot birds and at the same time increase your birding knowledge. Participants in the field are asked to pay \$5.00 which goes to the National Audubon Society to publish the Christmas Bird Count results. There is no fee for feeder watchers.

### POTLUCK

Place: Herb and Jan Severtson 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

Time: Arrive at count's end. We plan to eat around 5 -5:30 p.m. 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.

### DECEMBER 30 SATURDAY INDIAN MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

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: Heyburn State Park and surrounding area to St. Maries

Susan Weller 1-208-682-3413

Area covered Medimont to Harrison

## Bird Quotes Quiz

(Bird watching inside literature)



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

(see answers on page 7

- send quotes to the editor for future newsletters)

"It's a 'Gone' bird!

"Swift as the gos turns on the wheeling hare."

"Hail to thee, blithe spirit!  
Bird thou never werst  
That from heaven or near it  
Pourest thy full heart  
In profuse strains of unpremeditated art."

"On the first day of Christmas  
My true love gave to me  
A partridge in a pear tree."

"Everyone suddenly burst out singing;  
And I was filled with such delight  
As prisoned birds must find in freedom  
Winging wildly across the white  
Orchards and dark green fields;  
On, on, and out of sight.  
Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted,  
And beauty came like the setting sun.  
My heart was shaken with tears and  
horror drifted away...

O, but everyone was a bird;  
And the song was wordless; the singing  
will never be done.:

"They that wait upon the Lord shall  
renew their strength; they shall mount  
up with wings as eagles. They shall run  
and not weary; they shall walk and not  
faint."

"Are not two sparrows sold for a  
farthing? And one of them shall not  
fall on the ground without your Father."

## THE COEUR D'ALENE BALD EAGLE WATCH WEEK DECEMBER 26 - JANUARY 1 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Scott Robinson from the BLM is looking for volunteers to help with interpretation during the week of Dec. 26 - Jan. 1 in Wolf Lodge Bay.



Spotting scopes will be set up at the Wolf Lodge Bay boat launch and in Beauty Bay. The Volunteer would keep the scopes focused on eagles in the area and would talk to the viewing public on a one-to-one basis about the eagles.

If you are interested call Scott or come into the BLM office to sign up. For more information call Scott at 769-5048 or at home 772-6874

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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

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Coeur d'Alene and Indian Mountain bird counters are among the more than 44,000 volunteers participating in the National Audubon Society 96th Christmas Bird Count, December 16-January 2.

This year marks the 96th anniversary since 27 conservationists decided to protest the traditional bird shoot, and instead of killing birds, they counted them on Christmas Day 1900. The event originated as a protest to the traditional holiday 'side hunt' in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds and animals in one day.

Today, volunteers from all 50 states, every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda, the West Indies, and Pacific islands will count and record every individual bird and bird species encountered during one calendar day. About 1700 individual Christmas Bird Counts will be held during a two and a half week period.

Each count group has a designated circle 15 miles in diameter -- about 177 square miles -- where they try to cover as much ground as possible within a 24-hour period. The Data collected by each group are then sent into National Audubon Society headquarter in New York. Count data is published in a special book-sized edition of National Audubon Society Field Notes magazine.

Apart from its attraction as social, sporting, and competitive event, the annual count reveals interesting and scientifically useful information on the early-winter distribution patterns of various bird species and the over-all health of the environment.

The Christmas Bird Count is the longest running ornithological database. As we approach the count's centennial, it continues to grow in importance as a means to monitor the status of resident and migratory bird populations across the western hemisphere. The count is 100% volunteer generated data that, over the years, has become a crucial part of

the national Biological Service's database. It is currently in jeopardy of being eliminated. At this time, Congress is considering banning the inclusion of volunteer generated data from all governmental studies and inventories.

For nearly a century, the Christmas Bird count has provided invaluable insight into the past and present status and health of continental bird populations, as well as the general health of our environment. The CBC has proved to be a perfect example of how volunteer generated data is important.

The Coeur d'Alene CBC will be held on Saturday Dec. 16 and the Indian Mountain CBC at Harrison will be held on Saturday Dec. 30. There also are CBC in Moscow, Sandpoint, Bonners Ferry and Spokane. All counts are open to birders of all skill levels. We go out in teams that cover assigned areas. At least one or more experienced birder will be with each team. It is a good way for beginner birders to improve their bird watching skill and at the same time help the team by providing an extra pair of eyes. For more information call:

### Coeur d'Alene CBC

Susan Weller (compiler) (208) 682-3413  
Judy Waring (field trip Chair) 765-5378

### Indian Mountain CBC

Don Heikkila (compiler) 689-3349  
Susan Weller (team leader) 682-3413  
Shirley Sturts (team leader) 664-5318

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### AUDUBON FACTS

Audubon House, a century-old building in New York City, is the National Headquarters of the Audubon Society. The building, purchased in 1989, was renovated by a team of scientists, engineers and architects to be environmentally and fiscally sound. Since its opening in December 1992, it has served as a model of sustainable architecture and interior design for government agencies, institutions, and businesses. They have tours of the building for the public once a week.

## BIRD FEEDER SURVEY



This will be the 3rd annual local bird feeder survey. See results of last years survey in the April 1995 Fish Hawk Herald. Last year we had 9 feeder participants and 26 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 in the 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. 12th meeting.

## HARRISON FIELD TRIP

November 25 Judy Waring (leader)

On a typical gray, overcast November day eight Auduboners headed south to see what birds might be out at this time of the year. Hoping to spot some early arriving bald eagles at Wolf Lodge Bay, we were not disappointed. Before we even got out of the cars we were treated to the sight of an eagle catching a nice fish, and others soaring overhead. It's no wonder they gather here to feed -- fish by the dozens were rolling at the surface.

It was then on to the Harrison Flats area where hundreds of waterfowl were feeding and resting, many preparing to leave for warmer winter destinations. Species were intermingled, making it an interesting challenge to pick out who was who. We returned via the White Pine

Scenic Route, picking up yet more sightings for our growing list. We summed up the day as a great success.

Birds seen and heard: N. Flicker, Raven, Crow, Kingfisher, Pygmy Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike, Bald Eagle, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Song Sparrow, N. Harrier, Magpie, Starling, House Finch, Black-capped Chickadee, Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Pied-billed Grebe, Western Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Bonaparte's Gull, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Common Loon, Ring-billed Gull, Tundra Swan, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, American, Wigeon, Great Blue Heron, Gadwall, and American Coot.

## MICA BAY SURVEY

One of our Chapter's Adopt a Wetland activities is to do a year around survey of the birds in Mica Bay. We will count birds at Mica Bay during the first and third weeks of each month. Observers on our first two counts included Kris Buchler, Cindy Langlitz, Judy Waring, Corinne Cameron, Sharon Hanson and Shirley Sturts. Anyone interested in helping with the surveys should call Shirley Sturts 664-5318.

The results of the November Surveys are as follows:

	Nov. 8	Nov. 20
Red-necked Grebe	6	1
Canada Goose	-	24
Mallard	32	6
Common Goldeneye	-	2+
Bufflehead	3	3
Hooded Merganser	-	2
Red-tailed Hawk	-	1
Ring-billed Gull	3	
Gull (species)		1
Northern Pygmy Owl	-	1
Northern Flicker	1	-
Common Raven	1	1
Black-C Chickadee	-	3
Red-b Nuthatch	-	1
Golden-c Kinglet	-	2+
Dark-eyed Junco	2	-
Song Sparrow	-	1
Finch (sp)	-	20+

## TO RAISE A SWALLOW

Part 4 of a  
series

by Susan Weller



### 18 July.

He survived his first night outside. The temperature reached 92 degrees on top of the nest box this afternoon. The swallow panted to cool himself. As I came in from his last feeding I observed a Great-Horned Owl land in the top of a Doug Fir in the yard, but I knew the swallow would be safe in his nest box.

### 19 July

Toes hanging over the nest hole today. He is 24 days old and should leave today if the literature is correct. Snapped at and missed a wee sweet bee. Between 12:30 and 1:30 my swallow left the box! I could hear him calling in the woods, but could not find him. I didn't think it wise to let him keep responding to my call, so after an hour of searching, I finally quit and went in the house. His last meal was good and hearty--lots of small tender grasshoppers and leafhoppers, and many meal worms--hope that holds him. I don't know what to expect now. Violet-green swallows are dependent upon their parents for food, but I don't know for how long. Hope he can come home if he needs to. At 4:30 pm my swallow flew over the top of me peeping, and I swear he dipped a wing to me. I don't know if I have ever felt a greater satisfaction, and the tears streamed unchecked down my cheeks. He continued to flycatch for about one hour and then went off to roost.

### 20 July

I had despaired of every seeing my swallow again until he appeared at 11:30. He was very frantic and peeping like crazy. I was afraid he was going to attract a predator before I could devise a way to feed him. He finally

landed on the phone wire leading into the house. I was able to take a four foot long stake and wire his skewer on to the end, and stand on a ladder to feed him. He only got one meal like that, because I couldn't get him to land in the same spot again. He is not too deft at landing. He quieted down after a red-tailed hawk flew over.

### 21 July

The swallow has learned to land on the extension cord I have strung under the carport. He has to make a few tries at landing, but finally makes it. He is spending about eight hours here a day. Yesterday and today I spent all eight hours with him outside, watching over him while he slept. He comes down to be fed and then flies back up to the phone lines, or in the top of the quaking aspen. The hummingbirds are giving him hell, and chase him around a lot. He fly-catches over the yard as if he wants me to see he can feed himself, then he banks off towards the hay fields and the slough.

### 22 JULY

The swallow is particularly clingy today. He wants to be fussed over and keeps landing on me instead of on the extension cord. This is not acceptable behavior for a wild bird, and he seems unable to understand why I discourage it so vehemently. I finally caught him and put him back in the nest box. I believe this is what he wanted, as he is not skilled enough to make it back into the box on his own. He chirred and slept outside the box for a few hours. Maybe he was exhausted from so much independence and wanted to just sleep in a safe place again. He stayed in the box all day, only exiting when it began to get dark.

### 23 July

Violet-green swallows flew over the house today and my bird made excited little chattering down in his throat. Later in the day one of the swallows flew down and landed next to him on the phone line. They visited for a while, but my swallow did not leave with him.

Next month will be the conclusion of this engaging swallow story.

## Audubon's Strategic Plan: Implementing Its Vision

Last June the National Audubon Society Board of Directors adopted a Strategic Plan for the organization. This Strategic Plan, which was developed in partnership with Chapter leaders, State Council members and staff, provides an exciting vision for Audubon's future. A vision where Audubon's focus is birds, wildlife and habitat. A vision that puts the emphasis on public policy advocacy and education through increased support and programs to our Chapters, State Councils and Field Offices. A vision which calls for a seamless Audubon where all parts are working together from member to chapter to national board. A vision that makes Audubon the most effective conservation organization in the country whether on a local, state, or national level. A vision that takes us back to our roots and makes us stronger.

In the plan, there are many exciting initiatives, from establishment of Audubon centers in communities to state field offices being created across the country; from increasing the reach and capacity of our technological communications to building a solid science program which will reinforce our education and grassroots advocacy campaigns. In these and other areas outlined in the plan, implementation actions must be put forward to turn the plan into a reality.

A Strategic Plan Coordination Office has been established to work with ten implementation committees to get this plan off the shelf and into budgets, staffing and programs. These changes will benefit our work on the ground for birds, wildlife and their habitat. As Audubon President John Flicker points out, "these implementation committees are where the rubber meets the road."

The following ten committees were selected based on major themes in the Plan:

1. Field Implementation Committee
2. Grassroots Implementation Committee
3. Campaigns/Issues Implementation Committee
4. Education Implementation Committee
5. Audubon Centers Implementation Committee
6. Science Implementation Committee
7. Communications Implementation Committee
8. Membership/New Revenue Implementation Committee
9. Human Resources Implementation Committee
10. Finance/Fundraising Implementation Committee

Each committee has National Audubon Society board, staff and chapter representatives. Their charge is simple - to propose specific actions to the full National Audubon Society board which will result in the successful implementation of the plan. Already, early actions have been given the green light. The first prototype field office is scheduled to be established in California this fall. New grassroots communication technologies involving computers and conference calling are being field tested in the States of Washington and New York. A new National Campaign selection process for Audubon is being developed for use prior to our 1996 convention.

Your continued involvement is key. You are invited to participate by sharing your ideas on the specific implementation issues anyone of the committees are facing. Background information on each implementation committee is available as well as progress reports on actions being recommended by contacting David Miller, Strategic Plan Coordination office, 1789 Western Ave. Albany, NY 12203; 518-869-9731/518-869-0737(fax); dmiller@audubon.org. (internet)

We hope you will join us in this exciting moment in Audubon's proud history. Help us make the vision in Audubon's Strategic Plan indeed a reality.

## OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Kris Buchler (KSB) Corinne Cameron (CC), Pam Comrie (GC), Pam Comrie (PAC), Rudy Costanzo (RC) Rich Del Carlo (RDC), Kas Dumroese (KSD) Lisa Kirchhoffer (LK) Cindy Langlitz (CL), Beth Meredith (BEM), Marge Probert Scott Robinson (STR), Ellen Scriven (ELS), Ruth Sundler (RUS) Dan Svingen (DNS), Shirley Sturts (SHS), Judy Waring (JDW), Susan Weller (SW)

RBR Rare Bird Report for Northern Idaho - Eastern Washington - Northeastern Oregon Phone (208) 882-6195

or Internet-Web Site:

<http://pimacc.pima.edu/~cwilliamson/index.html>

1. Common Loon 1 adult with 2 immature Clark Fork Delta Aug. 30 (PC,DH); 1 Medicine lake Oct. 23 (ELS); a few Cottonwood Point along the southern end of Lake CDA Nov. 10 (DNS)
2. Tundra Swan 10 Coeur d'Alene WMA north of Harrison Nov. 10 (DNS,KSD); 2 Wolf Lodge Bay, CDA Lake Nov. 15 (BEM)
3. Redhead 2000-3000 Pend Oreille River between Priest River and Sandpoint (GC,PAC)
4. Greater Scaup 14 Cottonwood Point - southern end of lake CDA Nov. 10 (DNS,KSD)
5. Barrow's Goldeneye 6 Buttonhook Bay, Pend Oreille Lake Nov. 14 (CL); 3 St. Maries Sewage Ponds (DNS,KSD)
6. Hooded Merganser 6 Wolf Lodge Bay, CDA Lake Nov. 15 (CC)
7. Turkey Vulture 1 Sandpoint Area (Dover) Aug. 19 (MP)
8. Rough-legged Hawk 1 Rathdrum Prairie Nov. 19 (GC,CAM)
9. Bald Eagle 2 Wolf Lodge Bay, CDA Lake Nov. 14 (CC,SR); 2 Kootenai NWR Nov. 19 (GC,PAC); 2 Heyburn State Park Nov. 16 (LK)
10. Northern Harrier 1 Rathdrum Prairie Nov. 19 (GC,PAC)
11. Merlin 1 North of Kootenai NWR mid September (RDC)
12. Peregrine Falcon 1 mid Sept. Paradise Valley s.e. of Bonners Ferry (RDC)
13. Bonaparte's Gull 1 St. Maries Sewage Ponds and 8 Coeur d'Alene WMA north of Harrison Nov. 10 (DNS,KSD)
14. Northern Pygmy Owl 1 Kootenai NWR Nov. 19 (GC,PAC)
15. Pileated Woodpecker 2 Mineral Ridge Nov. 20 (JDW,FW)
16. Belted Kingfisher 2 Wolf Lodge Bay, CDA Lake Nov. 15 (CC)
17. Solitary Vireo Sandpoint area (Dover) Sept. 19 (MP)
18. Mountain Bluebird 1 Farragut State Park Nov. 6 (CL)
19. Brown Creeper 2 Smith Lake north of Bonners Ferry Nov. 19 (GC,PAC)
20. Winter Wren 1 Sandpoint area (Dover) Oct. 14 (MP)
21. Marsh Wren 2 Plummer Creek Marsh in Heyburn State Park Nov. 10 (DNS,KSD)
22. Northern Shrike 1 north of Sandpoint and 2 north of Bonners Ferry Nov. 19 (GC,PAC); 2 Coeur d'Alene WMA north of Harrison Nov. 10 (DNS,KSD)
23. White-throated Sparrow 4 Kootenai NWR Sept. 15 in with several White-crowned and Fox Sparrows (RDC)
24. House Finch 1 with white head seen at two feeders west of Hayden Lake (City) in October (RS) and on Nov. 13 (RUS) and on Potlatch Hill Nov. 27 (KSB)
25. Cassin's Finch 4 Cataldo area Nov. 25 (SHS)
26. American Goldfinch 1 Cataldo area Nov. 25 (SHS)
27. Snow Bunting 11 Cataldo area Nov. 9 (SW)

Answers to Quotes Quiz from page 2

Syd Tubbs (when he misses a sighting) - Robert Burns - Percy Bysshe Shelley - English Carol - Siegfried Sassoon - Isaiah 40:30 - Matthew 10:29

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

