

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society

Editor: Shirley Sturts - E4616 Farnam Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 664-5318

DECEMBER 1988

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FIELD TRIPS



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)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

*****Notice*****

The regular meeting is one week earlier than usual.

DECEMBER 14 MONDAY REGULAR MEETING: A CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Time: 6:30 p.m. Social Time
7:00 p.m. Meeting

Place: First Presbyterian Church, 521 Lakeside Ave. (Annex building)

Program: The Endangered Species Act was signed into law by President Nixon on December 28, 1973. Susan Weller will present a program about the history and the future of the ESA. We will also plan for the Christmas Bird Count which takes place on Sunday December, 20.

DECEMBER 15 TUESDAY - FIRST DAY OF THE 6TH ANNUAL FEEDER WATCH FOR NORTH IDAHO

We're looking for new participants. For a survey form or for more information call Shirley Sturts 664-5318 - forms will be available at the December meeting. If you are doing the Cornell Feeder Watch, you use the same day.

DECEMBER 7 MONDAY AND DECEMBER 18 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 are welcome. One of the ways to improve our birding expertise (on all levels) is to share our hobby with others.

NOVEMBER 15 TUESDAY BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

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

Meet: NIC Dike Rd. North end corner of Rosenberry Drive and River Ave.

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Activity: We will walk along the dike and beach to look for wintering birds.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Sunday - December 20, Coeur d'Alene D'Alene

Compiler: Susan Weller 682-3413

Sunday - December 27 Indian Mountain

Compiler: Don Heikkila 689-3347

Organizer: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Sunday - January 3 Spirit Lake

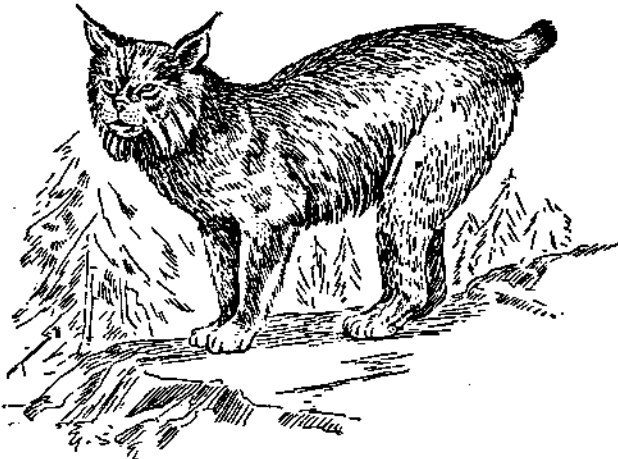
Compiler: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

If you are interested in participating in any of the above Christmas Bird Counts sign up at the December 14 meeting or call either Susan Weller or Shirley Sturts for information and sign up. Birders of all abilities are welcome. Beginners learn identification skills and at the same time help the team locate and count birds.

A \$5.00 fee is charged of each participant for each count in which one takes part. The money is used to defray the National Audubon Society's costs for editing and publishing results. There is no fee for feeder watcher participants.

A DARWINIAN DISCUSSION ON LYNX, SYMBIOSIS, AND THE ESA

by Susan Weller



Mr. SOBERSIDES

Long side whiskers make the Canadian Lynx look solemn and old-fashioned. Despite its name, it is also found in the United States, usually in the northern evergreen forests. The animal's broad feet and strong legs enable it to tread on snowy terrain. Lynx fur - grayish brown with white spots - is in demand in the fur trade because of its long, soft, feather-light hair. Man takes a greater toll of the lynx than does any of its natural enemies.

A meeting was held recently in Coeur d'Alene by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to accept public comment about listing of the Canada lynx as a threatened species. Even Charles Darwin would have felt compelled to roll his eyes as members of a supposedly modern and well-educated society flippantly and arrogantly misused snippets out of Origin of Species to defend man's steamroller ascent to the top of the food chain. As if the mindless destruction of habitat and the subsequent disappearance of legions of our fellow creatures were the results of man simply following the better angels of his nature. I wondered if Darwin would be amazed that we had advanced no farther as a species than when he was publically derided for presenting his theories suggesting that humans were somehow related to chimpanzees.

One knuckle-dragging fellow representing a "sportsman's" group suggested that as the preeminent species on planet earth we have a right to recreate and ride our motor vehicles when and where we want. He went on to suggest that our expansionist and destructive tendencies are examples of Darwin's "Survival of the Fittest" in action! Simplistically, it is possible to view humankind as a mere parasite upon the planet. While the argument seems sound—that we are just following our instincts to act Hun-like toward the natural world—there is one hitch: we humans have something (we assume) no other creature is in possession of, consciousness.

Humans have the conscious choice to live in harmony with and to do no harm to our fellow creatures and the habitats upon which they depend. I'd rather not have my species characterized as a parasite, but the label is apt. In the modern world, we may be the only living organisms guided by a conscience rather than by our empty bellies or our need to procreate, but we don't always listen to the good angel sitting on our shoulders. Perhaps evolution hasn't yet caught up with homo sapiens. Maybe genetically, we still think there is a saber toothed tiger waiting to pounce. There are a number of strategies to avoid close contact with predators known to attack humans or our pets. Every time we bring Fido in before dark we are practicing a survival strategy. Every time we keep a clean camp we are practicing a survival strategy. Let's explore the strategies that all living creatures employ and look at symbiosis, or the different relationships between living organisms.

In nature, all relationships are symbiotic, or, modes of living in which two or more organisms of different species live in intimate association with one another. Symbiosis breaks down further into mutualism, commensalism, and parasitism. In an ideal world, organisms live in intimate association with one another to the benefit of both, or mutualism. A lamprey's relationship to a shark is an example of mutualism, the lamprey gets stray bits of food from the shark's meals, and the shark enjoys nice clean skin from the lamprey. Another example of mutualism is the beneficial bacteria that live in our intestines and aid food digestion.

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A DARWINISM DISCUSSION...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

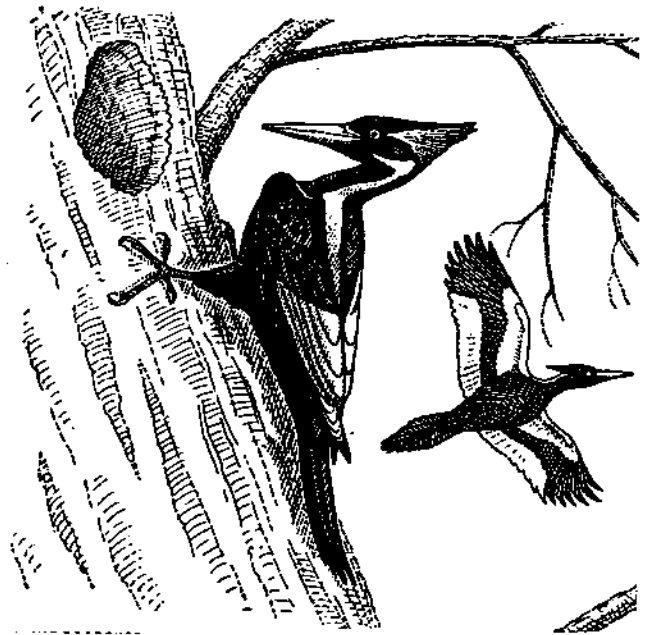
In commensalism, one of the organisms profits, while the other is neither harmed nor helped. Orchids in tropical rain forests affix themselves to host trees to gain structural support plus a trellis to help them reach the sun. Because the orchid is helped and the tree is neither harmed nor helped, the relationship is commensalism.

Finally, there is parasitism. A parasite lives on or in another organism of a different species and obtains nutriment from it, often at the expense of the host species. A parasite may simply give nothing back to its host, or it may make its host seriously—even fatally—ill. Under the scrutiny of the universe, mankind has all the characteristics of a parasite. Our relationship with the natural world is one in which we benefit while habitat and wildlife are harmed. A successful parasite would not endure along the evolutionary path if it always killed its host.

One might argue that on the scale of evolutionary time it hasn't yet been determined whether or not humans will be a successful species.

Many believe the only way to achieve longevity for our species—a fundamental goal of all living organisms—is to live in careful mutualism with other species. As far as humans know, we are the only species given the ability to consciously practice any of the three symbioses. That sort of free will might tempt a person to ignore ethical considerations for other living things in favor of short-term profit. The ESA was enacted to ensure a legacy of wild lands and wildlife for our children, grand-children, and beyond.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 states: "Congress finds and declares that—(1) various species of fish, wildlife, and plants in the United States have been rendered extinct as a consequence of economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation." Logging, road-building, and off-road motorized vehicles all represent the symptoms of "economic growth and development." The impacts

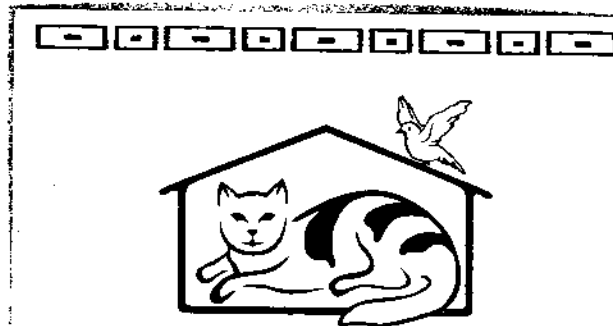


IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER

Audubon's "King of the Woodpeckers" lived in the wet bottomlands of the virgin forests in southeastern United States. They went extinct after the last of the old forests with their dead and dying trees were cleared for agriculture along the Tensas River in Louisiana in 1948.

upon Canada lynx and other life forms utilizing their habitat are caused by our lack of "adequate concern and conservation." The stated purposes of the ESA are "to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved." In a way, we, the people, have legislated ourselves to live in mutualism with other creatures.

The process of ESA listing for the Canada lynx is a conscious and deliberate act on our part. We need to live consciously, and to listen to the voice of our conscience. We have the power to conserve, we are not helpless puppets in the evolutionary game. Maybe Darwin hoped that our intellect and our hearts would teach us how to survive long term. From my point of view, the majority of people at the aforementioned public meeting were in favor of ESA listing for the Canada lynx. Hmm, maybe we're evolving after all.



CATS INDOORS!

THE CAMPAIGN FOR SAFER BIRDS & CATS

This campaign was initiated by the American Bird Conservancy ABC but it belongs to all individuals and groups who want to address this issue. (Address/phone/e-mail see Oct. Newsletter)

Our newsletter will be featuring reprints of articles from the educational kit they have developed.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OUTDOOR CAT A HAPPY INDOOR CAT

Although it takes patience, an outdoor cat can be turned into a perfectly content indoor pet. The key is to make the conversion gradually and provide lots of attention and stimulation while the cat is indoors.

Cats are creatures of habit, so you must be careful to slowly replace your cat's old routine of going outside with the new routine of staying in. If your cat is outdoors most of the time, bring your cat inside for increasingly longer stays. Gradually shorten the length of time the cat is outside until you no longer let him or her out at all.

Substitute outside excursions with periods of special play time. Supervised trips out on the patio can also make the transition from outside to inside a little easier. Cats need human companionship to be happy, and when they spend all their time out of doors, they get very little attention. An outdoor cat may welcome the indoors if he or she gets more love, attention, and play.

Provide plenty to keep your cat occupied indoors. Provide your cat with secure cat condos which offer acceptable and interesting places to lounge, play and scratch. You should also provide scratching posts, corrugated cardboard or sisal rope for you cat to scratch and praise your cat for using them.

To encourage your ex-outdoor cat to exercise, offer interesting toys, especially those that are interactive. These usually consist of a long pole and attached line with fabric or feathers at the end of the line. Some cats enjoy searching for toys. If your cat likes to explore the house looking for "prey," hide his toys in various places so he can find them throughout the day. Be sure that the toys are not so small that they can be swallowed or get stuck in your cat's throat. Cats also enjoy ping pong balls, paper bags and cardboard boxes.

Provide your cat with fresh greens. You can buy kits that include containers and seeds to grow, or plant pesticide-free alfalfa, grass, bird seed, or catnip in your own container. This way, your cat can graze safely and not destroy your house plants.

Your geographic location may affect your schedule of change; choose a good time of year to bring the cat indoors. In many parts of the country, the easiest time of year to make this conversion is prior to the cold winter months when your cat is more likely to want to be inside anyway. By the end of winter, your cat may be completely content to remain inside.

If your cat remains stubbornly committed to life outdoors, help her adjust by providing an outdoor covered enclosure or run that the cat can access through a window or pet door. Such a facility gives the cat some of the advantages of being outside while minimizing the dangers. You can make the outdoor enclosure interesting and appealing by adding objects for the cat to explore, such as tree limbs, multilevel cat condos, tires, toys hanging from branches, and boxes in which the cat can curl up or hide.

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....Outdoor Cat a Happy Indoor Cat

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If you cannot or prefer not to offer your cat a run or enclosure, consider leash-training the cat so you can supervise her time outside. Attach the leash to a harness. Your cat may resist leash-training at first, but she will eventually accept the leash. Never leave your cat outside unsupervised while on a leash or lead.

Some cats may develop behavioral problems when they are no longer allowed outside. Most of these problems can be attributed to a change in routine that is too abrupt or lack of attention and stimulation inside. Review your steps and keep working with the cat. Be patient and continue to praise your cat when she plays with her toys, uses her scratching post, and does what she's supposed to do. If your cat becomes destructive or stops using the litter pan, consult a veterinarian or animal behaviorist to find ways to solve the problem. Remember that these symptoms can also be attributed to boredom and loneliness.

If you have just adopted a cat that stayed outdoors all the time, you should keep the cat inside from the beginning; otherwise, you run the risk of losing your cat. Using a long-range water pistol or a shake can when the cat asks to be let out is a very successful and harmless way to curb a cat from wanting to go outside. And don't forget to give your cat extra attention during the transition!

Additional Tips for a Happy Indoor Cat:

✓ Trim your cat's claws every one or two weeks to keep him from damaging furniture, rugs and drapes, or glue on artificial nail caps called "Soft Paws" every six to eight weeks.

✓ Provide one litter pan per cat and scoop the litter pan at least once daily. With non-lumping litter, change once or twice weekly; with clumping litter, change every two to four weeks.

✓ Many cats enjoy the companionship of another cat or compatible dog of the opposite sex. If you can make the financial and emotional commitment, consider adopting another companion animal for yourself and for your cat.

FISH HAWK FOCUS "CHAPTER PHOTO ALBUM"

Created for the Coeur d'Alene Audubon "Family", a photo album which highlights our activities is now available for reviewing (and sharing with newcomers) at our monthly meetings. Did you drive south with the birders to visit the Snake River Birds of Prey Area several years ago? Perhaps you joined us in Montana at the Bison Range NWR last spring?

If so, your smiling face may be included with the snapshots of these and other activities.

Historian, Nancy Aley will continue to add to this album with your helpful contributions of photos and news articles. (Just slip them into the empty back pages). Although she left in October to spend the winter birding in Arizona, Nancy promises to return in the spring and continue working with this project.

Nancy is very creative and produced an album that is interesting and enjoyable to browse through. Come early to the next meeting so you have some time to explore a little Audubon Chapter history. When Nancy returns along with the spring migrants be sure to let her know how much her work is appreciated.

Education Report

Susan Weller was the guest of Lake City Junior Academy. Ten fifth graders in Kim Fisher's class learned about "Migration".

Lake City High School teacher Pam Gomes is again offering the Advanced Biology/Forestry Class. Kris Buchler presented a program on "Forest Birds". This year the students did some research on ten prevalent species and then concentrated on bird calls and some songs of those birds they most often encounter on their plots. They were also introduced to those species that will return for nesting in the spring.

BROWN BAG BIRDING

Barbara Zimmer, Janet Allen, Lynn Sheridan and Roger Young accompanied Kris Buchler to Wolf Lodge Bay Tuesday, November 17. Our target species was the Bald Eagle and 5 were spotted. Especially enjoyable was a pair who loudly communicated from their lofty perch above the road.

Bufflehead(56) and Canada Geese(220+) shared the bay with a flotilla of 17 Common Loon, 14 Red-necked Grebe, 75 Mallard, 8 Common Goldeneye, 2 male Common Merganser, 11 Ring-billed Gull and 1 California Gull. A Pileated Woodpecker was spotted in the conifers and Roger saw 2 Red-tailed Hawks in snags near the marsh. On our way out we saw a Belted Kingfisher there. About 25 more Mallards were in Beauty Bay along with 2 more Red-necked Grebes. It was a pretty good day for waterfowl but we failed to catch sight of the elusive Red-throated Loon first spotted by Corinne Cameron earlier in the month.

SANDPOINT CITY BEACH & ODEN BAY

Sunday Nov. 22, 1998 Cynthia Langlitz, leader

This time of year a field trip can be a very wet and cold experience, but on Sunday morning only clouds and breezes greeted us as we headed north to Sandpoint. We did get rained on now and then but had a rewarding day.

First we stopped at Cocolalla to scan the lake for waterfowl. We counted 12 Common Goldeneye, 6 Bufflehead, some geese sp. and a Bald Eagle.

Next we stopped at the B.P. station just across the Long Bridge and then the City Beach. We counted 20+ Ring-billed Gull, 3 Herring Gull, 1 Killdeer, 30+ Northern Pintail, 12+ Green-winged Teal, 30+ Canada Goose, 12+ Bufflehead, 10 Northern Shoveler, 30 American Wigeon, 50+ Mallard, 50+ Common Merganser, 20+ Western Grebe, 2000 or so American Coot, 1 Bald Eagle, 2 Hooded Merganser, 3 Red-necked Grebe and 3 Lesser Scaup.

After lunch we traveled to Oden Bay, where we encountered 50+ Tundra Swan, 3 Bald Eagle, 12+ Northern Shoveler, many

Mallard, 250 Northern Pintail, 50+ Canada Goose, another 1000 or so American Coot, 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 5 Ring-necked Duck, several Redhead, 1 Common Raven, 30 Bufflehead, 8 Hooded Merganser, 1 Great Blue Heron, a Muskrat, 4 Red-necked Grebe, 1 Northern Flicker, 6 black-capped Chickadee, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 50 Bohemian Waxwing and last but not least - a Red-breasted Merganser. The Red-breasted Merganser was a real coup for myself - it being a life bird for me.

Field trips are very rewarding and educational for new birders as well as experienced birders. Please join us soon on one of the many scheduled throughout the year.

MICA BAY SURVEY

Participants: Kris Buchler, Jerry Hanson, Roberta Larson, Jan Severson, Shirley Sturts, Roger Young

Weather: Nov. 12 Cloudy

Nov. 24 cloudy with strong winds.

Species	Nov. 12	Nov. 24
Pied-billed Grebe	4	1
Red-necked Grebe	4	4
Great Blue Heron	2	-
Canada Goose	36	-
Mallard	25	55
American Wigeon	22	-
Common Goldeneye	20	-
Bufflehead	6	7
Hooded Merganser	2	-
Common Merganser	1	3
Bald Eagle	-	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1	1
Wild Turkey	12	17
Ring-billed Gull	13	3
Belted Kingfisher	2	1
Downy Woodpecker	1 M	1 F
Hairy Woodpecker	1	-
Common Raven	1	1
Black-billed Magpie	1	3
Black-C Chickadee	2	9
Mountain Chickadee	-	1
Chestnut-b Chickadee	-	1
Red-b Nuthatch	3	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	3
American Robin	3	1
Varied Thrush	-	1
Song Sparrow	5	1
Evening Grosbeak	-	1

OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Janet ALLan (JALL), ED and Kris Buchler (EBUC, KBUC), Deb Beutler (DBEU), Corrine Cameron (CCAM), Jerry and Sharon Hanson (JHAN,SHAN), Leslie Johnson (LJON), Cynthia Langlitz (CLAN), Roberta Larson (RLAR), Tina Pinzotti (TPIN), Theresa Potts (TPOT), Jan Rubero (JRUB), George Saylor (GSAY), Jan and Herb Sevartson (JSEV,HSEV), Lynn Shendan (LSHE), Shirley Sturts (SSTU), Judy Waring (JWAR), John Weber (JWEB), Susan Weller (SWEL), Barbara and Dave Zimmer (BZIM,DZIM), Inez Zimmerman (IZIM)
 RBA Rare Bird Alert for Northern Idaho - Eastern Washington -Northeastern Oregon Phone (208) 882-8195 or Internet-Web Site: <http://pimacc.pima.edu/~cwilliamson/index.html>

1. Common Loon 7 Fernan Lake and 25+ Coeur d'Alene Lake (North Lake Drive) Nov.21 (CCAM), 19-20 Silver Beach first week in Nov.(EBUC,KBUC,BZIM,DZIM), 3 Chatcolet Lake Nov. 7 (DBEU), 19 Wolf Lodge Bay, CDA Lake Nov. 8 (CLAN)
2. Red-throated Loon 1 (still in breeding plumage) Wolf Lodge Bay, Coeur d'Alene Lake Nov. 6 (CCAM), Nov. 7 (KBUC, JRUB), Nov. 8 (CLAN)
3. Western Grebe 2 Cougar Bay, CDA Lake Nov. 1-12 (RLAR), 20 Chatcolet Lake Nov. 7 (DBEU)
4. Horned Grebe 3 Wolf Lodge Bay Nov. 12 (CCAM)
5. Northern Pintail 4 Thompson Lake Nov. 8 (CCAM), 1+ Chatcolet Lake Nov. 7 (DBEU)
6. Gadwall 20 Thompson Lake Nov. 7 (DBEU)
7. Bufflehead 40-60+ Fernan Lake all Nov. (CCAM,SSTU,LSHE)
8. Hooded Merganser 10 Nov.7 (DBEU) & 50+ Thompson Lake Nov.12 and 1 pr.Wolf Lodge Bay, Coeur d'Alene Lake Nov. 11 (CCAM)
9. Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 Arrowhead Road, CDA Nov. 14 (TPOT)
10. Rough-legged Hawk 1st fall sighting near Gerwood, Oct. 26 (SSTU,JWAR,KBUC), 1 Harrison Flats Nov. 8 (CCAM), 4 Rathdrum Prairie Nov. 9 (CLAN), 1 Farragut S.P. Nov. 27 (EBUC)
11. American Kestrel 1 Hayden (Prairie Ave.) Nov. 7 (CLAN)
12. Wild Turkey flock coming to yards Cataldo (SWEL), Armstrong Hill (KBUC), Mica Bay (JHAN,SHAN)
13. Bonaparte's Gull 1 Thompson Lake Nov. 7 (DBEU)
14. Great Horned Owl 1 Rimrock area (north of Hayden Lake) Oct. 31, (CLAN)
15. N.Pygmy-Owl 1 Hauser Lake Oct.14-28 (LJON), 1 Armstrong Hill, CDA all Nov.(KBUC), 1 North Lake Drive, CDA Nov. 5 (CCAM), 1 Rimrock Area North of Hayden lake Oct.31 (CLAN),
16. Belted Kingfisher 1 Fernan Lake Nov. 6 (BZIM,DZIM)
17. Mourning Dove 1-2 coming to feeders (SSTU,JSEV)
18. Downy and Hairy Woodpecker at several feeders (SSTU,KBUC,TPOT,LSHE,JALL)
19. Northern Flicker 3 Dalton Gardens Oct. 29 (JALL), 1 at feeder N.16th Street, CDA (LSHE), 1 Armstrong Hill Nov. 6 (KBUC)
20. Gray Jay 1 Hauser Lake Oct. 31 (JALL)
21. Steller's Jay 1-6 at area feeders (LSHE,BZIM,KBUC,JALL,LJON)
22. Blue Jay 1 Killarney Lake Oct. 24-25 (TPIN), 1 Vista Drive, CDA Oct. 27, (JWEB), 3 16th Street, CDA Nov. 19 (IZIM),
23. Clark's Nutcracker 1 Thompson Lake Nov. 7 (DBEU)
24. Chestnut-backed Chickadee 1+ coming to area feeders (SWEL,KBUC,JSEV)
25. Pygmy Nuthatch 10-16 coming to feeders (SSTU,GSAY,BZIM,DZIM)
26. White-b. Nuthatch 1 Arrowhead, CDA Oct. 27 & 29 (TPOT), 2 Hauser Lake Oct. 14-28 (LJON)
27. Brown Creeper 1 Fairmont Loop Rd (CDA) Nov. 25 (HSEV,JSEV), 1 & 2 Arrowhead Road,CDA Nov. 9 & 12 (TPOT)
28. Winter Wren 1 Arrowhead Road, CDA Nov. 6 & 16 (TPOT), 1 Fairmont Loop Rd. Nov. 7 (JSEV)
29. Bohemian Waxwing 100+ N.16th Street, CDA (LSHE)
30. Western Meadowlark 1 Rathdrum Prairie Nov. 16 (CLAN)
31. Pine Siskin 5-35+ coming into feeder Armstrong Hill (KBUC)
32. Am.Goldfinch 20+ daily Dalton Gardens Nov. (JALL), 6 Armstrong Hill, CDA Nov. 5 (KBUC)

 "We need the tonic of the wildness - to wade sometimes in marshes where the Bittern and the Meadow Hen lurk, and hear the booming of the Snipe.... we can never have enough of nature."

- Henry David Thoreau-

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member in the National Audubon Society and my local chapter, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter (Chapter Code GO67XCH8).

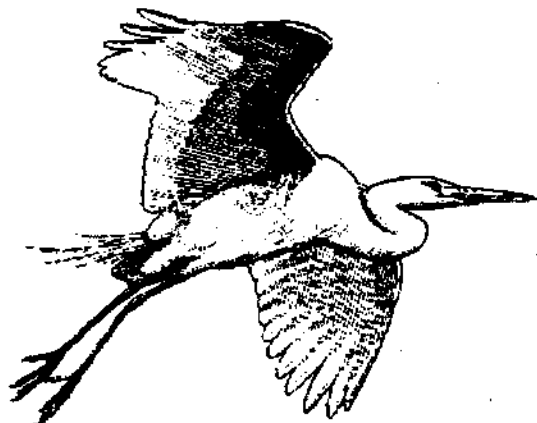
Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

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'Alene, ID 83816

Subscription to the The Fish Hawk Herald newsletter only is \$10.00. Please make checks payable to the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter and mail to Jan Severtson, Membership Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter, 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



GREAT EGRET
Ardea alba

