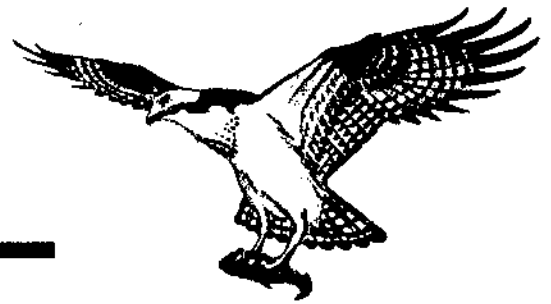


# The Fish Hawk Herald



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society

Pam Gontz, Editor  
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February 1991

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## CALENDAR CHECK! --

- February 20, 1991 7 p.m. The February meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 20th, at 7 p.m., in the basement of the Security Pacific Bank in Hayden Lake. Brad Compton of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game will present a program on his work with the Woodland Caribou. Brad has been working with Idaho's caribou herd for about one and one-half years, and he has an excellent slide presentation entitled Selkirk Mountains Woodland Caribou Transplant.
- February 23, 1991 8 a.m. Birding Wolf Lodge Bay Field Trip -- we will meet at Rosauer's parking lot (southwest corner) at 8 a.m. We will bird the Wolf Lodge Bay area and other bays along Coeur d'Alene Lake, depending on the weather and roads. Some hard core birder's such as I may even wander down towards Harrison and St. Maries. Wear layers, bring your field guides, binoculars, and a sack lunch -- we may end up in St. Maries. Field trip leader: Pam Gontz, 765-1115.
- March 19, 1991 7 p.m. At our March meeting [yes, Tuesday, March 19th is the correct day!] Wayne Wakkinen, Wildlife Research Biologist for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game will present a program on Grizzlies of the Selkirks. More information will be included in the March newsletter.
- May 18, 1991 Clark Fork Enrichment Series class - For Bird Lover's Only. (all day class) Fee - \$10.00

For a brochure on the Clark Fork Enrichment Series classes write to: Clark Fork Field Campus, Box 87, Clark Fork, ID 83811.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE --

Contributions to the newsletter in the form of articles, book reviews, etc. are welcome! The deadline for the next newsletter is March 1st. All submissions should be in the hands of the editor by that date so that there is sufficient time to do the necessary typing, copying, and collating.

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS --

We are tentatively planning a field trip to the Creston Wildlife Refuge in March and a field trip to a wetland area south of Wallace for April. More details to follow as soon as plans are firmed up.

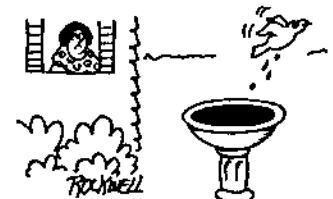
PREVENTING DISEASE AT YOUR FEEDER --

When you establish a feeding station, large numbers of birds gather in one spot, and species that don't normally associate with each other have contact. This increases the opportunity for disease to be transmitted between species. During the winter months the probability of disease increases as birds are stressed and therefore more susceptible to disease.

The most common diseases associated with bird feeders are salmonellosis, avian pox, and mycotic (mold-caused) diseases. The key to preventing these diseases at your feeding station would be to keep areas free of possibly infected feces and moldy food.

Take a few simple steps to protect birds at your feeder and birdbath --

1. Platform feeders or other types in which birds are standing in food they're eating, should be cleaned regularly, perhaps every three to five days. These feeders make it very easy for birds to ingest food contaminated by infected feces.
2. Feeders such as the tubular type that hang from a pole, hook, or other support, require birds to perch away from the food and prevent bird feces from accumulating in the food.
3. Use feeders that are made of impervious material such as plastic, metal, or sealed wood, which can be washed easily. Porous surfaces are difficult to clean, allowing survival of disease agents such as bacteria, viruses, and parasite eggs.
4. Clean the feeder with a 5 percent bleach solution at regular intervals. Clean the perches around the feeding holes and anywhere where the birds are standing or putting their heads. Make sure there are no ragged edges on the feeder. If a perch or feeder hole is rough and scratches a pox lesion, the pox virus will be waiting for the next bird. To protect against wet, moldy food, throw away uneaten food every time you clean the feeder. Birds can inhale mold spores which clog their lungs and air sacs.
5. Regularly clean the area on the ground beneath the feeder. Removing the spilled food and feces under the feeder prevents both contact with infected feces and growth of mold on wet seeds.
6. Buy quality feed that you are sure is not contaminated with rodent feces and is not damp or moldy. Store the dry feed in a rodent-proof, water-proof container.
7. Clean and disinfect your birdbath regularly. Provide fresh water frequently.



FEATHERED FACTS --

An incident not far from our feeders prompted me to find out all I could about the Northern Shrike. As I was driving down our road I noticed two birds fluttering down to the ground together. Then the larger bird flew off with the smaller bird, landed in a nearby tree for a few seconds and then took off again. I took note of all the details I could about the larger bird and they match quite well with the Northern Shrike.

## Characteristics of the Northern Shrike -

1. robin-sized bird,
2. large head with broken black mask,
3. heavy hooked bill with fringed white feathering above bill,
4. gray back, barred white breast,
5. dark, white-edged wings and tail,
6. pursues insects, small birds, and rodents,
7. may hover over prey or pounce rapidly,
8. often perches high in tall trees.



Northern Shrike

Nests are usually in spruce, occasionally in shrubs. They are bulky and symmetrical and made of twigs, matted grass, inner bark, moss, feathers, and hair. Eggs are grayish- or greenish-white, heavily blotched with olive, brown, lavender.



Loggerhead Shrike which has skewered a grasshopper on a barbed-wire fence. Notice the mask on the Loggerhead Shrike thinly extends across the top of the bill while the Northern Shrike's mask stops at the bill. [The Birder's Handbook]

Shrikes perch alone, with tail held nearly horizontal, on treetops or telephone wires in open country. Their flight is low and undulating. Their diet consists of small birds, mice, and large insects such as grasshoppers, locusts, and crickets. With their superior eyesight Shrikes can spot a moving insect as far away as 70 yards. Lacking the talons of raptors, it stuns or kills flying birds with a blow from its powerful beak, and often caches prey by impaling on a plant spine or barbed wire -- leading to the common name of "butcherbird".

Shrikes show an amazing memory for the placement of their victims: in Texas, Shrikes were reported returning to mummified frogs they had stored eight months before.

The name Shrike has the same Anglo-Saxon roots as "shriek". Shrikes have heads that are larger in proportion to their bodies than most birds, and this is noted in the Loggerhead (Shrike), which has the same origins as "blockhead." The generic name of the shrikes, Lanius, is Latin for "butcher" (hence the term "butcherbird"). The Northern Shrike, Lanius excubitor was given its trivial name, the Latin word for "sentinel" by Linnaeus, who thought the bird looked out for hawks and warned little birds. Actually, an erect stationary Shrike is looking for little birds or insects, but not to warn them.

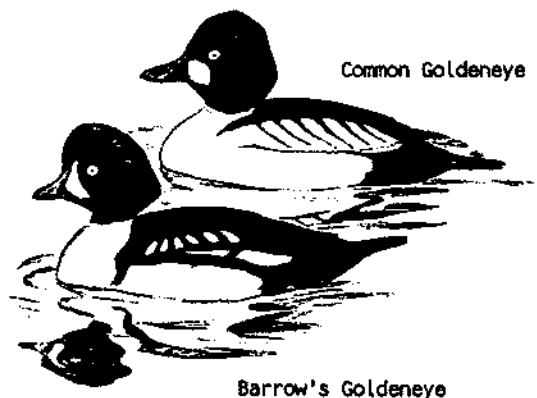
THE MAIL BOX --

We have received the Seattle Audubon Society 1991 Nature Tour Schedule which has several tour programs available. If you are interested I will have the brochure at the next meeting.

DIAGNOSTIC DETAILS --

The most obvious diagnostic difference between the Common Goldeneye and the Barrow's Goldeneye are the white patches between the eye and the bill. The patch on the Common Goldeneye is a little rounded while the Barrow's Goldeneye has a white crescent. Sometimes this is all you need to distinguish these two species apart. There are times, however, when they won't cooperate and turn the right way to get a good look at the head or they may have their head tucked back.

Another identification mark I use is the dark band coming down on the shoulder of the Barrow's Goldeneye. In the diagram, note that the white along the side of the Barrow's is broken up by that dark patch dropping down on the shoulder. This is in direct contrast to the Common Goldeneye. If you're unable to positively identify by the white patch on the head or you're unable to get a good look at the head, take a look at the shoulder. I have noticed that this feature is generally quite noticeable.



Barrow's Goldeneye

Another distinguishing feature of the Goldeneyes are the shape and color of the head. The Common Goldeneye's is a glossy green with a little more rounder head. The Barrow's head is glossy purple and slopes back with more of a point over the shoulder. These characteristics are a little harder to spot at a distance and sufficient lighting is needed to get the sheen on the heads.

BIRD BEHAVIOR - SHARING THE WARMTH --

Pygmy Nuthatch

Pygmy nuthatches and Winter wrens are among the few North American birds known to have communal night-time roosts within cavities state Donald and Lillian Stokes. For example, 150 Pygmy nuthatches have been seen gathering to roost in the cavities of a single tree.



Winter Wren

Birds face an energy crises in winter as they have a shorter period of daylight in which to gather food, decreased food availability, longer nights and colder weather. Roosting in communal cavities is very effective at conserving energy.

In contrast, studies of birds such as Starlings and Red-winged blackbirds, who roost communally but out in the open, show they save very little energy as a result of grouping together. The location of the roost is more important to their warmth. They will stay slightly warmer if the roost is out of the wind and not exposed to the night sky.

Many birds such as chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers and titmice roost singly in tree cavities. Measurements at night have shown that they can save up to 43% more energy than birds that roost in the open.

What drawback could there be in such an energy efficient method such as communal cavity roosting? On occasion dead birds are found at the bottom of roosting cavities. One possibility is that they may have suffocated from lack of oxygen or the weight of the birds above them was too heavy for them to breathe. It is also possible that these birds were stressed from cold or lack of food already.

To gain valuable insights into winter behavior, you might try following the birds in your area at dusk. You may discover their roosts and, perhaps, you may even discover another species that roost communally in cavities.

[Bird Watcher's Digest, Vol. 13, No. 3]

### THE OBSERVATION POST --

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Bobwhites (16)  | - | in Linda Daley's yard [Bobwhite were last seen in this area in 1914 - it is possible that these may have escaped or been released from a captured flock] |
| Chestnut-backed Chickadees  | - | Linda Daley's feeder   |
| Sharp-shinned Hawks   | - | Sue Weller's yard  |
| Evening grosbeaks, American Goldfinches, Chestnut-backed Chickadees                     | - | Sue Weller's feeder  |
| Barrow's Goldeneye (2)  | - | Jan. 12th on Lake Cd'A - Sue Weller  |
| Bufflehead (1)  | - | Jan. 7th on Lake Cd'A - Sue Weller   |
| Hooded Mergansers   | - | Beauty Creek area, Lake Cd'A - Phil & Judy Waring  |
| American Kestrel (1)  | - | Jan. 14th on freeway light pole near NW Blvd. overpass - Pam Gontz   |
| Red-winged Blackbirds (30)  | - | Jan. 20th at a feeder on Black Lake Road - Pam Gontz   |
| Canvasback Ducks (2 pr.)  | - | Jan. 20th near Carlin Bay, Lake Cd'A - Pam Gontz   |
| Bald Eagles (32 mature/1 immature)  | - | Dec. 23rd, Wolf Lodge Bay, Lake Cd'A - Pam Gontz   |
| Wild Turkey (3)   | - | Sept., Farragut State Park - Selma Cole  |
| Belted Kingfisher (1)   | - | Nov., Wolf Lodge Bay - Selma Cole  |
| Cassin's Finches, American Goldfinches, House Finches, Song Sparrows, Evening Grosbeaks | - | at Pam Gontz's feeder  |



HAWK HUNTING --

Locate the Buteos, Accipiters, and Falcons in the puzzle below. Buteos are high soaring hawks with broad banded tails and rounded wings. Accipiters, the woodland hawks, have long tails and short rounded wings for greater agility. Falcons are distinguished from hawks by their long wings bent back at the wrist.

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Hawk            | Accipiters         |
| Buteos          | Falcons            |
| Kestrel         | Ferruginous        |
| Sharp-shinned   | Cooper's           |
| Harris'         | Marsh (N. Harrier) |
| Merlin          | Pigeon (Merlin)    |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Red-shouldered     |
| Short-tailed    | Swainson's         |
| Black           | N. Harrier         |
| Gray            |                    |
| Rough-legged    |                    |
| Goshawk         |                    |
| Zone-tailed     |                    |
| Broad-winged    |                    |



S	U	O	N	I	G	U	R	R	E	F	S	R	K	K
B	H	H	A	R	E	I	R	R	A	H	N	E	W	E
R	L	A	Z	O	N	E	T	A	I	L	E	D	A	S
O	K	W	R	S	N	O	S	N	I	A	W	S	H	T
A	W	K	B	P	G	B	U	T	E	O	S	H	D	R
D	A	T	L	B	S	R	E	P	O	O	C	O	E	E
W	H	M	A	R	S	H	A	R	S	N	A	U	L	L
I	S	E	C	U	D	J	I	Y	M	I	D	L	I	S
N	O	P	K	W	A	F	H	N	K	L	O	D	A	N
G	G	I	S	I	R	R	A	H	N	R	Z	E	T	O
E	R	O	U	G	H	L	E	G	G	E	D	R	D	C
D	L	A	N	O	E	G	I	P	O	M	D	E	E	L
S	H	O	R	T	T	A	I	L	E	D	A	D	R	A
S	R	W	S	R	E	T	I	P	I	C	C	A	H	F

OLD GROWTH UPDATE --

Members concerned about the preservation of old growth and related Forest Management Practices in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF) and particularly, the Fernan Ranger District are gearing up for involvement. On February 2nd they attended an orientation meeting along with members of the Kootenai Environmental Alliance's (KEA) Forest Watch Committee and other interested individuals. Don Bacon and Ellen Scriven, who have met with other Audubon and Forest Watch old growth mappers in Idaho and Montana, brought the others up to date on what they have learned at the Saturday meeting.

Our first step is to have an accurate inventory of the existing old growth. The Fernan District has been compiling an inventory which we will be taking a critical look at. In cooperation with the Forest Service, we hope to visit areas of the forest to verify the existence of ancient stands and gather information on stands which are as yet lacking sufficient data for classification. We will be making our own maps of old growth in the district which, when completed, will show valuable tracts of ancient forests which should be preserved and give us a tool for closely monitoring forest practices.

In March of last year Spokane Audubon co-president, Suzanne Hempleman and Scott Reed, Audubon Board Member and Environmental Attorney succeeded in obtaining a one year moratorium on the cutting of old growth trees in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF). The Forest Plan requires 10% old growth on the forest.

It is probable that next month the forest supervisor will direct each district on how to manage for 10% old growth in their (our) forests. The view of Audubon members familiar with the issue is that no district will contain 10% of actual old growth as defined by respected researchers. In Fernan we expect to find far less. We hope that "the next best" will be included as "recruitment" or "replacement" old growth. We hope also to influence the selection of "next best" and its location in relationship to existing remnant stands of true old growth. In doing so we would try to preserve larger intact natural areas and some connecting wildlife corridors rather than small isolated fragments which would have less chance of survival over time. The Ancient Forest Mapping Workshop held in Missoula by the Montana Adopt-A-Forest Program of National Audubon Society gave us much insight on how best to design such national preserves based upon biological structure and function.

If you would like to join us in what promises to be a very interesting project with the Fernan Ranger District or are interested in similar work on the Wallace District, please contact Ellen Scriven or Don Bacon (664-0895). We will be looking for energetic volunteers when the snow melts to do "ground truthing" in the forest as well as to sort through the collected data. This is an exciting project and a chance to learn about activities and processes of the Forest Services which has jurisdiction over so much of our local public lands as well as to learn about the ecology of managed and natural forests.

[Ellen Scriven]

#### WETLANDS. A VANISHING HABITAT --

Wetlands are one of our most important natural resources providing habitat for nearly 1/3 of our country's endangered species, as well as spawning and nursery grounds for fish. They also moderate the hydrologic cycle, reduce erosion, recharge groundwater, control floods, improve water quality and provide habitat for countless organisms. Fifty-six percent (56%) of Idaho's original wetlands have been lost. National Audubon has launched an intensive five-year campaign to save wetlands. Many land use decisions affecting wetlands are made locally through municipal and county planning and zoning actions, or by agricultural districts and water commissions. At the local level of decisionmaking, tremendous opportunity exist for wetlands protection. The Wetlands High Priority Campaign will bring together the organizations volunteer advocates and professional experts into a coordinated, effective force. The cornerstone of the campaign will be the development of a strong team of knowledgeable wetlands chapter activists across the country.

Members of the Spokane Audubon Chapter will present a 1 1/2 hour Wetlands Training Workshop on February 20, 1991. For more information or to RSVP, call Carol Ellis (535-4308) or Mary Somerville (927-1319).

[Ellen Scriven]

INDIAN MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS COUNT - December 28, 1990 --

1. Common Raven (13)	22. Song Sparrow (8)
2. Northern Shrike (3)	23. Tree Sparrow (1)
3. Black-capped Chickadee (46)	24. Canada Goose (12)
4. American Goldfinch (63)	25. Mallard (1)
5. Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco (110)	26. Bald Eagle (1)
6. Magpie (15)	Hawk [sp] (1)
7. Rough-legged Hawk (6)	Falcon [sp] (1)
8. Northern Harrier (1)	27. Gray Partridge (10)
9. Great Blue Heron (2)	28. Ring-necked Pheasant (1)
10. Red-tailed Hawk (6)	29. Northern Flicker (1)
11. Golden-crowned Kinglet (7)	30. Horned Lark (150)
12. Belted Kingfisher (1)	Chickadee [sp] (9)
13. Varied Thrush (13)	31. Pygmy Nuthatch (3)
14. Winter Wren (3)	32. Bohemian Waxwing (15)
15. Steller's Jay (9)	33. Pine Siskin (31)
16. Red-breasted Nuthatch (12)	34. Downy Woodpecker (4)
17. Evening Grosbeak (70)	35. Rose-breasted Grosbeak (24)
18. Hairy Woodpecker (3)	36. Starling (4)
19. Mountain Chickadee (4)	37. Hermit Thrush (6)
20. Red-shafted Flicker (5)	38. White-breasted Nuthatch (1)
21. Ruffed Grouse (2)	39. Brown Creeper (1)

TOTAL = 679

Participants:

Shirley Sturts  
Gertie Hanson  
Carol Howard  
Glenna Ross  
Warren Flath  
Don Heikkila

Susan Weller  
Pam Gontz  
Carole Jensen  
Vicki Holstrom  
Beverly Flath  
Erma Heikkila

[Low count due to adverse weather conditions.]



DEVELOPING THE FORESIGHT OF SEEING NATURE AS A WHOLE --

Species all over the world are becoming extinct at an unprecedented rate. It is not certain what causes species to disappear, but environmentalists have a growing belief that the problem is not direct attacks on threatened animals and plants. The problem, they believe, is habitat destruction. Destruction that results from expansion of human populations and human activities. The earth's varied habitats are disappearing, hence species disappear.

Habitats such as the rain forest, wetlands, and old growth forests, for example, are lost every year. Large lake and ocean habitats aren't actually disappearing, but pollutants such as acid rain are doing considerable damage making them impossible to support life.

In the past we have actually hunted species to extinction. Now with the painful memories of these lost species, efforts are made to protect animals by laws forbidding hunting or abuse by humans. We may have won the battle but we are still losing the war. By indirect attacks we are wiping out the habitats endangered species require to survive.

Scientists and environmentalists are changing their approach to conservation. They are now linking animals and their habitats and are starting to look at them as a "whole".

Nature is one big theater. Watching a bald eagle on the wing or fishing is like watching one act in a major performance. Like the setting of a theater (lights, music, backdrops, etc.), nature's theater has certain topography, particular climates, and distinctive plants which must be present for the "show to go on". Endangered species are losing their theaters. To preserve those and other species we need to look at the "whole" -- the animals and the habitat where they make their living.

By considering this "whole" and not just the individual elements, maybe we'll have a better grasp of the situation. Habitats around the world, from desert to rain forest, constitute our primary habitat -- EARTH. If we continue to pollute and ravish the Earth, we could permanently "close the show" on all players in this drama, especially ourselves.

[Robert Bateman Naturalist's Diary, 1991]

RECYCLE REPORT --

If you are looking for a source for recycled paper you might write Earth Care Paper, Inc. for their catalog. They carry stationary, note cards, gift wrap, birthday cards, lined and unlined writing pads, and notebook paper as well as envelopes, computer paper and other office paper products. Their address is Earth Care Paper, Inc., P.O. Box 7070, Madison, WI 53707.

"When man's feet are removed from the soil,  
he loses his sensitivity to the natural world.

As he grows deaf to the earth,  
he no longer understands her language,  
and what he cannot understand, he destroys."



# NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

## CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YES, I'd like to join. Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send the Audubon magazine and my membership card to the address below. My check for \$20 payable to the National Audubon Society is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send this application and your check to

National Audubon Society  
Chapter Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 51001  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

Local Chapter  
Coeur d'Alene 606

Local Chapter Code  
7XCH8

# Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society

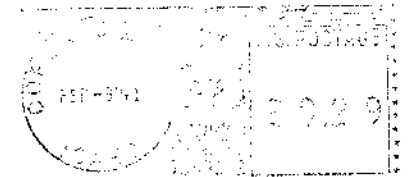
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Hospitality Chair:	Joan Sestak	772-7452
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