

The Fish Hawk Herald



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society

Pam Gontz, Editor
4301 N. Ransley Rd., #A2-14
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
765-1115-h 773-4516-w

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NEWSLETTER FORMAT --

At the meeting in November, there was some discussion of adopting the Osprey as "our bird". There was even a suggestion of using "The Fish Hawk Herald" as the name for our newsletter. With these suggestions in mind I have put together the above masthead. This is not carved in stone, however, and any comments or suggestions from the members would be very much appreciated. Please bring your suggestions and ideas to the January meeting.

If anyone would like to submit an article, book review, etc., I would welcome these contributions to our newsletter. Submissions to the newsletter can be mailed to the above address and, for the next newsletter, must be received by February 1st.

CALENDAR CHECK! --

The January meeting of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society will be held on Wednesday, January 16th, at 7 p.m., in the basement of the Security Pacific Bank in Hayden Lake. An hour long Audubon Special Ancient Forests: Rage Over Trees will be shown. Following the movie, Dave Siebanthaler from the North Idaho chapter of Audubon will give a talk on Old Growth Forests in Idaho.

The February meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 13th, 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.

Because of a conflict, we will be discussing the possibility of changing our meeting night or meeting place. We would like to make this decision when we have a fair share of members present, but must make this decision at the January meeting. Please come and express your opinion.

KUDOS ! ! !

Our Chapter is very fortunate to have members like Scott Reed. Scott, who sits on the National Audubon Society's Board of Directors, has provided invaluable help in making the Coeur d'Alene Chapter a reality. Thanks to Scott, our Chapter has been officially incorporated. Scott has been very generous with his time, money, and abilities, and we greatly appreciate his efforts. Thanks again Scott, for your participation and for your generosity!

- Susan Weller [sdw], President

THE AUDUBON CAUSE --

The mission of the National Audubon Society is articulated in the Audubon Cause. The Cause embraces National Audubon Society's major concerns and action programs and binds the entire organization together with a sense of common purpose and commitment. The Audubon Cause is based on the conviction that humankind is both a part of the ecological systems of the Earth and the steward of environmental health and vitality.

- * To conserve native plants and animals and their habitats.
- * To protect life from pollution, radiation, and toxic substances.
- * To further the wise use of land and water.
- * To seek solutions for global problems involving the interaction of population, resources, and the environment.
- * To promote rational strategies for energy development and use, stressing conservation and renewable energy sources.

- [sdw]

POWER OF THE PEN --

"Nongame Needs Funding" was the program presented by Jack McNeel from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) at our December meeting. Nongame wildlife needs our help was Jack's message. We need individuals to call, speak, and/or write to Governor Andrus, your Legislators, and IDFG Commissioner ASAP! Senator Mary Lou Reed would be a good one to write to since she is on the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC).

The Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program's main source of funds is the tax checkoff -- remaining funds in the Trust Fund as of the end of Nov. is only \$11,000.00. Your support is needed to help persuade the Governor and Legislature to put \$8 Million surplus dollars into a PERMANENT NONGAME ENDOWMENT in order to set up permanent funding for the Nongame Program. If less than \$8 million is appropriated, ask the Legislature to make up the difference from general fund dollars.

Suggested points you can make in your communication are:

1. Nongame species are not hunted, trapped, or hooked, e.g. birds of prey, waterbirds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles, 419 species or 80% of Idaho's wildlife.
2. Nongame species are important to our ecosystem, e.g. deer mice cache seeds, which then germinate and provide more food for mule deer, etc.
3. Nongame related recreation (bird watching, photography, etc.) brought in \$45 million to the State in 1985, according to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Survey. This figure can't help but be greatly increased today.
4. IDFG Species of Special Concern increased from 30 in 1985 to 48 in 1990, 96% of which are nongame. We need to manage better now, before some of these become threatened or endangered.
5. Idaho code makes Idaho Fish and Game responsible for managing, preserving, perpetuating, and protecting all wildlife, not just game species.

6. IDFG was given the responsibility to preserve and manage all wildlife, but was not given the means to do so. It's all Idahoan's responsibility to see they have the means.
7. IDFG annual budget is \$33 million, earned from license, tag, and stamp fees. This money is used to manage game species. Less than 1% of this money is used to manage nongame species.
8. The Nongame Program budget is about \$600 thousand, obtained from the checkoff and other sources, such as the Albertson Foundation, Nature Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service, BLM, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.
9. The checkoff is suffering from competition -- \$90 thousand in 1982 and \$50 thousand in 1989 (ONLY \$11 THOUSAND LEFT in the Trust).
10. In 1990, IDFG's Bureau of Wildlife employed 81 full-time employees with an annual budget of \$5.7 million for game species management. In contrast, the Nongame Program operates on a budget of about \$600,000, of which \$500,000 is soft money (non-F&G).
11. The Nongame Program needs \$650 thousand for an adequate program. This amount will support 15 full-time positions, including six regional nongame biologists, an urban wildlife biologist, a habitat specialist, an endangered species coordinator, an interpretive specialist, a state program coordinator, two technicians, and two data managers.
12. We suggest that the Governor and the Legislature establish an \$8 million endowment from surplus general funds. The interest earned, in perpetuity, from the endowment will go directly to the Nongame Program. These funds, coupled with the tax checkoff, will be a big step toward adequate funding.
13. Express support for an annual general fund appropriation of adequate dollars to fund the Program in the event no surplus dollars are appropriated.

I have dedicated a large portion of this newsletter to this cause because I feel it is an important issue. Please write to support this Nongame Funding NOW, as it goes before the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee some time in January.

(ALERT Handout, Citizen's Nongame Wildlife Committee)

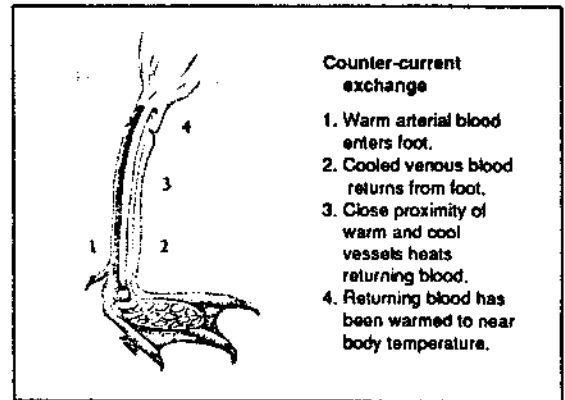
WINTER SURVIVAL - AMAZING ADAPTATIONS --

There was a comment at the last meeting on how birds endure the arctic blasts we've been having. I recently read an article which explains, in part, how some animals and birds cope with freezing temperatures.

Have you wondered how animals and birds have evolved to survive through long winter months? The answer to this question involves adaptations directed toward a common goal: maintaining a stable internal body temperature, or homeostasis, in winter. For animals and birds that don't migrate or hibernate, winter is the beginning of a long struggle for energy balance. The most fundamental problem for an animal to solve once winter arrives is to minimize energy loss. Food is energy which can be converted to heat. The amount of energy (food) an animal consumes should be equal to the amount of energy it expends keeping warm, obtaining more food, and avoiding predators.

JAN 1991

Many animals and birds minimize heat loss in winter by a process called counter-current exchange [See Figure]. First, surface blood vessels and capillaries in their feet contact cold surfaces. This constriction reduces the amount of blood in their limbs. The small amount of circulating blood reduces heat loss while maintaining sensory and motor control. Second, when blood vessels are close to each other, warm arterial blood entering the lower leg warms up returning cooled venous blood. This ability to regulate foot surface temperature explains how a goose, moose, wolf or fox can stand in the snow all winter without freezing.



Counter-current exchange, the ability to regulate foot surface temperatures.

Many animals that don't have enough insulation to escape winter's cold air will migrate as winter approaches. Chickadees, however, are common residents of many winter environments and adapt to the cold and energy requirement in several ways. They double their number of feathers which they fluff up to trap warm air next to their body. The distance to food and time spent eating is reduced to a minimum, and feeding only occurs during the warmest hours of the day. Shivering is used for short durations to increase body heat while resting between feeding periods. This process is subtle, and rarely, if ever, observed. During long non-foraging periods, such as night, chickadees become torpid by lowering their internal body temperature and metabolism to conserve food and energy.

The type of snowpack has a great effect on animals and birds and how they survive. Grouse and Ptarmigan seek shelter within the snowpack at night, flying straight in at full speed if the snow is soft. In harder snow they "walk" in, digging with their specially adapted claws. Whether a shrew becomes a meal for a great gray owl may depend on the texture of the uppermost snow layer. Owls rely on both sight and sound in locating their prey. If the snow is "noisy" (an icy crust, for example), an owl will be more likely to catch a shrew than if the surface is soft, sound-muffling powder.

By going outside and observing different animal adaptations, you will gain a greater appreciation for wild animals and their winter environment. Animals constantly struggle to obtain sufficient energy to survive through the winter. The next time you go out cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or snowmobiling and happen to disturb an animal causing it to flee, think of the extra energy it suddenly expends. Think of how difficult it will be for that animal to regain its energy. An animal's struggle for energy is its struggle for life.

[Yellowstone Today Newsletter, Winter 1990-91]

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP WELCOMES FIRST YOUTH INTO FOLD --

At the December meeting of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society, Bee Finne gifted her Grandson with a Charter Membership. We welcome Noah Couser into the Audubon fold as our first youth member. May Noah be the first of many young people to join our chapter in promoting The Audubon Cause.

- [sdw]

FEATHERED FACTS --

I thought I'd start "Feathered Facts" out with a look at the Osprey. Identification features of the Osprey [*Pandion haliaetus*] are:

1. Very large bird, dark above, white below.
2. Long, narrow wings, swept back at the wrists.
3. Dark patches at wrists, prominent in flight.
4. White head with dark brown eyestripe.
5. Frequently hovers over water before plunging feet-first for fish.
6. Sexes similar.



Nests consist of a mass of sticks. In our area many of these nests are on telephone poles, but are also found at the top of snags or trees. Ospreys lay two to four eggs, usually three. They normally begin incubating from mid- to late May. Young ospreys fledge in mid- to late August.

The food of the osprey is almost exclusively fish. Ospreys capture fish from a hovering position over the water or by diving into water from a perch or tree. The genus *Pandion* is uniquely equipped with a reversible outer toe, and the talons are of equal length, features that make it easier to catch fish. Ospreys also have spiny pads, or spicules, on the bottom of their feet, which aid in grasping slippery prey. When airborne, the osprey carries the fish head-first in its talons. This aerodynamic method is one way the osprey can carry off large-sized prey with a minimal amount of effort.

Ospreys are often found singly or in pairs. Band recoveries indicate that ospreys from the western states migrate south to winter along the Pacific coast of Central America. The young remain on the wintering grounds during the second summer, returning as two year olds.

The word osprey means literally "feeds on the bones." The bones this refers to are the multitude of bones found in fish. The osprey, sometimes referred to as the fish hawk, belongs to a family of raptors [*Pandionidae*] that contains only this one species. The genus *Pandion* is found worldwide wherever there is a combination of open water and fish. The term *haliaetus* refers to fish eagles.

["Birds of Yellowstone"]

THE MAIL BOX --

As a chapter we will receive literature or brochures on upcoming events. I will list those events in this section of the newsletter and for those interested in particular events please let me know and I will provide further information.

Institute of Desert Ecology, April 18-21, 1991, Tucson, Arizona.

12th Annual Klamath Basin Bald Eagle Conference and Photo Contest. Conference is February 15-17, 1991, Klamath Falls, Oregon, Pre-registration closes February 1, 1991. All entries to the Photo Contest must be mailed prior to February 15, 1991.

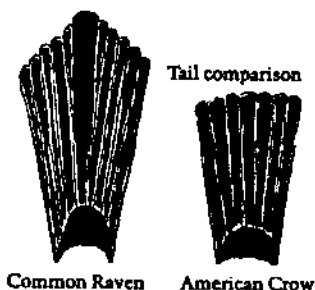
DIAGNOSTIC DETAILS --

Diagnostic differences in similar species can be easy to spot or very difficult. Some of these differences are more evident in flight and some are just easier to distinguish if the subject is perched. In this column I hope to point out some of those easy and hard to spot "diagnostic details" in similar species.

The Common Raven and the American Crow are similar in their diagnostic makeup. Some areas are frequented by both ravens and crows and a small raven can look like a large crow and vice versa.

The primary outstanding feature between the raven and the crow is the shape of the tail. The raven has a wedge-shaped tail and the crow has a fan-shaped tail, both are usually quite obvious in flight. This diagram shows the tail comparisons of the Common Raven and American Crow.

["Birds of Yellowstone"]

BIRD WATCHER'S CORNER --

This will be a regular feature of the newsletter. It will contain interesting bird sightings and other information about bird watching. Please send your bird sightings to Shirley Sturts, E. 4615 Fernan Lake Rd. or call her at 664-5318. These sightings will be given to Tom Rogers, regional editor of American Birds, a Publication of the National Audubon Society.

Common Loon	- seen 11 times between Aug 17 - Nov 24, Don Johnson at Cleland Bay, Lake Cd'A
Great Egret	- Late Aug., Sue Weller, near Cataldo
Black-crowned Night-Heron	- 1 seen Sept 23 near Potlatch, Zoltan Porga
Bald Eagle	- 14 adult, 1 immature, Wolf Lodge Bay, Cd'A Lake, Richard Beeks -has anyone counted more?
Merlin	- Nov 2 by Mary Manning - in her neighbor's tree in Cd'A
Gryfalcon	- 2 on Rathdrum Prairie - captured by permit by falconers, Ken Sterner
Screech Owl	- Aug. 22, John W. Nigh, Thompson Lake
Pileated Woodpecker	- around fall and winter Charles Schwartz, Valhalla Rd. & by Richard Beeks, Highland Dr.
Black-chinned Hummingbird	- last seen fall Aug 31 in Squaw Bay, Cd'A Lake, Barbara Durrell
Gray Jay	- 2 around all fall at feeder, Charles Schwartz, Valhalla Rd.
Marsh Wren	- Aug 15, John W. Nigh, Thompson Lake
Swainson's Thrush	- 1 on Oct 8, Gertie Hanson, Blackwell Hill, last seen fall date
Cedar Waxwing	- 3 on Nov 27, Esther Stewart at her home on 2nd Street, Cd'A
Wilson's Warbler	- Aug 23, Gertie Hanson, Blackwell Hill, 4 migrating through area
American Tree Sparrow	- 1 on Oct 28 at Killarney Lake & 1 in Cataldo area on Dec 19, Sue Weller
Savannah Sparrow	- Aug 17, John W. Nigh, Thompson Lake
White-throated Sparrow	- 1 coming to feeder Dec 5, and still coming as of Dec 26, Richard Beeks, Highland Dr. normally found east of the Rocky Mountains - it sometimes wanders into North Idaho in the fall and winter. Considered rare for our area.

Rare and unusual bird sightings need to be documented. You can obtain a form from me (see address and phone above). Your completed form will be reviewed by the Records Committee of the Idaho Audubon Council. Records without documentation (photograph, specimen, etc.) will usually be considered hypothetical unless seen by two or more experienced observers. Records will be maintained in the Idaho Museum of Natural History. Information needed in documentation is as follows: Species name; Reporter; other observers; date and time of record; locality; habitat; conditions (e.g. weather, prior weather, light conditions, distance; optical aids, duration, etc.); description of bird (size, colors, all field marks observed, field marks not seen, etc.); behavior of bird (song, calls, other birds its with, interactions); similar species - how you eliminated them; your experience with this or similar species; Photos taken.

How do you know if a bird is rare or not? Soon to be published is the first official Idaho state list to be published by the Idaho Audubon Council. For our local area obtain a check list of birds of which there are three: 1) Birds of the Cd'A Latilong compiled by myself and published by the Kootenai Environmental Alliance (needs updating - I have a few copies left); 2) Vertebrates of the Cd'A River Wildlife Management Area published by the Department of Fish and Game (get a copy from the office or get one from me); 3) Soon to be published will be a checklist of birds for North Idaho published by the National Forest Service with the cooperation with the Idaho Fish and Game Dept. and the Spokane Audubon Society -- it will include a section on birding routes.

Birding Hot Line Forming --

If you want to be on a phone tree to receive information on rare bird sightings please give me your name and phone number and I'll make up a phone tree and publish it in a future newsletter.

- Shirley Sturts

BIRDS SQUIRREL AWAY SEEDS --

Many of your favorite winter birds spend much of their time stock-piling seeds from your feeder instead of eating them, according to Daniel and Lisa Petit of the University of Arkansas and Kenneth Petit of Kent State University. Their extensive observations of Black-capped chickadees, Tufted Titmice, and White-breasted Nuthatches during the winters of 1983-99 revealed that these species store food in branches and tree trunks for later consumption. Carrying one seed at a time in their bills, the birds first flew thirty to forty meters away from the feeder to a suitable perch, shelled the seed, and then stored it under bark or in furrows in the bark.



Nuthatches often covered their seeds with loose bark, snow, lichen or moss, a tactic not used by other bird species. Chickadees also hid seeds in dead leaves still hanging in trees.

[sdw -- The Condor, Vol. 91, No. 4]

[Illustration from The Birder's Handbook]



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 G06

Local Chapter Code
7XCH8

Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society

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Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society
% Pam Gontz
4301 N. Ramsey Rd., #A2-14
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

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Let...*

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Dec. 1981

Shirley Sturts 4615 Fernan Lake Rd. E. Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
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