

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society

Pam Gontz, Editor  
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Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
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Volume 1, No. 12

## CALENDAR CHECK! --

**JAN. 11,  
1991**

**FIELD TRIP** - This Saturday field trip will be the Mid-winter Bald Eagle survey sponsored by The National Wildlife Federation. This is done nation wide. The area we will be doing is Coeur d'Alene to Wolf Lodge and Beauty Bay on Coeur d'Alene Lake. Meet at parking lot of Rustier's Roost, 819 Sherman Avenue - breakfast is optional at 7:30 am, we will leave to bird at 8:30 am. Leader: Shirley Sturts - call 664-5318 to register.

**JAN. 21,  
1991  
6 PM**

**CONSERVATION MEETING** - location: same as regular meeting place - basement of the Security Pacific Bank in Hayden Lake.

**JAN. 21,  
1991  
7 PM**

**JANUARY MEETING** -location: basement of the Security Pacific Bank in Hayden Lake. Mike Doherty, biologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will present a program on Wetland delineation. After the program Susan Weller will show a few bird slides from Belgium, where she recently visited.

**JAN.25,  
1991**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** for submitting articles, etc.

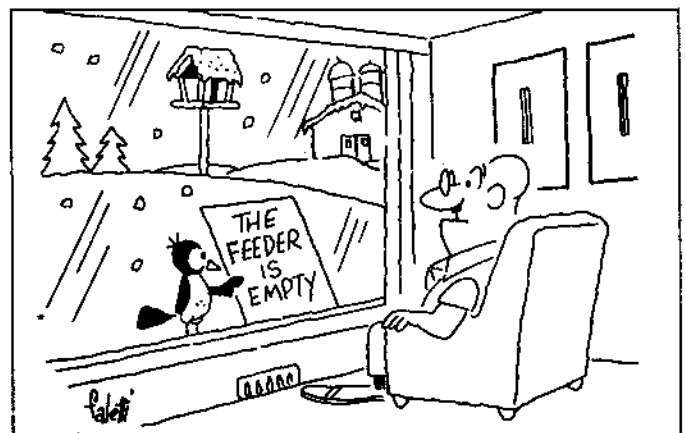
Note: I have moved the newsletter deadline up a few days so that we can have sufficient time to get it printed and mailed.

**FEB. 9,  
1991  
SUN.**

**MYSTERY FIELD TRIP!** - Exact location for this field trip has not been determined yet. We will meet at the Restaurant at Rosauer's at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast and then regroup our vehicles in the southwest corner of the Rosauer's parking lot after breakfast. Those who want to join us after breakfast can meet us in the SW corner of the parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Location of field trip will be revealed then. If you have any questions or would like to let the field trip leader know you're coming, call Pam Gontz at 765-1115.

## AN EDITOR'S THANKS --

*This month marks one year since I've taken on the Editor's duties of The Fish Hawk Herald. The responsibility of getting this communication out to the members has been much easier because of those people who have contributed articles to the newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have supported The Fish Hawk Herald by offering their articles for publication. Because of this support, it has been a particularly rewarding endeavor putting out our newsletter.*



**DON'T FORGET TO KEEP THOSE BIRD FEEDERS AND BIRD BATHS FULL!  
NATURAL FOOD AND WATER SOURCES ARE ESPECIALLY HARD TO FIND IN THE WINTER.**

working  
to create  
or private  
act these  
eldom see  
edgers of  
channels; they do most of their hydrological engineering during the night hours. If you haven't guessed yet, they have reddish-brown fur, webbed hind feet, dextrous front paws and a flattened paddle-shaped tail. They are our largest rodent. One New Hampshire game superintendent said recently, 'The Beaver has probably done more for waterfowl management and other species than anything else in one hundred years'.

Most likely, beavers as big as bears were the first creatures to deliberately impound water and they changed the face of the planet. Their ponds nursed new plant and animal life, filled subterranean springs and silted in to become fertile valleys. No doubt the Egyptians, among the first to practice irrigation, got ideas for dams and canals from watching beavers. The animals are depicted in the hieroglyphics. Beavers may have inspired rice growers in ancient China to dam streams to create fertile paddies. In Cherokee lore on this continent, it was a Beaver who mated with the Great Spirit, thus transforming the hostile elements into rich, life-supporting earth.

A pond civilization of more than 100 million beavers inhabited North America as late as 1700. As many as 300 beaver colonies to one mile of stream were reported. Lewis and Clark saw beaver ponds stretching to the horizon when they arrived at Three Forks, Montana. The water from beaver ponds was utilized by settlers across the continent to power the first mills. Villages were erected in the adjacent clearings. Silted-in ponds became rich meadows for grazing cattle and horses. Beaver dams reserved water during times of drought and tempered floods.

Despite all this, the Beaver was exploited like no other animal. Their pelts were worth vast sums of money on the European market, primarily for fashionable hats. Their oil, castoreum, was also popular as a perfume and stimulant. By the end of the 19th century, the beaver was nearly

extinct. In 1895, only five beavers were known to exist in all of New York. Fourteen other states reported no beavers at all and the remaining states had little or no information about remnant populations. With the help of a small group of people who preached a new attitude toward nature, who lobbied their state legislatures for laws to protect beavers and who worked to reintroduce the animals into protected habitat, beavers have made a phenomenal comeback. Today they are found in every state and are relatively common. However, as valuable as they are as creators and promoters of wetlands, they continue to be trapped and shot. They are perceived as a threat to roads and irrigation systems when they construct their dams in locations unfavorable from a human viewpoint and are often destroyed for this reason. At least one of my beaver neighbors was recently shot and its dam destroyed with dynamite when it started to construct a dam in a culvert in an apparent effort to raise the water level in a pond surrounding its lodge. To survive the winter the water must be deep enough so that the entrances to the lodge, which are underwater, do not freeze up and cut the inhabitant off from its submerged cache of food. Beavers do not hibernate. There is now another beaver at work in the same pond. A letter and a few calls were made to appropriate agencies, voicing concern and a grate was placed over the entrance to the culvert. Killing the first beaver did not solve the "problem" and it is doubtful that this is enough to discourage further attempts by beavers to create suitable habitat at this location. One has to wonder if this or a similar situation doesn't occur across the country and the "offending" beavers aren't simply, quietly, and routinely disposed of. It is my hope that more will be done to encourage these amazing creatures and more creative means will be found for peaceful coexistence. As I have watched them and read about them, beavers have won my respect and admiration. [-Ellen Scriven]

[Sources: Ryden, Hope, Lily Pond: Four Years with a Family of Beavers, Wm. Morrow & Co., 1989; Matson, Tim, Earth Ponds. The Country's Pond Maker's Guide to Building, Maintenance and Restoration, Countryman Press, 1991.



**BIRD NOTES --**

Additional sightings besides the ones listed in the Coeur d'Alene Christmas Bird Count --

- Bewick's Wren - seen in St. Maries on 12/22/91 by Dan and Ila Svingen
- Wild Turkeys - 31 seen by Judy and Phil Waring in the E. Lancaster Road/Sportsman Park Road area
- Bald Eagles - 41 mature and 7 immature seen on 12/24/91 in the Wolf Lodge Bay/Beauty Creek Area by Pam Gontz
- Short-eared Owl - seen crossing I-90 by Jacklin Seed on 12/29/91 by Pam Gontz



**MAKING NOTE OF ANY TRUMPETER SWAN OBSERVATIONS --**

We have received notice from the Fish and Wildlife Service again this year that we could see trumpeter swans in our area due to management actions in the Greater Yellowstone Area. The aquatic plant food supplies at Harriman State Park in Idaho, the swan's primary wintering site, are still extremely low and will not support the normal wintering flock. These swans will be trapped and hazed from the area in hopes of dispersing them and reducing the potential for mortality.

The letter from the Fish and Wildlife Service set out information regarding neck-banding and color-dying as follows:

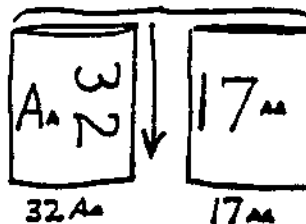
\*Captured swans will be neck-banded and may be color-dyed on part of their plumage prior to release at more suitable wintering sites. Your observations of marked trumpeters provide data needed to monitor movements, evaluate use of new wintering sites, and develop strategies for future range expansion efforts. Observations of unmarked trumpeters in unusual locations will also be quite helpful in assessing population dispersal.

Each neck-band bears a unique code. Codes usually contain letters and numbers, however some old neck-bands may show a symbol such as a heart or a square. Most collars are green with white code, with one large vertical letter or number, and two letters or numbers that must be read from bottom to top (base of neck toward head). Some older red collars must be read from top to bottom (head toward base of neck). Sketch the neck-band if the code is difficult to describe. Some examples of styles of neck-bands that may be observed:\*

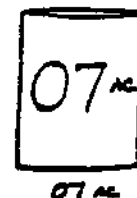
Green band/white code  
[READ BOTTOM TO TOP]



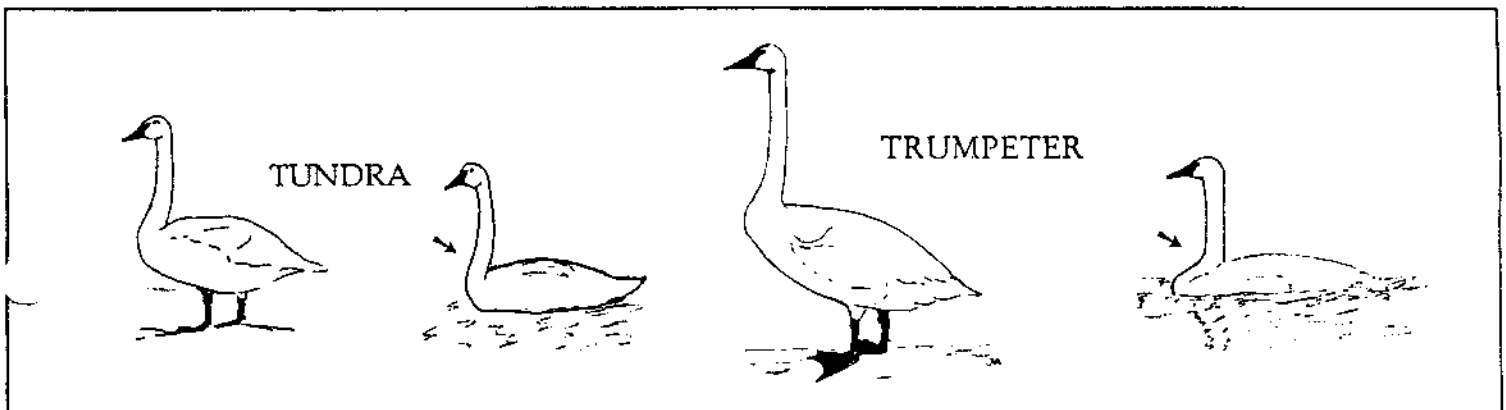
Red band/white code



Yellow band/black code



If you observe a marked swan, please make note of the following information: observation date; location (including state and county); flock size (number of trumpeters--both adults and cygnets); tundra swans, if any; unknown swans, if any; observer's name, address and phone; list marked pairs and brood size; and details regarding any markings (the code, neck-band color, code color, and the location [tail, neck, rt. wing, lt wing] and color of dyed plumage [yellow, green, red, white, black, pink]). Also make note of any unmarked trumpeters. All sightings of trumpeters are useful, even if the code is not clearly observed. I will have copies of some dataforms that have been provided the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society at the meetings or you may call me at 765-1115 and I can mail you a form should you need one. - Pam Gontz



Each holiday season I am reminded that Christmas means many things to many people. During this festive time, the air is filled with Christmas music, twinkling lights, gift giving, and Christmas wishes. Some people often ponder why the "good feelings" of Christmas-time don't happen all year long. Well, I for one cannot afford the "gift giving" all year long. At least in the fashion that most of us have come accustomed to.

This last year I have been actively involved in the Audubon Society and the Idaho Native Plant Society. What has occurred to me through my association with other people interested in birds, plants, and nature in general, is that these people are learning to give throughout the year. Yes, some give monetary donations which are certainly a mainstay for these organizations. But the giving I'm most impressed with is the small day-to-day giving – the intangible, yet rewarding giving.

Slowly we are learning that giving and putting time back into "our Earth" is quite rewarding in itself. We are gathering information to help us understand why we are endangering certain species and we are trying to do something about it. The solutions to these problems are not one-shot cures – they are life long commitments to nature, ourselves, and future generations.

We are taking on the responsibility that we are shepherds of our planet and that if there is a difference to be made, we are the ones to do it. I see in my association with these organizations that people are genuinely concerned and each are trying to do their part in safeguarding our habitat.

This day-to-day giving comes in many forms. The biggest move right now is recycling which is helping out in many ways – from saving trees to improving our landfill situation. Another gift offered daily by many individuals is a great respect for nature. They are more aware of not collecting flowers and plants because it might endanger those species. They are more aware that approaching a bird nest might jeopardize the nesting success of that bird. They are becoming more aware that little things like washing your dog, boat, or even your hair in our lakes and streams with certain soaps have a great effect on them and pollute our beautiful waters with algae. They are becoming increasingly aware that with our current rate of growth that we must preserve natural areas so that future generations may enjoy what we may have taken for granted at one time. They are learning that species lost out of an ecosystem could have detrimental effects to that ecosystem and they are working on ways to correct some of those situations.

I recently read about a new exhibit at the New York Bronx Zoo and it really hit home with me. The exhibit consists of a mirror and when the visitors stand in front of the mirror, through the realistic bars of a cage, they read the following message:

**"YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE MOST DANGEROUS ANIMAL IN THE WORLD. IT ALONE OF ALL THE ANIMALS THAT EVER LIVED CAN EXTERMINATE (AND HAS) ENTIRE SPECIES OF ANIMALS. NOW IT HAS ACHIEVED THE POWER TO WIPE OUT ALL LIFE ON EARTH."**

These day-to-day lessons will probably never end; because to learn, we must have mistakes to learn from. But if we continue to glean from our mistakes and help others to learn from them maybe "shock treatment" exhibits like the one above will no longer be necessary . . . some day.

We can have these "good feelings" of Christmas all year-round with these day-to-day gifts. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and if I was to give thanks for anything this last year, it would be the friendship I have come to know with people who are genuinely concerned for Nature and the lessons they have shared with me! **For me this is the true spirit of living and the true spirit of giving!** [-Pam Gontz]

### **REMEMBER TO MAKE "TRACKS" TO RECYCLE!**

Those **RECYCLABLES** can be turned into --

**Panhandle Recycling Products**  
4855 Industrial Way  
(off Atlas Road in the Industrial Park)  
Mon. thru Fri. 8:30am to 5 pm  
Sat. 9am to 4pm



**"Americans throw away enough bottles and jars to fill the Twin Towers at New York's World Trade Center every two weeks; enough aluminum to rebuild the nation's commercial air fleet every three months; and enough office and writing paper to build a 12-foot wall from Los Angeles to New York City every year. Not to mention the millions of barrels of oil, gallons of water and acres of trees used to manufacture products used once and tossed in the trash."**

**-The National Voter, Dec/Jan Issue**

Ask that they be applied to the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society account.

**PRESERVE OUR HABITAT – DON'T THROW IT AWAY!**

SPECIAL  
THANKS  
TO:



The Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society would like to thank **ALPINE PRINTING** for their donation to our newsletter. Please support **ALPINE PRINTING**, 205-F East Seltice Way, Post Falls, with your patronage.

**COEUR D'ALENE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT TOTALS [December 14, 1991] -**

SPECIES #	COUNT	SPECIES	SPECIES #	COUNT	SPECIES
1)	2	Pied-billed Grebe	35)	1	Short-eared Owl
2)	16	Horned Grebe	36)	5	Belted Kingfisher
3)	5	Red-necked Grebe	37)	9	Downy Woodpecker
4)	9	Western Grebe	38)	10	Hairy Woodpecker
5)	4	Great Blue Heron	39)	30	N. Flicker (Red-sh.)
6)	455	Canada Goose	40)	3	Pileated Woodpecker
7)	1	Wood Duck	41)	1	Gray Jay
8)	395	Mallard	42)	6	Steller's Jay
9)	35	Ring-necked Duck	43)	3	Clark's Nutcracker
10)	6	Oldsquaw	44)	51	Black-billed Magpie
11)	72	Common Goldeneye	45)	31	American Crow
12)	1	Barrow's Goldeneye	46)	48	Common Raven
13)	107	Bufflehead	47)	168	Black-capped Chickadee
14)	23	Hooded Merganser	48)	27	Mountain Chickadee
15)	53	Common Merganser	49)	13	Chstnt-backed Chickadee
16)	3	Bald Eagle (adults)	50)	76	Red-breasted Nuthatch
17)	1	Northern Harrier	51)	20	Pygmy Nuthatch
18)	6	Red-tailed Hawk	52)	1	Brown Creeper
19)	4	Rough-legged Hawk	53)	6	Golden-crowned Kinglet
20)	1	American Kestrel	54)	2	Townsend's Solitaire
21)	21	Ring-necked Pheasant	55)	273	American Robin
22)	1	Ruffed Grouse	56)	285	Bohemian Waxwing
23)	25	Wild Turkey	57)	7	Northern Shrike
24)	30	California Quail	58)	123	European Starling
25)	3	American Coot	59)	16	Song Sparrow
26)	1077	Ring-billed Gull	60)	192	Dark-eyed (OR) Junco
27)	52	California Gull	61)	39	Cassin's Finch
28)	562	Herring Gull	62)	340	House Finch
29)	1	Thayer's Gull	63)	10	Red Crossbill
30)	2	Glaucous Gull	64)	306	Pine Siskin
31)	252	Gull sp.	65)	135	American Goldfinch
32)	150	Rock Dove	66)	134	Evening Grosbeak
33)	1	Mourning Dove	67)	38	House Sparrow
34)	2	Northern Pygmy Owl			

**Participants [observers and feeder watchers]:**

Susan Weller  
 Phil Waring  
 Judy Waring  
 Ellen Scriven  
 Shirley Sturts  
 Frances Cassirer  
 Isaac Torres  
 Cathy Hurrell  
 Mike Blackbird  
 Scott Reed  
 Roger Young  
 Theresa Potts

Pam Gontz  
 Wes Hanson  
 Gertie Hanson  
 Roberta Rich  
 Ronn Rich  
 Bee Finne  
 Chuck Finne  
 Noah Couser  
 Darrell Cavanaugh  
 Chris Cavanaugh  
 Trevor Cavanaugh  
 Mary Maxam

Dan Svingen  
 Ila Svingen  
 Jack McNeel  
 Paul Richardson  
 John Bentley  
 Pat Coleman  
 Mary Cavanaugh  
 Richard Beeks  
 Walter Knoles  
 Roberta Knoles  
 Susan Hughes  
 Jane Badraun  
 Mrs. Applegate



# 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

## OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President:	Susan Weller	682-3413
Secretary:	Bee Finne	667-0425
Treasurer:	Ronn Rich	772-4512
Board Members:	Scott Reed Judy Waring Ronn Rich	664-2161 765-5378 772-4512

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Conservation Chair:	Ellen Scriven	682-3413 mess. phone
Membership Secretary:	Cathy Hurrell	664-0689
Hospitality Chair:	Joan Sestak	772-7452
Newsletter Editor:	Pam Gontz	765-1115
Fieldtrip Chair:	Shirley Sturts	664-5318

## COEUR D'ALENE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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