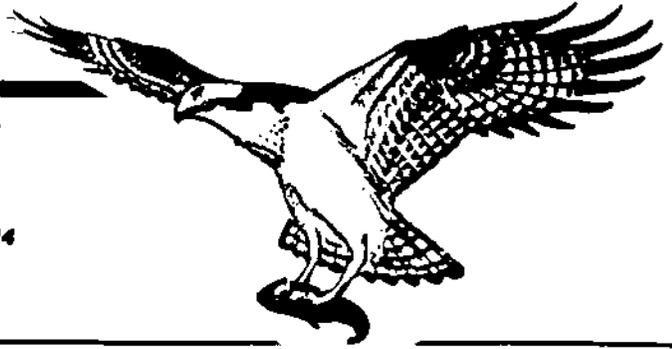


THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society

Pam Gortz, Editor
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Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
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January 1993

Volume 2, No. 10

CALENDAR CHECK! -

JAN. 19,
1992
7 PM

JANUARY MEETING! On Tuesday, January 19th, Scott Robinson will present his program on moose in Alaska.

JAN. 20,
1992

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for submitting articles, etc., for the February newsletter.



WILD CONDOR DIES!!

A recent report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service states that one of the two California Condors released into the wild last January at the Sespe Condor Sanctuary in Los Padres National Forest was found dead on October 8th. Chocuyens, the male of the pair, apparently drank from a pool of antifreeze left in a parking lot outside the sanctuary and died of kidney failure. Ethylene glycol, the toxic ingredient in antifreeze, has a sweet flavor which lures many animals - including house pets - to their deaths. The report announced that this unfortunate accident would not postpone the scheduled release of six additional condors into the wild on December 1, 1992.

This is a vivid reminder that we need to keep watch for such spills and pools on our driveways, etc., so that our neighborhood birds and pets aren't attracted to them.

[Pam Gortz, source: Birder's World, Feb. 1993]

WINTER FEEDING IMPORTANT TO OUR AVIAN FRIENDS -

Providing our feathered friends with food and water during the winter months is very important, especially with the layer of snow we have accumulated which covers a lot of the food and water sources that the birds would otherwise utilize.

Judy and Phil Waring have done some checking and have come up with a deal that many of us who purchase sunflower seeds by truckloads can't pass up. They have found that the best price for oiled black sunflower seeds is at Tidyman's in Coeur d'Alene.

The current shelf price at Tidyman's for a 25 lb. bag is \$6.13, and for a 50 lb. bag it's \$11.99. They are now offering added savings to our Audubon chapter. If we buy forty 25-pound bags, the price will be reduced to \$4.60 per bag. If we purchase twenty 50-pound bags, they will drop the price to \$8.67 per bag.

If you are interested in purchasing one or more bags, give Phil or Judy Waring a call at 765-5378 and we'll see if we can put together an order.

[Thanks, Judy & Phil for gathering the info & passing it on!]

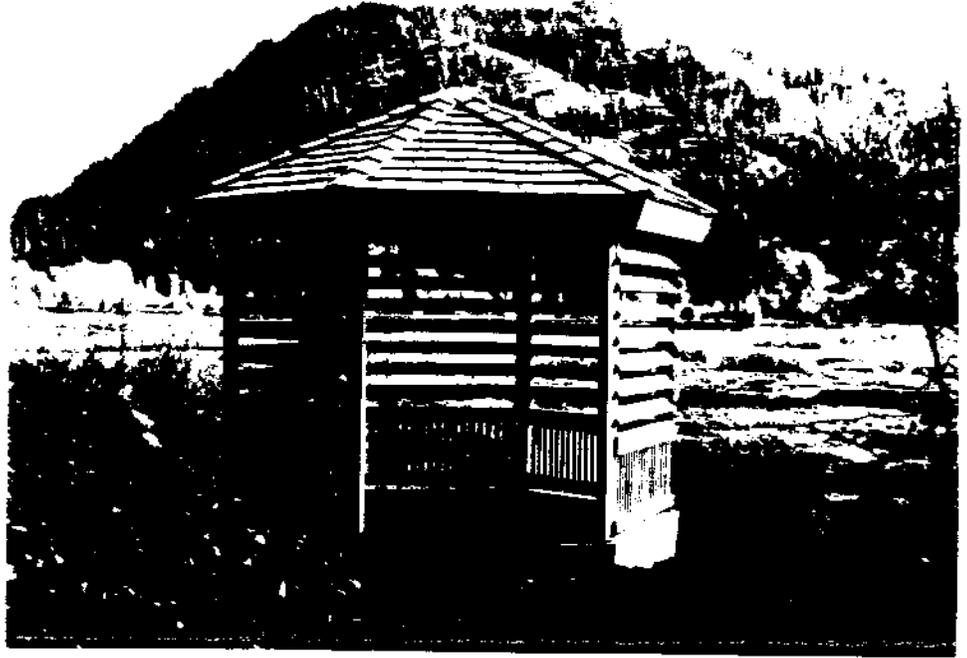


FERNAN RANGER DISTRICT OFFERS NEW SPOT TO VIEW WILDLIFE –

Looking for a great spot to see and photograph birds and other wildlife? How about a quiet place to enjoy the sounds of geese honking and frogs croaking, and see great blue herons, bald eagles, and several species of waterfowl?

The Fernan Ranger District now provides such an opportunity on Thompson Lake near Harrison. Construction of a wildlife viewing blind there was recently completed in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Washington Water Power.

The blind, located on Thompson Lake near Harrison, offers wildlife watchers, photographers and artists the opportunity to view birds and mammals up close without disturbing them. The trail leading to the blind is built to accommodate disabled visitors.



The project was funded through a combination of funds from the Fernan Ranger District, Washington Water Power and Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Cooperators included Peg Sheridan, District Wildlife Biologist; Beth Paragamian, Watchable Wildlife Coordinator; Rod Pharness, WWP Wildlife Biologist; and John Nigh, Idaho Department of Fish and Game Refuge Manager.

The site is an optimal one for viewing wildlife. In the spring and fall, many species of waterfowl use the lake. It is the only lake in the "Chain of Lakes" which prohibits hunting, and is used as a refuge by many ducks and geese. On occasion, it is possible to see swans in the area. Several species of hawks visit the marsh, and in winter it is not uncommon to see a bald eagle. Mammals in the area include white-tailed deer, muskrats, coyotes, and beavers.

Next summer, Sheridan plans to complete the finishing touches on the project, including surfacing the trail, building a screen along a portion of the trail, landscaping and planting along the trail, constructing a parking area, and installing interpretive signs and a bench. Peg will be contacting Audubon members in the spring to request assistance on some of these projects.

Feel free to enjoy the site! If you have any questions on the project, contact Peg Sheridan at 765-7357.

[submitted by Peg Sheridan]

RECYCLABLES –

I'm not always as environmentally conscious as I'd like to be, but I did make a particular effort to purchase recycled greeting cards this season. I ordered them from a company in California and when the box came with the usual packaging material, I wondered if the box and packaging were actually canceling out my effort to buy recycled cards. Then I noticed that the box itself was marked as being recyclable – "corrugated recycles". In further unpacking my cards, digging through the dreaded peanuts, I found a small card from the company saying they were "proud of their packaging". I read on and was truly amazed. Not only were the cards and packaging box recyclable but the peanuts were too. The first sentence on the postcard said "I want you to feel good when you open your 'gift", and that I did. In an effort for this company to remain environmentally pro-active, they claim they are continually searching for safer packing materials and at the same time ensuring that all orders arrive in perfect condition. They went on to explain that they had found packing material made from a natural vegetable starch which is 100% biodegradable and completely water soluble. Disposal of these wonderful packing peanuts is as simple as adding them to your compost pile or putting them in the sink to dissolve with drain water. **CHEERS to** Red Rose Collection, 42 Adrian Court, Burlingame, CA 94010-9600! I think they're providing a gift that will keep on giving!

[Pam Gontz]

DECEMBER 6th FIELD TRIP--

This field trip was set up to scout out Shirley's CBC area. We also ended up exploring a small portion of Pam's CBC area, as well. Participants were: Chuck and Bee Finne, Jane Badraun, Shirley Sturts and Pam Gontz.

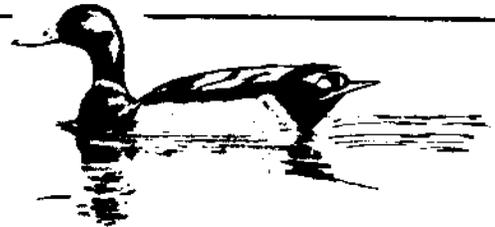
We were welcomed at Hayden Lake with a arctic breeze off the lake and a low hanging fog which made visibility very difficult. Bird species seen on our drive around the lake were: 6 Red-necked Grebes; 1 Great Blue Heron; 81 Canada Geese; 50 Mallards; 20 Ring-necked Ducks; 3 Common Goldeneye; 5 Buffleheads; 4 Hooded Mergansers; 59 Common Mergansers; 3 mat. Bald Eagles; 6 Ring-billed Gulls; 2 Pygmy Owls; 1 Belted Kingfisher; 1 Steller's Jay; 18 Common Ravens; 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch; and 2 Black-capped Chickadees.

After the field trip, Shirley and Pam wandered out on the prairie criss-crossing their CBC areas and saw the following species: 1 Red-tailed Hawk; 3 Rough-legged Hawks; 1 Am. Kestrel; 3 Rock Doves; 1 Red-shafted Flicker; 2 Black-billed Magpies; 1 Mtn. Chickadee; 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches; 3 Pygmy Nuthatches; and 6 Starlings. Shirley and Pam ended the day by scoping out the landfill for gulls. Amongst the many gulls, ravens, crows and starlings, the standout in the crowd was a mature Glaucous Gull.

[-Pam Gontz]

**"Always behave like a duck --
Keep calm and unruffled on the surface,
but paddle like the devil underneath."**





**"When the bird and the book disagree,
always believe the bird."
-Birdwatcher's Proverb**

DECEMBER 13th FIELD TRIP--

This Sunday jaunt was scheduled to case out Pam's CBC area for the upcoming CBC on December 19th. Participants who wandered the snow-covered prairie and many icy, back roads north of Hayden Lake were: Shirley and Keith Sturts, Phil and Judy Waring, Jane Badraun and Pam Gontz.

Birding started out slow on this gray day and was quite evident when the group cheered at the sight of a magpie. Sightings picked up, however, and we saw the following species: 1 N. Harrier; 3 Red-tailed Hawks; 1 Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk (this is a dark phased red-tail); 3 Rough-legged Hawks; 6 Gray partridge; 3 Ring-necked Pheasants; approx. 20 Rock Doves; 1 Pygmy owl (possibly 2 -- the one we were watching flew into some trees and as we drove down the road a short distance, we saw another pygmy owl in the next clearing -- since the first owl flew in that direction, we were unsure whether we were seeing the same owl or another one); 1 Black-billed Magpie; 10 Com. Ravens; 5 Black-capped Chickadees; 1 Mtn. Chickadee; 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches; 6 Bohemian Waxwings; 1 N. Shrike; 39 Com. Redpolls; and several batches of house finches.

For me the day started and ended with an attempted act of predation. While driving to meet the group that morning I saw a N. Shrike fly straight towards a starling on a powerline, dive at it, and unfortunately miss. As I was driving home from our day of birding, again I saw a N. Shrike in hot pursuit of some small bird and this time he wasn't giving up so easily. It was like watching a couple fighter pilots in the sky. The small bird was good at evasive flight maneuvers, but the N. Shrike matched it each time. Unfortunately, it became my turn at the four-way stop and since the drivers behind me were not sharing my magical moment, I had to keep moving. I did turn around and position myself in a parking lot so that I could maybe catch the conclusion of this little foray, but in that short time the pair had disappeared. I guess that will be one interaction that I'll never know the outcome. I do know, though, that even though the day started a little slow, the company of fellow birders combined with some of the more memorable sightings made it truly one for the journal.

[-Pam Gontz]

RARE SPECIES & CRUCIAL WETLANDS -

A new report published by the *National Wildlife Federation* states that wetlands are vital to the survival of many of our nation's threatened and endangered species. This report, *Endangered Species, Endangered Wetlands: Life on the Edge*, notes that 43% of all plants and animals on the federal threatened and endangered list rely on wetlands at some point in their life cycle. The report warns that wetlands "are being destroyed at the dizzying rate of 35 acres an hour." Every state and Washington D.C. has at least one endangered species that is dependant on wetlands.

If you would like to receive this publication which outlines how people can take action to save wetlands by getting organized, getting informed, and getting involved, the report is available for \$6.45 from the National Wildlife Federation, 1400 16th St. NW, Washington D.C. 20036 - ask for item # 79932.

[-Pam Gontz]

"One-third of all threatened plants and two-thirds of all endangered animals depend on wetlands for their survival."

*-Endangered Species, Endangered Wetlands: Life on the Edge
Published by the National Wildlife Federation*

THREATENED ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT -

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) passed in 1973 is up for reauthorization in this congressional session. The Wise Use Movement, a strong, funded organization, is pouring money into a campaign to weaken the Act. This organization advocates a policy which calls for an amendment to the ESA that would specifically classify "scientifically identified" endangered species as relic species in decline before the appearance of man, including non-adaptive species, "lacking the biological vigor to spread in range." Before his retirement, Steve Symms introduced a bill he called the Progressive Endangered Species Act. This bill would eliminate protection of threatened species, make species listing more difficult, and permit the destruction of endangered species habitat. Since Mr. Kempthorne received the endorsement of Mr. Symms and Mr. Kempthorne's radio campaign ads alluded to changing the ESA, and Mr. Craig voted against the Old Faithful Protection Act, which would have protected Yellowstone Park's renowned geysers and hot springs by prohibiting geothermal development outside the park's boundary, one might assume that these men would also support the elimination of the ESA unless we voice our support of the ESA. Rep. Gerry Studds (d.MA) has introduced legislation which would protect the ESA. This bill (HR4045) needs your support. **Let's flood the offices of these shortsighted gentlemen with our letters or calls in support of HR4045!**

[-Pam Gontz]

Sen. Steve Symms, 509 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20510; (202)224-6142; Cd'A Office: 664-5490
Sen. Larry E. Craig, 708 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20510; (202)224-2752; Cd'A Office: 667-6130
Rep. Larry LaRocco, 1117 Longworth Office Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20510; (202)225-6611; Cd'A Office: 667-2110

"The worst thing that can happen to the human race is not energy depletion, economic collapse, or conquest by a totalitarian government. The one process that will take millions of years to correct is the loss of species diversity by destruction of natural habitats. This is the folly our descendants are least likely to forgive us."

E. O. Wilson, 1980

SOME MINDS ARE LIKE CONCRETE - all mixed up and permanently set!

BIRD NOTES -

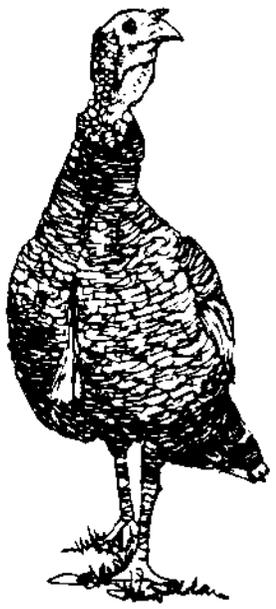
- Chestnut-backed Chickadee - 12/92, at Judy and Phil Waring's feeder
- Brown Creeper - 12/92, at Susan Weller's feeder - also one seen at Jane Badraun's feeder
- Pileated Woodpecker - 12/92, seen on Tubb's Hill by Bob Mathiasen
- California Quail - 12/04/92, 12 seen on Ramsey Road, n. of Dalton intersection, feeding in field by Pam Gontz
- American Kestrel - 12/10/92, 1 seen hunting along I-90 near Post Falls by Pam Gontz
- Sharp-shinned Hawk - 12/12/92, 1 seen on Strahorn Rd. in Hayden by Pam Gontz
- Cooper's Hawk - 12/12/92, 1 seen on Trafalgar Rd. in Hayden by Pam Gontz
- Gray Partridge - 12/12/92, 22 seen on Wyoming Rd in the Prairie and on Orchard Rd. in Hayden by Pam Gontz
- Pygmy Owl - 12/12/92, 1 seen at Sportman's Access on N. end of Hayden Lake by Pam Gontz
- Bohemian Waxwing - 12/12/92, 2 seen on Rimrock Rd. n. of Hayden by Pam Gontz
- Northern Shrike - 12/12/92, 1 seen on Hwy 53 between Hayden and Lancaster by Pam Gontz
- Sharp-shinned Hawk - 12/14/92, seen perched near her feeder on Ramsey Rd. - Pam Gontz



READY FOR MORE TURKEY??

Now that we've made it through the holiday season and have probably had our fill of turkey, at least for a few days anyway, I thought it might be interesting to dig up a little history about the Wild Turkey.

Many of you may already know that Benjamin Franklin was not in favor of the bald eagle as the national symbol and, instead, thought the Wild Turkey should stand on our emblem. He thought the bald eagle was "a bird of bad moral character . . . too lazy to fish for himself." He was referring to the fact that the eagle often would rob the "fish hawk" (osprey) of its prey. Even though Ben Franklin conceded that the wild turkey was "a little vain and silly", he thought it was a bird of great courage. While the bald eagle ended up as our national symbol, the turkey found itself on our national dinner table . . . with a frequency that drove the bird to near extinction.



Historically, on the North American continent, there were six species of native wild turkeys and an estimated population of more than ten million. The turkey became a popular food item with the early colonists. The turkey's popularity was not shared by the Native Americans, who preferred the taste of ducks and geese. Some tribes considered turkeys stupid and cowardly and would not eat them for fear of acquiring those characteristics. A certain tribe considered hunting a turkey with its massive numbers so easy that they were reserved for children to learn to hunt; that it was beneath the dignity of an adult hunter to kill one.

The wild turkey, facing near extinction, led the list of species that biologists wanted returned to previous population levels. By the 1950's more than thirty states had successful turkey restoration programs. Today, the North American Wild Turkey population is more than five million birds, almost half of its presettlement population. Like so many of our wild creatures, this great bird nearly perished during the rapid settlement of our country. The return of the Wild Turkey is a true outdoors success story, but loss of habitat continues to threaten the turkey as it does to so many of our dwindling wild creatures. At least for the moment, Ben Franklin's Wild Turkey is once again strutting through forests in its former range and beyond.

[Pam Gontz - Source: *Birds of the World*, Dec. 1992]



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 G08

Local Chapter Code
 7XCH8

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