

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society
Editor: Shirley Sturts - 84615 Fernan Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 -
664-5318

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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)

**JAN. 10 TUESDAY
CITY OF CDA
PLANNING
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
ON BLACKWELL
ISLAND**

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: City Hall Council Chambers

Agenda: To discuss annexation and planned unit development of Blackwell Island (it is first on the agenda)



**JAN. 17 TUESDAY
CONSERVATION AND REGULAR
MEETING**

Time: 6:30 PM Conservation-field trip discussion 7:00 PM Regular meeting

Place: Iron Horse

6:30 PM Agenda: We will discuss Blackwell Island and other local conservation issues and also plan field trips for 1995. We need ideas and field trip leaders. If you cannot make this meeting but have some places you would like to see on the schedule or if you would be willing to lead a field trip please call Shirley Sturts at 664-5318.

7:00 PM Program:

Dr. Steve Lindsay, DVM will present a program that will be of special interest to bird watchers. Topics will include field guides and record keeping. He will also cover how to write a journal and make checklists.



**JAN. 18 WEDNESDAY
COUNTY PLANNING AND
ZONING COMMISSION HEARING**

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: County Court House Court Rm 1

Agenda: Circling Raven (formerly Cherokee Hills) Subdivision in Sun-Up Bay: 279 homes are planned on 251 acres.



**JAN. 14,
SATURDAY
MIDWINTER
BALD EAGLE
SURVEY**

Meet: Rustler's Roost Restaurant

Time: 7:00 AM Breakfast leave about 8:00 PM

Leader: Susan Weller 1 (208) 682-3413 (call her for more information)

Members of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society are invited to participate in the 1995 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey organized by the U.S. Department of Interior. Since this is a survey of Eagles we will move along at a fast pace to avoid re-counting individuals. Participants can get together after the survey is done to look for other bird species along Lake Coeur d'Alene or to spend more time viewing the Eagles.

** LOCAL CONSERVATION **

By Wallace Keck, Conservation Chair

I've been putting off a follow up article on the road closures in the Priest Lake Ranger District (see October issue) until the forest service makes a decision. Apparently that decision is still a few weeks away. I called Bob Stutz, environmental assessment team leader, to get an update. He said an overwhelming number of responses to the plan to protect grizzly bear habitat were negative--mostly from the local communities. Out-of-state responses were generally favorable of road closure. Comments are still being accepted. A watered-down version of the plan to appease local opposition appears imminent.

By the time you read this article, a few Audubon members will have attended the city of Coeur d'Alene Planning and Zoning Council public hearing (January 10) to discuss zoning annexation and development of Blackwell Island, primarily east of Highway 95. A conservation meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 17, prior to the regular club meeting at 7 p.m. to discuss the council's actions and other issues.



Northern Harrier a
resident of Rathdrum
Prairie

"You know he'd be
a poorer man
If he never saw an
eagle fly."
- John Denver

In other news, I feel the need to express some thoughts on the plan to lure Micron Technology to Kootenai County. For those of you who read the Fish Hawk Herald, but haven't seen a newspaper in a few months, Micron is semi-conductor manufacturer. A fight over which city and state will end up with the new facility--and all the perks and pains that go with it--has been raging for months. Jobs Plus Inc., an economic development organization based in Coeur d'Alene, has been working overtime to see that Micron builds in the Rathdrum Prairie. If Kootenai County "wins", then we are told to expect 3,800 more homes and apartments in the area, 2,700 more children in local schools, and 7,600 more cars on public roads. Forgive my rambling, but here are just a few thoughts that come to mind:

1. The justification I'm hearing for the attempt to bring Micron here is to provide jobs and stimulate/strengthen our economy. My question is: if this area has truly experienced economic prosperity and growth (there's no doubt it has and will continue), where is the need?
2. Who's to say we won't continue to use this line of reasoning a year or two after Micron, (should they happen to come)? What industry would we beg for next?
3. When does growth for the sake of growth become a liability instead of an a asset? Will we be happy hen Coeur d'Alene is the size of Spokane? Will we have cured our economic woes?

(LOCAL CONSERVATION CONTINUES)

- 4. What happens when we tie a significant percent of our local economy to Micron, and down the road, the company faces setbacks, lay-offs etc...?
- 5. Who has raised even one environmental concern in the media?
Micron would required 1,000 gallons of water from the Rathdrum Aquifer each minute of operation! It would generate 1.3 million gallons of waste water per day.

To clarify: Micron appears to be a model company. If they take an interest in Kootenai County, then we should make plans to prepare for growth, grin, and bear it. BUT, for Kootenai County officials to fall all over themselves to bring Micron (or any other mega-industry) here, seems contrary to the reasons most people live and recreate in North Idaho. We can't stop growth; we can only manage it; but we don't have to go chasing after it either. Micron would bring some benefits to Kootenai County, but are those benefits better than the quality of life and the environment we now enjoy? I invite your comments.

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Quail



Bird Quotes Quiz

(Bird watching inside literature)

Check your bird/literary IQ. There are many memorable quotes, poetry, and quips about birds. How

many can you recognize? Who said.....

(see answers on page 5 - send quotes to the editor for future newsletters)

"If you're to busy to go birding,
you're too busy"

"Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow
Why, oh, why can't I?"

"A hundred thousand blackbirds
Seemed to form a teardrop in the
sky"

"The time of the singing birds is
come, and the voice of the turtle is
heard in the land."

"A cardinal, whistling spring to a
thaw but later finding himself
mistaken, can retrieve his error by
resuming his winter silence."

1995
COLORADO PELICAN FESTIVAL
April 28-30, Greeley

Three Days of Fun. Celebrating Our Wildlife:

• Field trips	• Programs
• Workshops	• White Pelicans
• Pawnee National Grasslands	• Banquet
• Nature art	• Local hot spots
• Merchant discounts	• Star gazing
• Our famous Walk-Like-A-Pelican Contest (be sure to enter!)	

Full Information: Platte & Prairie Audubon Society, PO Box 3354, Greeley, CO 80633. Or call: 303-330-5082 or 303-351-0166.

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Species	1991	1992	1993	1994	Species	1991	1992	1993	1994
Common Loon	-	-	1	-	Hairy Woodpecker	10	16	5	2
Pied-Billed Grebe	2	4	-	6	Northern Flicker	30	20	30	29
Horned Grebe	16	19	23	20	Pileated Woodpecker	3	1	-	1
Red-Necked Grebe	5	17	10	5	Horned Lark	-	-	-	3
Western Grebe	9	3	2	5	Gray Jay	1	2	-	-
Great Blue Heron	4	6	4	10	Steller's Jay	6	7	4	6
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	1	Blue Jay	-	-	-	3
Canada Goose	455	924	559	867	Clark's Nutcracker	3	1	-	-
Wood Duck	1	-	2	1	Black-billed Magpie	51	26	30	10
Mallard	395	360	312	517	American Crow	31	35	96	75
American Wigeon	-	-	10	2	Common Raven	48	143	52	12
Canvasback	-	1	1	2	Black-c Chickadee	168	110	24	122
Ring-necked Duck	35	30	29	22	Mountain Chickadee	27	93	12	10
Lesser Scaup	-	-	6	-	Chestnut-b chickadee	13	18	6	2
Oldsquaw	6	1	-	-	Red-b Nuthatch	76	61	69	50
Common Goldeneye	72	84	40	42	White-b Nuthatch	-	-	2	-
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	2	2	1	Pygmy Nuthatch	20	23	43	18
Bufflehead	107	40	67	105	Brown Creeper	1	5	5	2
Hooded Merganser	23	43	18	10	Bewick's Wren	-	-	1	-
Common Merganser	53	74	93	184	Winter Wren	-	1	-	2
Red-b Merganser	-	-	2	-	American Dipper	-	2	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	1	-	Golden-c Kinglet	6	20	37	12
Bald Eagle	3	8	2	5	Townsend's Solitaire	2	1	-	-
Northern Harrier	1	-	4	-	American Robin	273	-	108	85
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	3	-	1	Varied Thrush	-	-	1	-
Cooper's Hawk	-	1	-	2	Gray Catbird	-	-	1	-
Red-tailed Hawk	6	1	16	7	Bohemian Waxwing	285	-	70	120
Rough-legged Hawk	4	1	20	7	Northern Shrike	7	7	4	4
American Kestrel	1	1	6	1	European Starling	123	609	1158	214
Merlin	-	-	1	-	Song Sparrow	16	43	13	8
Gray Partridge	-	46	-	34	White-Crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	1
Ring-necked pheasant	21	18	5	25	Dark-eyed Junco	192	69	84	61
Blue Grouse	-	2	-	-	Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	15	-
Ruffed Grouse	1	2	1	8	Pine Grosbeak	-	13	2	-
Wild Turkey	25	-	8	66	Cassin's Finch	39	2	-	-
California Quail	30	45	6	89	House Finch	330	635	151	167
American Coot	3	-	5	61	Red-Crossbill	10	-	37	8
King-billed Gull	1077	311	125	258	Common Redpoll	-	72	-	-
California Gull	52	85	32	-	Pine Siskin	306	285	4	4
Herring Gull	562	154	102	82	American Goldfinch	135	122	35	3
Thayer's Gull	1	3	-	-	Evening Grosbeak	134	28	36	40
Glaucous Gull	2	1	2	-	House Sparrow	38	5	151	3
Gull (sp.)	252	1161	-	-					
Rock Dove	150	-	48	16					
Mourning Dove	1	44	3	4	Total Species	66	66	70	66
Snowy Owl	-	-	1	-	Total Individuals	5787	6040	4046	3560
Northern Pygmy-Owl	2	5	-	2					
Short-eared owl	1	-	-	-					
Belted Kingfisher	5	4	1	3					
Downy Woodpecker	9	16	3	2					

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT


On the morning of Dec. 17, 1994 rain greeted us as we started out on the Coeur d'Alene Christmas Bird Count. It rained all day but it didn't dampen our spirits as we covered the assigned areas and added species after species to our lists. Although the waterfowl turned out in record numbers, the song birds sought protection from the rain and didn't show themselves readily. The poor weather probably accounted for the lowest ever individual count of only 3560 species. However, we did add four new species to the count: Tundra Swan, Horned Lark, Blue Jay (an eastern visitor) and White-crowned Sparrow (a spring and fall migrant)

This years field observers: Mike Blackbird, Pam Gontz, Gertie Hanson, Vera Hartrim, Eula Hickam, Wallace Keck, Roberta Knoles, Steve Lindsay, Theresa Potts, Scott Reed, Ellen Scriven, Herb and Jan Severtson, Shirley Sturts, Phil and Judy Waring, Greg and Susan Weller, Faye Wright, Roger Young. Feeder watchers: Dale Andrews, Karna Boaders, Mary Manning, Jim and Micky McKahan, Jack McNeel, Lee Strelz.

OBSERVATION POST

Observers: Jim Acton (JA)

Coeur d'Alene Audubon field trip (CAS), Pat Cole (PC), John Hirth (JH), Ron Jurcevich (RJ), Don Johnson (DNJ), Tammy Johnson (TJ), Stan Kvern (SK), Jack McNeel (JM), John Nigh (JWN), Lee Strelz (LST), Joe Taggart (JT), Cathy Tinder (CT)
Faye Wright (FW)

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1. Yellow-billed Loon 1 Harrison, CDA Lake Dec. 3 (SK)
 2. Cattle Egret 1 Rathdrum Prairie Oct. 22 (JA) (first for the Cda Latilong)
 3. Greater White-fronted Goose 1 Thompson Lake Oct. 9 (JWN)
 4. Northern Harrier 1 male adult Rathdrum Prairie Dec. 7 (JT)
 5. Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 Cleland Bay, CDA Lake Aug. 23 (DNJ)
 6. Rough-legged Hawk 1 Rathdrum Prairie Oct. 1 (RJ) (first arrival date)
 7. Merlin 1 Rathdrum Prairie Dec. 3 (JT): 1 Twin Lakes Oct. 11 (CT)
 8. Gyr Falcon 1 male 1st year Rathdrum Prairie Nov. 30 (RJ) and 1 male immature Rathdrum Prairie Dec. 7 and 8 (RJ)
 9. Prairie Falcon 1 Rathdrum Prairie Nov. 21 (RJ)
 10. Gray Partridge 6-12 Rathdrum Prairie all fall (JT)
 11. California Quail 85 Stanley Hill, CDA Dec. 24 (JM)
 12. Thayer's Gull 2 1st winter Fighting Creek Landfill Dec. 27 (JH)
 13. Glaucous-winged Gull 1 adult Fighting Creek Landfill Dec. 27 (JH)
 14. Glaucous Gull 2 imm and 1 adult Fighting Creek Landfill and 1 immature on the pilings at North Idaho College Dec. 27 (JH)
 15. Barred Owl 1 Farragut State Park Dec. 18 (TJ)
 16. Black-backed Woodpecker 1 Sagle Nov. 17 (PC)
 17. Pileated Woodpecker 1 Coming to her feeder all fall Hayden Lake (LST)
 18. Blue Jay 1 St. Maries Oct. 25 (FW) (reported incorrectly in Nov. Newsletter as a W. Bluebird): 5 Stanley Hill, CDA Dec. 24 (JM) (highest so far at his feeder)
 19. White-Throated Sparrow 1 Killarney Lake Oct. 30 (CAS) (add to field trip list reported in the December newsletter - also correct field trip date was Oct. 30.)
 20. Snow Bunting 1 Rathdrum Prairie Dec. 1 (JT)

Answers to Quotes Quiz from page 3

Robert E. Holtz - Yip Harburg - John Prine - Song of Solomon 1:12 - Aldo Leopold

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Introductory National Membership \$20

Newsletter Subscription Only \$5

A membership with the National Audubon Society entitles you to chapter membership with the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society and the receipt of the bimonthly Audubon magazine and the chapter newsletter, The Fish Hawk Herald. New Members should send their name and mailing address along with their check made payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY and mail to:

Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Membership
P.O. Box 361
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

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