

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

JANUARY 1996

VOLUME 5 No. 5

PAGE 1



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)

JANUARY 16 TUESDAY REGULAR MEETING

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Idaho Fish and Game Office
2750 Kathleen Ave.

Program: Dr. Ed Buckler, animal behaviorist, using slides and recordings will educate us on the echolocation of bats.

JANUARY 16 TUESDAY BIRDING WITH A BROWN-BAG

5th in a series of noon time birding

Time: 12 Noon - 1 p.m.

Meet: Independence Point parking lot

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Activity: We will study winter gulls. Ring-billed, California and Herring Gulls are the most common wintering gulls. Come learn how to tell them apart and also look for Mew, Bonaparte's, Glaucous and Glaucous-winged. We will walk along City Beach and the Dike Road as far as time permits.

JANUARY 19 FRIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Time: 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Place: Bayview Community Center

Purpose: Learn about and give input on the Farragut Wildlife Management Area Long Range Management Planned Development. For more information call Bryan Helmich at the Idaho Fish and Game Office 769-1414

JANUARY 20 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP TO HEYBURN STATE PARK


Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: Fernan Ranger Station on East Sherman

Leaders: Judy Waring 765-5378

Activity: Lisa Kirkhoffer, AmeriCorps Member at Heyburn State park, will take us along some of her favorite winter trails. We will be looking for waterfowl along the marsh, then head into the woods hoping to surprise turkeys and woodpeckers. Bring your lunch and a munchie to share and we will warm up at Lisa's house over hot chocolate and cider. For more information call Judy.

AUDUBON'S AMERICA
CONVENTION '96



CHARTING THE FUTURE
FOR HABITAT PROTECTION

Mark your calendar now and be a participant in the diverse 1996 Convention program that will feature political action, birds, and skills training!

National Convention '96
June 8-12
The American University
Washington, D.C.

Mobile Learning Labs
June 12-14
Chesapeake Bay &
Important Bird Areas in PA

Registration materials available
January 1996

Audubon Convention Office
4150 Daney Ave., Suite 5
Boulder CO 80303
(303) 499-3622; Fax (303) 499-0286

Bird Quotes Quiz

(Bird watching inside literature)



Check your There are many memorable quotes, poetry, and quips about birds. How many can you recognize? Who said.....

(see answers on page 7)

- send quotes to the editor for future newsletters)

"The old gray owl sat in a tree
Tears streamed down both his eyes
'Oh dear! Oh dear!' he said,
'I think I'm not so very wise.
I've just found out a dreadful thing
Which fill my heart with gloom.
For years I've said to who, to whooo,
When I should have said to whom'."

"A wise old owl sat on an oak,
The more he saw the less he spoke;
The less he spoke the more he heard;
Why aren't we like that wise old bird"

"A handsome bird the azure jay,
'Policeman of the woods' they say.
With call that says as plain as words
My voice is 'strictly for the birds'."

"A crow would have had to carry its
rations if it had flown across the
Valley."

"Perhaps I have been pursuing an untamed
ornithoid."

PROVERBS AND APHORISMS

"Birds of a feather flock together"

"The early bird catches the worm"

"What's sauce for the goose is sauce for
the gander."

"Each bird loves to hear himself sing."

It is a foul bird that defileth his own
nest."

BOOK REVIEW

by Fay Wright

Secrets of the Nest

by Joan Dunning: Houghton Mifflin
Company, 1994.

This book is now out in paperback and is full of line drawings and watercolor plates. It is a collection of essays on various birds, arranged by nest type. The author discusses a total of 34 species ranging from Murres to Elf Owls and includes much delightful anecdotal information from a variety of naturalists and their observations. A rich, wonderful companion - this book.



Located at 6005 N. Division
Hours: M-F 10-6 Sat. 9-5 Sun. 12-5

Wild Birds Unlimited will donate 5% of
your purchases back to our Audubon
Society Chapter. Be sure to mention
that you are a member and present your
membership card or a copy of the Fish Hawk Herald
with your name on it

AUDUBON FACTS

National Audubon's Sanctuary Department
acquires significant habitat for native
plants and animals, and is a leader in
habitat protection through model
management, research, education and
activism. The first sanctuary was
founded in 1943 in Greenwich,
Connecticut; today there are more than
100 sanctuaries nationwide managing
250,000 acres of varied habitat.

PUT UP A BAT BOX?

Taken from an article by Janet Partlow in Echo

We told you earlier that bats can take over 600 mosquitoes per hour. If you would like to encourage bats to eat in your neighborhood consider putting up a bat box. If you live within miles 5 miles of a stream, wetland, pond or lake you will have a better chance of attracting them. They live happily around human habitation and will eagerly use acceptable bat boxes.

The trick is to find or make an acceptable box. An organization called Bat Conservation International researched bat houses for several years. The bats arrive late March and need a warm place for their babies, and the female will reject any box that might put her family at risk. The box should be made of 1/2 to 3/4 inch boards to preserve heat. Cracks or knotholes need to be caulked. If it is painted black it will hold heat better. The tall narrow box concentrates the heat at the top.

The next detail is to put the box in the right place. Bats require morning sun and the box should be hung on south or east facing walls with at least 6 hours on sun. It needs to be at least 15 feet high, but better yet 20-30 feet.

With your box up it may take a few months to attract bats. You can watch it at dusk or shine a flashlight up in it briefly to see if anyone is at home.

If you want to order a brochure, "Plans to build a bat house." write to: Windows to Wildlife, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707. You can make a donation if you like to help support the publication of their brochures.

(If you do all of this please let Shirley know and she will publish your results in the newsletter.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kathy E. Arneson	- Coeur d'Alene
Ruth Autumn	"
Mr-Mrs Art Bessette	"
Corinne Cameron	"
Elaine Carver	"
Edwin Chase	"
Tonya Dibiasse	"
J. Flowers	"
Cindy Goodell	"
J.W. Gunlach	"
Olga A. Heinman	"
Steve Lindsay	"
Norma McAlister	"
N. Odenthal	"
Debra Pearce	"
Dave Potts	"
Joanne Powell	"
Colleen Adamen	- Hayden Lake
Holly L. Connick	"
Holly H. Houston	"
Maureen L. Kee	"
Tiffany Luttrell	"
Denise Schneberger	"
Elaine Bebb	- Kellogg
H.W. Lenhard	"
Ruth M. Hanson	- Medimont
Patti Beagley	- Murray
R.L. Stephenson	- Osburn
Shirley Torkeison	"
Jerald L. Watts	"
Suzy Horvath	- Pinehurst
Linda Backlund	- Post Falls
Elaine Carver	"
Marge-Lee Dattel	"
Denice Maguire	"
Vicki Morris	"
Danny Oneal	"
Steve Porter	"
Judy Worsfold	"
Cynthia Langlitz	- Rathdrum
Laurie A. Dillon	- St. Maries
K. Eldridge	"
Marilyn Rake	"
Rodney Robinson	"
Bernice Sporer	"

Transfers

Earl Mastin	- Cataldo
L. Newcombe	- Coeur d'Alene
Lar Previti	- Coeur d'Alene
Anita Robinson	- Coeur d'Alene
Robert Sims	- Coeur d'Alene
E.P. Warren	- Coeur d'Alene

MICA BAY SURVEY

One of our Chapter's Adopt a Wetland activities is to do a year around survey of the birds in Mica Bay. We will count birds at Mica Bay during the first and third weeks of each month. Observers on our first four counts included Kris Buchler, Cindy Langlitz, Pam Comrie, Lisa Kirchoffer, Nancy Cergl, Judy and Phil Waring, Corinne Cameron, Sharon and Jerry Hanson, Roger Young and Shirley Sturts. Anyone interested in helping with the surveys should call Shirley Sturts 664-5318.

The results of the November and December surveys are as follows:

	Nov. 8	Nov. 20	Dec. 6	Dec. 18
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	1
Red-necked Grebe	6	1	-	3
Canada Goose	-	24	16	50+
Mallard	32	6	8	12
Canvaback	-	-	2	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	2	-
Common Goldeneye	-	2+	9	5+
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	1
Bufflehead	3	3	3	2
Hooded Merganser	-	2	-	-
Common Merganser	-	-	1	3
Bald Eagle	-	-	-	1
Red-tailed Hawk	-	1	1	1
Ring-billed Gull	3	-	-	-
Gull (species)	-	1	1	15+
Northern Pygmy Owl	-	1	1	-
Downy Woodpecker	-	-	-	-
Northern Flicker	1	-	-	-
Common Raven	1	1	-	2
Black-C Chickadee	-	3	10	30+
Mountain Chickadee	-	-	-	1
Chestnut-b.Chickadee	-	-	-	2
Red-b Nuthatch	-	1	5	12+
Winter Wren	-	-	1	1
Golden-c Kinglet	-	2+	4+	15+
Dark-eyed Junco	2	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	-	1	-	9
Finch (sp)	-	20+	-	-
Mammals				
Muskrat	-	-	1	-
Beaver	-	-	2	-
Red Squirrel	1+	1+	1+	1+

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Coeur d'Alene Count took place Dec. 16. Six teams covered a 15 mile diameter circle which included Hayden Lake, Coeur d'Alene Lake (Silver Beach to Kidd Island Bay), Rathdrum Prairie as far as and including Post Falls and the city of Rathdrum, and the Spokane River from CdA to Post Falls. One group went owling south of the Spokane River near Post Falls from 4 a.m. - 6 a.m. but failed in their efforts. Participants in the count were as follows: Mike Blackbird, Kris Buchler, Janet Callen, Bruce Cergl, Nancy Cergl, Gordon Comrie, Pam Comrie, Pam Gontz, Bill Gundlack, Eula Hickman, Steve Holbrook, Nancy Mertz, Theresa Potts, Scott Reed, Ronn Rich, Russ Roundy, Ellen Scriven, Herb and Jan Severtson, Shirley Sturts, Roger Young. Feeder Watchers: Frank Andrews, Jane Badraun, Karna Boders, Gertie Hanson, Jack McNeel, Lee Strelz.

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Species	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Species	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Common Loon	-	-	1	-	-	Snowy Owl	-	-	1	-	-
Pied-Billed Grebe	2	4	-	6	8	Northern Pygmy-Owl	2	5	-	2	1
Horned Grebe	16	19	23	20	40	Short-eared owl	1	-	-	-	-
Red-Necked Grebe	5	17	10	5	13	Belted Kingfisher	5	4	1	3	5
Zared Grebe	-	-	-	-	1	Downy Woodpecker	9	16	3	2	2
Western Grebe	9	3	2	5	5	Hairy Woodpecker	10	16	5	2	3
Great Blue Heron	4	6	4	10	4	Northern Flicker	30	20	30	29	47
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	1	-	Pileated Woodpecker	3	1	-	1	2
Canada Goose	455	924	559	867	392	Horned Lark	-	-	-	3	-
Wood Duck	1	-	2	1	-	Gray Jay	1	2	-	-	-
Mallard	395	360	312	517	404	Steller's Jay	6	7	4	6	4
Mallard (Hybrid)	not counted				22	Blue Jay	-	-	-	3	-
Northern Pintail					1	Clark's Nutcracker	3	1	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	10	2	-	Black-billed Magpie	51	26	30	10	46
Canvasback	-	1	1	2	-	American Crow	31	35	96	75	30
Ring-necked Duck	35	30	29	23	3	Common Raven	48	143	52	12	49
Lesser Scaup	-	-	6	-	-	Black-c Chickadee	168	110	24	122	143
Oldsquaw	6	1	-	-	-	Mountain Chickadee	27	93	12	10	32
Common Goldeneye	72	84	40	42	74	Chestnut-b chickadee	13	18	6	2	29
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	2	2	1	-	Red-b Nuthatch	76	61	69	50	64
Bufflehead	107	40	67	105	186	White-b Nuthatch	-	-	2	-	-
Hooded Merganser	23	43	18	10	36	Pygmy Nuthatch	20	23	43	18	71
Common Merganser	53	74	93	184	66	Brown Creeper	1	5	5	2	4
Red-b Merganser	-	-	2	-	-	Bewick's Wren	-	-	1	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	1	-	-	Winter Wren	-	1	-	2	-
Bald Eagle	3	8	2	5	3	American Dipper	-	2	-	-	2
Northern Harrier	1	-	4	-	2	Golden-c Kinglet	6	20	37	12	13
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	3	-	1	1	Townsend's Solitaire	2	1	-	-	-
Cooper's Hawk	-	1	-	2	-	American Robin	273	-	108	85	16
Red-tailed Hawk	6	1	16	7	9	Varied Thrush	-	-	1	-	-
Rough-legged Hawk	4	1	20	7	10	Gray Catbird	-	-	1	-	-
Hawk (buteo sp.)	-	-	-	-	2	Bohemian Waxwing	285	-	70	120	81
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	1	Cedar Waxwing	-	-	-	-	18
American Kestrel	1	1	6	1	4	Northern Shrike	7	7	4	4	8
Merlin	-	-	1	-	-	European Starling	123	609	1158	214	863
Gray Partridge	-	46	-	34	14	Song Sparrow	16	43	13	8	16
Ring-necked pheasant	21	18	5	25	14	White-Crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-
Blue Grouse	-	2	-	-	-	Dark-eyed Junco	192	69	84	61	93
Ruffed Grouse	1	2	1	8	1	Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	15	-	-
Wild Turkey	25	-	8	66	90	Pine Grosbeak	-	13	2	-	-
California Quail	30	45	6	89	68	Cassin's Finch	39	2	-	-	-
American Coot	3	-	5	61	34	House Finch	330	535	151	167	511
Ring-billed Gull	1077	311	125	258	196	Red-Crossbill	10	-	37	8	45
California Gull	52	85	32	-	8	Common Redpoll	-	72	-	-	85
Herring Gull	562	154	102	82	125	Pine Siskin	306	285	4	4	6
Thayer's Gull	1	3	-	-	-	American Goldfinch	135	122	35	3	81
Glaucous Gull	2	1	2	-	-	Evening Grosbeak	134	28	36	40	-
Gull (sp.)	252	1161	-	-	54	House Sparrow	38	5	151	3	72
Rock Dove	150	-	48	16	44						
Mourning Dove	1	44	3	4	3	Total Species	66	66	70	66	66
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	2	Total Individuals	5787	6040	4046	3560	4380
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	-	1						

Notice

The Bird Feeder Survey is missing a page. If you are doing the Feeder Survey and have only 2 pages to the form I handed out at the December meeting or mailed to you please call me. There should be 3 pages to the survey form. Shirley Sturts 664-5318

RAISE A SWALLOW

Part 5 of a series
by Susan Weller



27 July.

A Cooper's hawk flew into the yard today, but my swallow disappeared, thankfully. I threw my tennis shoe at the hawk to discourage him from coming back--had to hop on one foot while I fished my shoe out of the hawthorne bush. This is a reminder that only 20% of fledglings make it to adulthood. My swallow is now spending time with the flock of 30-40 swallows across the road. There is safety in numbers I tell him.

28 July

My swallow has trimmed down and become very stream-lined and sleek. You can just get an inkling of green on his back if he's sitting in the full sun. His tail is also notched and his wings extend about an inch past his tail. He comes home for just a few hours every day now. This morning he had a buddy with him. As my swallow flew down to be fed, his companion began to peep like mad--almost as if in warning, "Are you crazy? Don't you know that's a human?" My swallow looked up unconcerned and continued to accept meal worms from a skewer. Soon, he will surround himself entirely with other swallows, and he won't come home at all. Though I will be sad, I am looking forward to that day. He has slowly assimilated into swallow culture, and that is great! I've

done all I can possibly do and can only hope he migrates with the bunch of swallows across the road. I tell him that will lengthen the odds of his survival, and the odds that he might return to raise a family of his own in his old nest box. As for me, this has easily been one of the most trying--and most rewarding--experiences I've ever had. I could not have done it without the help and understanding of my husband and the neighborhood kids.

1 August

The swallow came down to be fed only once today, about 9:30. He didn't act hungry and only accepted a few mouthfuls. He seemed impatient to get going, to be in the air once more. I looked him in the eye and told him it was okay to go that it was expected for him to go off and totally be a bird. Of course, I was really talking to myself, telling myself it was okay for him to go.

BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

Fernan Hill
December 12
Leader: Roger Young



Rain! It poured during much of the time four of us walked up the road and through the tall grass on Fernan Hill. The birds didn't want to move. We found twenty some finch perched in a large bush, mostly House finch. A covey of California quail at one point gave up hiding and scurried along the fence row. At the edge of the old orchard five whitetail deer gave up their bed and ran away as we approached. A few Black-capped Chickadee visited a feeder while we watched.

It is a nice break in our daily routines to get together and share experiences. My hope for the New Year is that more members will participate in this noon time activity.

OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Jane Badraun (JAB) Marilee Benson (MB), Kris Buchler (KSB) Corinne Cameron (CC), Gordon Comrie (GC), Pam Comrie (PAC), Barbara Durell (BD), Kas Dumroese (KSD) Lisa Kirchhoffer (LK), Jimmie J. Reynolds (JJR), Dan Svingen (DNS), Shirley Sturts (SHS), Judy Waring (JDW), Susan Weller (SW)

RER Rare Bird Report for Northern Idaho - Eastern Washington -
Northeastern Oregon Phone (208) 882-6195
or Internet-Web Site:

<http://pimacc.pima.edu/~cwilliamson/index.html>

1. Tundra Swan 25 Turner Bay, CDA Lake Nov. 24 (BD)
2. Canada Goose Population peaked at 3400 end of Sept. dropping to only a few hundred birds after Sept. 30. Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge (JJR)
3. Northern Pintail Population peaked at 600 in the middle of October (last year it peaked at only 200) Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge (JJR)
4. Northern Harrier 1 Rathdrum Prairie Dec. 9 (GC,PAC): 2 Rathdrum Prairie Dec. 10 (GC,PAC,SHS)
5. Sharp-Shinned Hawk 1 Post Falls area Dec. 9 (GC,PAC): 1 Coeur d'Alene (city, Sherman and 1st street) Dec. 18 (KSB,SHS)
6. Rough-legged Hawk 1 Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Sept. 19 (first sighting a full month before they are normally observed) (JJR): 2 Rathdrum Prairie Dec. 10 (GC,PAC,SHS)
7. Prairie Falcon 1 Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Aug. 8 (Rare visitor on refuge - last seen in 1989) (JJR)
8. American Kestrel 1 Dec. 3 Rathdrum Prairie (GC,PAC,SHS)
9. Sandhill Crane 15 Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Oct. 24 (becoming a regular visitor spring and fall) (JJR)
10. Dunlin 3 Sandpoint, west side of north end of the US 95 bridge, Dec. 9 (GC,PAC)
11. Bonaparte's Gull 25 Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Middle of October and remained 2-3 weeks (JJR)
12. Herring Gull 20+ Ramsey Landfill Dec. 3, (GC,PAC,SHS)
13. California Gull 20+ Ramsey Landfill Dec. 3 (GC,PAC,SHS)
14. Ring-billed Gull 4+ Ramsey Landfill Dec. 3 (GC,PAC,SHS)
15. Northern Pygmy-Owl 1 Near Heyburn State Park Dec. 6 (LK): 1 between Kingston and Pinehurst Dec. 11 (SW)
16. Short-eared Owl 1 Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Nov. 12 (a regular visitor in the fall) (JJR): 1 Idaho Road north of Post Falls Dec. 10 (GC,PAC,SHS)
17. Northern Saw-whet Owl 1 Moscow area Dec. 15 (DNS,KSD)
18. American Robin 20 Post Falls Dec. 10 (GC,PAC,SHS)
19. Bohemian Waxwing 30+ Fernan Village Dec. 3 (GC,PAC,SHS)
20. Cedar Waxwing 12 Post Falls area Dec. 10 (GC,PAC,SHS)
21. Northern Shrike 1 Rathdrum Prairie Dec. 10 (GC,PAC,SHS)
22. Cassin's Finch 2 at feeder Fernan Lake Home Dec. 22 (SHS)
23. Common Redpoll 8 Moscow area Dec. 15 (DNS,KSD)
24. Hoary Redpoll 1 Moscow area (with Common Redpoll) Dec. 15 (DNS,KSD)
25. American Goldfinch flocks up to 100 Rathdrum Prairie in Dec. JAB,MB)
26. Evening Grosbeak 1 at feeder Fernan Lake Home Dec. 22 (SHS)

=====
Answers to Quotes Quiz from page 2

Anonymous - Edward Hersey Richards - Anonymous - Ulysses S. Grant and/or Philip Sheridan (following Gen. Philip Sheridan's devastation of the Shenandoah Valley in 1864) - Commander Data, USS Enterprise, "Star Trek"

COEUR D'ALENE AUDUBON SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President
Ronn Rich 772-4512
Vice President
Susan Weiler 682-3413
Secretary
Janet Callen 664-1085
Treasurer
Phil Waring 765-5378
Board Member
Scott Reed 664-2161

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Conservation
Mike Mihelich 664-4741
Education - Librarian
Kris K. Buchler 664-4739
Membership - Field Trips
Judy Waring 765-5378
Hospitality
Nancy Mertz 765-5254
Newsletter
Shirley Sturts 664-5318

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

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

