

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society

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March 1992

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CALENDAR CHECK! -

- MAR 17, 1992**
5:30 PM **CONSERVATION MEETING** - The Conservation Committee will meet 5:30 p.m. at Santiago's La Casa Restaurant located at Government Way and Honeysuckle in Hayden Lake.
- MAR 17, 1992**
7 PM **MARCH MEETING** - location: basement of the Security Pacific Bank in Hayden Lake. Pat Tucker, wildlife biologist for the National Wildlife Federation will present a program on wolf ecology and recovery.
- MAR 21, 1992** **MARCH FIELD TRIP** - We will tour the Coeur d'Alene Wildlife Management Area. Meet at Rustler's Roost, 819 Sherman Avenue, at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast, we will leave at 8:00 a.m. to go birding. Bring a sack lunch, something to drink, and the necessary birding gear. Field Trip Leader: Shirley Sturts - 664-5318.
- MAR 25, 1992** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** for submitting articles, etc.
- MAR 29, 1992** **CONSERVATION PROJECT** -- building nest boxes. See article below for details.

CONSERVATION PROJECT-

On Sunday March 29th, students from Peggy Federici's sociology class at NIC will join Auduboners to build nest boxes for American kestrels. The construction of the boxes will take place in Roger Young's workshop on the 29th. Roger said he can only fit about ten people in his workshop, but volunteers will be needed to go out into the field to place the boxes. The Department of Fish and Game is generously donating the lumber for this project. Boxes will be placed on F&G, BLM, and USFS property in an effort to provide nesting opportunities for kestrels where natural snags may be in short supply. Audubon volunteers interested in participating in the placement of boxes, or in the monitoring of the boxes during the coming nesting season may call Susan Weller at 682-3413.



ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973 --**Sec. 2. (a) Findings. -- The Congress finds and declares that--**

(1) various species of fish, wildlife, and plants in the United States have been rendered extinct as a consequence of economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation;

(2) other species of fish, wildlife, and plants have been so depleted in numbers that they are in danger of or threatened with extinction;

(3) these species of fish, wildlife, and plants are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people . . .

(b) Purposes.--The purposes of this Act are to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved . . .

I don't know how many of you have read the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (As Amended through the 100th Congress), but the initial declaration says it all for me. Fish, wildlife, and plants are still, in 1992, being "rendered extinct" as a consequence of economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation." Attorneys look for loopholes, agencies seek to side-step, industry attempts to obliterate, politicians lobby to re-write, and now the Secretary of the Interior tries to overrule -- for the benefit of the few -- clear public policy mandated in the ESA to protect us from ourselves. Congressman John Dingell said:

"Preventing the extinction of our fellow creatures is neither frivolity nor foolish environmental excess; it is the means by which we keep intact the great storehouse of natural treasures that make the progress of medicine, agriculture, science and human life itself possible."

Environmentalism is not a new religion as some detractors allege, but it is a code of ethical behaviour that may serve as a guide to how we treat the natural world -- and one another. Determining which species may survive based on economic factors is pretty much the same as providing health care to only those who can afford it: it makes great economic sense, but it doesn't say a lot for our ethics, or our humanity. Thankfully, Congress and the American people continue to feel that the ethical consideration of living things -- including ecosystems -- outweighs the consideration of short-term economic profit. But the position of the ESA is not set in stone, and every day it seems as if there is some new threat to our forests and wetlands, to our state and national parks, to our lakes and rivers, and to the laws enacted to protect these places from "economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation."



President Peter Berle has asked us to discuss adding the protection of the ESA to Audubon's list of high priority campaigns. Earlier this month I met with Ellen Scriven and the Conservation Committee to



discuss this issue. We unanimously agreed that the preservation of the Endangered Species Act merited our concern and was worthy of our efforts. Only our genuine determination will help insure the future of species like the grizzly bear and the goshawk, the Macfarlane's four-o'clock and the Pacific salmon -- and maybe even ourselves.

- Susan Weller

CALIFORNIA CONDORS RETURN TO WILD -

On January 14th two California Condors flexed their wings in the wild for the first time. The California Condor recovery program began in 1987. At that time the last remaining wild condor was captured in an effort to save the species from extinction. This pair was released along with two Andean Condors in the Sespe Condor Sanctuary which is located in the Los Padres National Forest near Los Angeles. David Clendern of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that the pair are taking short flights and will stay close to their release site for another month or so. If the progress of this pair continues to go well, another condor release will occur this fall. [Birding World]

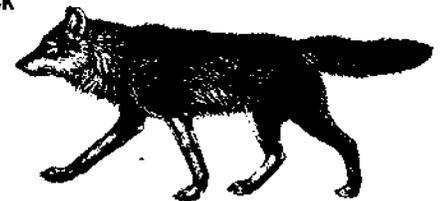
IDAHO'S ENDANGERED -

Currently more than 500 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fishes, insects, arachnids, crustaceans, snails, clams, and plants face extinction in the United States. The following are species listed for Idaho state.

Mammals - Gray wolf
Grizzly bear
Woodland Caribou

Plants - Macfarlane's four-o'clock

Birds - American peregrine falcon
Bald Eagle



Reviewing this list of 500 "endangered" or "threatened" species and the states in which they were listed was a sobering experience. In noting the species applicable to Idaho, it became quite apparent that Idaho, in comparison to many other states, had fewer species listed. But six is six too many! We have fast gone from merely "using" to that of "using up" habitats that are essential to certain species.

T.H. Watkins, Editor of *Wilderness*, a magazine of the Wilderness Society, stated in reference to this endangered and threatened species list printed in the Summer 1991 issue --

"... a somber and enlightening example of what must be at once one of the noblest and saddest exercises in bureaucratic history: noble, because by keeping such a list we hope to identify those creatures and plants we can move to protect and preserve before it is too late; sad, because we have built a world in which it is *necessary* to keep such a list."

Wallace Stegner, in his essay "Memo to the Mountain Lion", stated:

"If we cannot live in harmony with other forms of life, if we cannot control our hostility toward the earth and its creatures, how shall we ever learn to control our hostility towards each other?"

This is a question that we must face if we want to transform the careless squandering of life -- all life -- to the preservation of life on this earth for all living creatures. [-Pam Gontz - Source: *Wilderness*, Summer 1991]

"WE CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH OF NATURE."

- Henry David Thoreau

BIRD NOTES -

Tundra Swans - 16 seen at Wolf Lodge Bay on 02/29/92 by Pam Gontz
15 seen in Cataldo area in flooded fields on 02/29/92 by Pam Gontz
approx. 45 seen on the back marsh to Thompson Lake, Cd'A Management Area on 02/29/92 by Pam Gontz

FROM THE CONSERVATION CHAIR --

A bill, which gives permanent protection to the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area and introduced by Congressman Larry LaRocco, has passed the house. The 483,000 acres located south of Boise is home to the densest concentration of nesting raptors in North America.

Congressman Larry LaRocco, as a member of the interior committee, holds a swing vote, a critical one, in a close debate over protection of remaining old growth forests. Please write him urging support for Rep. Miller's efforts to put together ancient forest legislation based on a scientifically credible plan that will preserve the forests, the wildlife, and the fisheries. And won't limit judicial review of forest management decisions. Urge Rep. LaRocco to support a bill protecting ancient forest in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, Northern California and the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Tell him you believe the time to preserve this ecosystem is now . . . before it's too late. If you haven't already done so, urge Congressman LaRocco to cosponsor the Ancient Forest Protection Act H.R. 842, a bill offered by Rep. Jim Jontz, with more than 130 cosponsors. It would provide ancient forest ecosystems protection by calling for preservation of significant stands of ancient forests.

Honorable Larry LaRocco
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Our Senators Steve Symms and Larry Craig are supporting a bill which would reduce citizen input on decisions pertaining to the licensing for construction and operation of new nuclear power plants.

Q - How do trees reduce air pollution?

A - They remove carbon dioxide pollution produced by cars, power plants, and factories. One tree removes and stores 25-45 pounds of carbon from the air every year.

In Idaho the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee will be considering funding for several environmental programs. Please write or call Senator Mary Lou Reed expressing your desire to have \$25,000 allocated for the Clean Lake Coordinating Council. It has been severely underfunded since its inception. The Priest Lake Water Quality Management Plan needs \$167,900 and 2 FTEs for its development. A ground water quality plan is before the legislature this session. The governor has requested \$579,400 and 5 FTEs which would protect our ground water.

Call your Legislators at: 1-800-626-0471 or write:

(Name)
Idaho State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Boise, ID 83720

OIL SMART -

Before you drive, think twice : . .
Is this trip really necessary? Do I really need to drive?

Half of all trips are less than five miles and many of these are made on impulse. Yet, short car trips get worse mileage and create more pollution than smooth, steady driving. Frequent cold starting, slow speeds, and the stop and go nature of short trips are the problem. In addition, engine wear is caused mostly by starting.

- The best way to save gas, clean the air, and prolong your cars life is to avoid unnecessary driving, especially for short trips.
- For a new outlook, try walking or bicycling now and then using less travelled and quieter side streets. You may even find it's more fun than driving. An extra benefit is the exercise you'll get at the same time.
- If you must drive, keep you auto's engine tuned, plan your route and combine trips whenever possible.

DO YOUR PART. BE OIL SMART.

Oil Smart is a campaign to promote alternatives to single-occupancy commuting.

[Nature's Advocate, newsletter of the Spokane Sierra Club, Feb. issue.]
-Ellen Scriven

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.

FEATHERED FACTS --

AMERICAN KESTREL [Falco sparverius]

"Falco" is Low Latin for falcon. It is also taken from the Latin term "falx" meaning sickle in reference to the shape of the talons and the beak. "Sparverius" is Latin for "pertaining to a sparrow" (sparrow hawk is another name for this bird). The name sparrow hawk is an unfortunate term because it implies that sparrows are a major part of its diet, while it is only a small part. Also it is not a hawk. That's why many ornithologists prefer the name American Kestrel. Kestrel appears to derive from the bird's call klee-klee-klee or killy, killy, killy.



DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES:

- smallest and most common North American falcon
[even smaller than the smallest hawk, the sharp-shinned hawk]
- 9-12 in. long with a 20-24 in. wing spread
- has typical falcon shape -- short neck, small bulletlike head, pointed wings
- has rufous-red back and tail, males have slate blue on their wings
- face is white with two vertical black mustache marks
- underparts are pale orange-brown with dark spots
- hovers over prey
- kestrels have a pair of false eyes, or ocelli, on the nape. These false eyes are thought to be a protective coloration in that they will deter potential predators.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The Sharp-shinned Hawk has rounded wings and does not hover. Merlins are slightly larger than kestrels. Merlin males have blue backs and wings, females dark brown. Merlins hover infrequently. The Prairie Falcon is much larger and does not hover.

BREEDING HABITAT AND NESTING: American Kestrels breed in open or partly open habitats with scattered trees. They are also found in cultivated and urban areas. Nests are often located in cavities in trees, banks, cliffs and buildings. They will also use man-made nest boxes but prefer natural cavities or old woodpecker holes if they are available. They use little, if any, nesting material. Eggs are white or pinkish-white, marked with browns and occasionally lavender.



DIET: They hunt in open habitat often perching on overhead wires or posts while looking for prey. Kestrels hunt above a point on the ground by "wind hovering". That is, they fly into the wind at a speed equal to that of the wind. During the summer Kestrels feed heavily on large insects such as grasshoppers. They also prey on small birds, rodents and snakes. Winter prey is primarily small birds and rodents.



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
 7XCHB

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