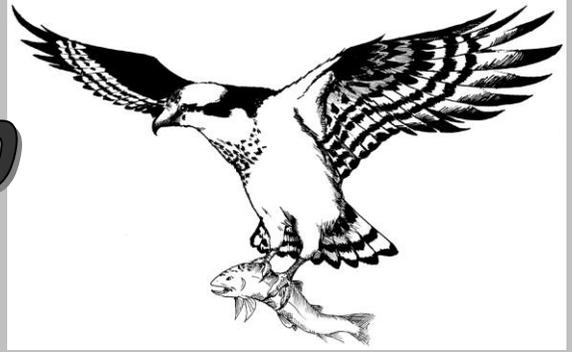


THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society



MARCH 2001

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 7

Visit our website: www.cdaaudubon.org

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

BOARD MEETING

Date: March 5, Monday

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Mountain West Bank
. 125 Ironwood Dr.

MARCH PROGRAM

Date: March 19, Monday

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: First Presbyterian Church, 521
Lakeside

Program: NATURE'S SPLENDOR AT LOON
LAKE

SPEAKERS: Ginger Gumm and Dan
Poleschook have chronicled the life of
loons and other waterfowl of Loon Lake.
They will share their years of photographs
giving us a close-up look at the life of the
Common Loon and other avian species
that inhabit one of our neighboring lakes.

Fourth Annual Sandhill Crane Festival
Othello, Washington March 23-25, 2001.
More details and registration information
are available from the Othello Chamber of
Commerce. Visit their web site at
www.othello-wa.com. The Chamber office
can be reached by e-mail at
othello@othello-wa.com or by
phone at 1-800-684-2556.

AUDUBON MEMBERS NEEDED

TO SERVE ON CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Audubon members are once again invited to serve on Coeur d'Alene Audubon's Conservation Committee. Duties will include attending a monthly discussion and planning meeting on conservation topics and chapter activities and projects.

The committee will discuss the conservation goals of National Audubon and Coeur d'Alene Audubon and carry out initiatives at the local and national level. Our mission statement directs us to preserve and protect threatened and endangered species and their habitats, and to perpetuate and enhance all of Idaho's wildlife species and their habitats—particularly nongame species.

The committee is looking for dedicated individuals who feel comfortable tackling controversial subjects, but many of the subjects we discuss and the projects we implement are just plain fun. This is a great opportunity for those who wish to learn more about Idaho's wildlife species, their habitats and the issues that concern their continued survival.

Interested persons should contact Susan Weller at 682-3413. The committee will meet in late March. Contact me at this number for the time and place. ●

Clinton Signs Executive Order for Birds

On January 11, President Clinton signed the Executive Order Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds. Audubon and other conservation groups find great potential for furthering bird conservation under this Executive Order. The US Forest Service has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding this issue. ●

MCCALL PARK

Field Trip, February 17

Theresa Potts



Photo by Wayne Tree

Ken Eppler, Janet Callen, Roland Craft, Shirley Sturts and myself met on a gorgeous Saturday to investigate a new park in Hayden Lake.

After the trip leader located the correct city hall, we met up with Eula Hickam who led the tour.

Eula has been quite involved in getting part of the park set up as an urban bird watching area.

The park is about 7 acres. There are a number of Ponderosa Pines and some underbrush and open space. The group was very impressed with the possibilities. We observed Red Crossbill, House Finch and Red-breasted Nuthatch while there.

At this point, the city of Hayden Lake has planned a small picnic area, a parking lot and a small grassy area to be included in the park. Audubon would work up a plan for the birding area.

Roland thinks that Fish and Game may be able to give us plants that are specifically for birds at a considerably reduced price. He is going to look into this for us. We will keep you posted on the plans.

After looking at the park, we drove to Hayden Lake to look for waterfowl. We found quite a few Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Mallard, Ring-billed Gull and two each of Pied-billed Grebe and Canada Goose.

We then headed for the airport to look for a Snowy Owl. No luck, but we did find two Red-tailed Hawk and one Common Raven.

We then headed for the Olive Garden for lunch where we joined Jan and Herb Severtson. It was the finishing touch to a lovely day.

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SUMMARY OF BOARD MEETING

February 12

- ◆ Kris Buchler opened the meeting at 5 p.m. with 10 members present.
- ◆ Higgins Point Eagle Habitat Improvement Plan has begun. Susan will meet with the 6 volunteer companies to plan strategy on March 3. Help with tree planting and knapweed eradication will be needed later.
- ◆ Migratory Bird Day is May 12. We would like to include a "Keep Your Cat Indoors" campaign as one of our activities. Ideas were to: ask the Coeur d'Alene City Council to declare May 12 as "K.Y.C.I. Day and/or have a plan to get local school children involved.
- ◆ Our last bit of work on the Gertie Hanson Memorial Platform project at Mica Bay is to erect a sign near the beginning of the trail. Shirley will contact the Fish and Game Department about having them provide us with such a sign.
- ◆ A financial report comparing the last three years shows that the newsletter does not pay it own way. With NAS reducing it dues-sharing to local chapters in the next few years, we will need to be creative in finding other sources of revenue. •

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to all the many new members this month! Sixty-seven elementary school teachers joined Audubon, coming from Cd'A , Post Falls, Mullan, Cataldo, Wallace, Pinehurst, Kellogg, St. Maries, Hayden Lake, and Harrison school districts. Other new members are: Barbara Christofferson, Tom & Priscilla Cooper, Carolyn Cozzetto, Jack Knox, Mike & Crystal Leach, Shirley Torkelson, Carl & Marilyn Weik, David and Barbara Zimmer, David & Lenia Schmidt, Tim Shannon, and Jason Thomas. We hope to see you at the meetings and field trips!!

A BIG WELCOME !!!

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\$\$ RUMMAGE SALE \$\$

Our 2nd annual Rummage Sale is coming in June!! Doing Christmas and early Spring Cleaning?? Save your "collectibles" for us!!

Contact: Theresa Potts 765-0229
or Jan Severtson 667-6209

BROWN BAG BIRDING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Theresa Potts

Nine people took advantage of the spectacular weather to do a little birding around the Coeur d'Alene Resort boardwalk.

Just as we arrived we were greeted by a Song Sparrow loudly giving its call. We then were able to clearly see two Red-necked Grebe by Tubbs Hill.

We thought that we had spotted a loon. Two had been seen near Sandpoint and we were excited that we might have one here. The sun was behind the duck making it hard to see. But when a couple of Common Merganser swam behind the bird, we could tell by size that it wasn't a loon. We finally determined that the avian was a Red-necked Grebe.

We continued our excursion around the boardwalk and saw several Bufflehead near the beach along with some Mallard, Ring-billed gull and a California Gull.

Two Common Goldeneye cooperated beautifully and gave us a very good look at them just inside the marina. Off in the distance we could see two Great Blue Heron sitting on logs and a Bald Eagle on one of the pilings.

Roland and Pat Craft, Jan Severtson, Kris Buchler, Laura Bayless and friend, Dottie Jones and Shirley Sturts were members of this very enjoyable Brown Bag Birding Trip.

MARCH FIELD TRIPS

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE: March 6, Tuesday

TIME: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

MEET: Higgins Point Parking Lot

LEADER: Susan Weller, 682-3413

ACTIVITY: Susan will show us what is being done as part of the Higgins Point Eagle Habitat Improvement Plan. We will spend some time birding the area as well.

MYSTERY TRIP

DATE: March 11, Sunday

TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

MEET: (Old) Rosauer's parking lot, Highway 95 and Appleway, east side

LEADER: Kris Buchler, 664-4739

ACTIVITY: We will look for birds locally. Weather permitting we will walk the trails at the Nature Conservancy in Cougar Bay. Kris will talk to us about doing bird surveys there this spring and summer. Optional activity will be lunch afterward at a local Restaurant.

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES: March 12 and 26, Mondays

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

LEADER: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318

Kris Buchler, 664-4739

ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours twice a month counting birds in the Mica Bay area. Beginner birders are welcome to join us.

HEYBURN STATE PARK

DATE: March 18, Sunday

TIME: 7:00 a.m.

MEET: (Old) Rosauer's parking lot, Highway 95 and Appleway, east side

LEADER: Lisa Hardy, 682-4808 or e-mail .

basalt@earthlink.net

ACTIVITY: We will check for early migrants in the variety of habitats found in this park at the south end of Coeur d'Alene Lake. This will be a ¾ day trip, so bring a lunch and water. We will do some casual hiking.

MISTER STELLER COMES TO STAY

And grants me an honorary place within the jay clan

Continued from the February Newsletter

By Susan Weller

27 July

Greg has been working on a 6x6x3-foot enclosure for Jay. Even the large dog crate is cramping Jay's



Photograph by Wayne Tree

style. When Jay is outside he stays mostly on the ground. Since he hurt himself he uses his wings only to accelerate horizontal hops. He needs to get up off the ground and into the trees.

I love the whiney little chortle he makes during his first and last feedings of the day. Those are the only times he won't feed himself now. He reverts to the nestling stage when he gets tired or sleepy.

He has begun to cache food in his crate. He'll eat sunflower hearts out right, but if I feed him a peanut or a pine nut he coughs them up, and hops back into his crate to stash them somewhere. His behavior shows he is advancing right on schedule.

I kept Jay's crate out after dark so he can get used to the cooler temperatures in the evening. I have to stay up late anyway; the moths don't start to get thick around the porch lights until 10:30. Because he loves his moths in the morning I have to keep hunting until 12:30.

28 July

Greg finished the enclosure about noon. I nailed or stapled various ponderosa pine branches into the space, and a few smooth-barked branches as well. A stump, a water dish, a few fruiting berry sprays, pinecones, and rocks rounded out the decorating. When he entered the enclosure, Jay seemed pleased yet nonplused—as if he were confused by all the space. Now insects may enter the enclosure so he can practice hunting and killing at leisure.

Bees and wasps are a major food source for jays. I have a good supply in all of the nests under the eaves of the shed. I take the stingers out but he still seems

indifferent to them as a food source. He has been squaring away the new residence today, rearranging things and hiding bits of food. He is preoccupied with all that fresh gravel on the floor.

Later

It's in the 90's today so about 4:30 I took a fresh container of cool water out to change his dish. I sprinkled him liberally with my fingers and splashed around with him until he got in to bathe.

He is getting finicky about his food. Any kind of berry or nut does not interest him. He wants crickets, small mealworms, and of course his morning moths. I got a huge root borer around the porch light tonight—my nightly forays have attracted some interesting players. The root borer was on the ground, hoping to capitalize on my misses and drops. A tree frog affixes itself to the screen door every evening now. Several species of spiders also hang around—daddy long-legs, hobo, and cat spiders. Several species of ants also have begun to collect around my feet. All are welcome to join in the hunt, but some—like the borer—may fall victim themselves. I wield a deadly accurate flyswatter.

The orange moths that come in droves are tent moths. I kill literally fifty to a hundred a night. They are Jay's favorite. Maybe I'm inadvertently saving someone's fruit trees by keeping the moths under control.

Tonight is Jay's first night outside. His enclosure is very sturdy and he will be totally safe from outside predators. Sweet dreams to you, Jay.

CONTINUED IN THE APRIL NEWSLETTER

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PONDEROSA PINE TASKFORCE

Mike Mihelich, President IAC

The Idaho Partners in Flight has established a Ponderosa Pine Task Force that is concerned with improving bird populations and habitats in pine forests. The oversight committee had their first meeting in Lewiston on Feb 6, and discussed a number of issues relating to the Pine Task Force, including the operation of the Technical Committee, mapping stands, and the publication of two documents by the Task Force. Attendees at the meeting included representatives from the Idaho Dept of Lands, Idaho Fish & Game, Boise Cascade, Idaho PIF, and Idaho Audubon Society.. •

A SUNNY DAY AT SANDPOINT

Lisa Hardy

Four members of Coeur d'Alene Audubon birded Pend Oreille Lake in the Sandpoint area on Sunday, February 11, 2001. Our route led us through the town of Sandpoint, stopping at City Beach and the Third Street dock, before traveling the Sunnyside Road loop.

The highlight of the trip was a single male Eurasian Wigeon in the company of three Gadwall, at the ice edge in the Pack River delta. This was the only wigeon we saw all day.

The weather was cold and sunny, highlighting the spectacular scenery around the lake. The waters of Oden Bay along the western part of Sunnyside Road were frozen, but upon rounding the point to the south shore of the peninsula we came upon two huge rafts of waterfowl, the first apparently monospecific American Coot, the other a mix of Redhead, Scaup, Ring-necked Duck and Canvasback. The two rafts converged and mixed under the watch of several Bald Eagle. We noted with dismay that one of the eagles was trailing a length of fishing line. Along the road we came upon a freshly eviscerated coot, apparently dropped by an eagle from an overhanging tree.

We heard Common Loon calling against a backdrop of irreverent Clark's Nutcracker noises. The Pack River delta also yielded Tundra Swan and Hooded Merganser.

Trip participants: Wendy Aeschlimann, Kris Buchler, Lisa Hardy, Lynn Sheridan

THANK YOU

SPIRIT LAKE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT PARTICIPANT CORRECTION

• Shirley Sturts (compiler)

I left out the name of a very important participant in the Spirit Lake Count. Bill Gundlach spent several hours in his kayak counting the birds in Idlewilde and Buttonhook Bays on Pend Oreille Lake. Snow-covered roads prevented any bird counting from the shore. Thank you, Bill for adding several species and numbers to our list CBC birds•

8TH ANNUAL

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BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

Shirley Sturts



PHOTO BY WAYNE TREE

Shirley Sturts. If you participated and your name is not here, please call me at 664-5318 so that I can include your feeder in the results.

The survey was just completed and forms are still coming in. I want to thank those who participated:: Marilee Benson, Kris Buchler, Elaine Coddling, Carolyn Cozzetta, Barbara Dorrell, Ken Eppler, Lisa Hardy, Dottie Jones, Earl and Jan Kendle, Theresa Potts, George Saylor, Jan .. Severtson, Lynn Sheridan,

From 9 of the 12 survey forms turned in so far, the top feeder bird in numbers was the House Finch with 71 counted the first half of January by 6 feeder watchers. Coming in second was the Dark-eyed Junco with 64 birds counted by 6 feeder watchers in December. Third place goes to the American Goldfinch with 58 at the feeder of Ken Eppler in February. The species that won the award for being at the most feeders goes to the Black-capped Chickadee and Red-breasted Nuthatch. They were present at 8 of the 9 feeders. New to the list of Feeder Birds were: 3 Bob White at the feeder of Shirley Sturts in December and 1 Blue Jay at the Feeder of Lynn Sheridan in February.

A Common Raven came to the feeder tree of Carolyn Cozzetto in December. It looked over the suet but could not get to it. Dottie Jones had a Magpie attack and kill a gopher under her feeder on February 9. Barbara Dorrell had 16 Wild Turkey (one being an Albino) on December 28. Elaine Coddling had a Bald Eagle briefly roost in a pine tree in her yard. A Northern Shrike landed in the top of the tallest tree in the yard of Marilee Benson, January 23rd and 28th. American Robin were feeding in an apple tree at the home of George Saylor. Ken Eppler had a Brown Creeper but not on one of his count days.

For the complete results visit our Webpage: www.cdaudubon.org. It should be on the website by the second week in March. Copies of the results will be available at the March meeting. •

BOOK REVIEW

Fay Wright

*One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin--
Shakespeare, Troilus & Cressida.*



One Man's Owl by Bernd Heinrich is akin to our own naturalist extraordinaire, Susan Weller, and her raising of Mr. Jay. I look forward each month to the next installment of their life together, and in much the same way I enjoy the straight-forward work of Professor Heinrich (whom I

was quite excited to see on Channel 4 News recently explaining the "pointy-ness" of conifers to a rambling reporter. He looked a bit older, a bit wearier than his photographs in this book, but living fully as an earth steward is not for the faint-hearted, and, of course, much has no doubt happened to the author in the thirteen years since the publication of this book.

This diary covers three years in the Maine woods, during which time the author and his wife have a child, build a cabin, and he raises a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) from downy owlet to full-grown predator. It all begins with SURPRISE. In early April Heinrich sees "a dark silhouette gliding silently over the pines at dusk; then it vanishes like a ghost"(3). The author returns to the area in mid-April, locates the nest, and, with much adventure, sees three owlets in it. The nest itself is an old crows' nest (a bit of irony here) and is not in very good shape.

Two days later, wind, ice, and snow hit, and Heinrich finds the portion of the tree with the nest buried in snow. On the branches above sit two bedraggled, but upright, owlets; the third, he surmises, must be in the snow. "I had little hope of finding the youngster alive in this snow, but I thought it was worth a try. I pulled out one branch. Nothing. Another. Still nothing. but...was that a foot? No doubt about it--an owl's foot was sticking out of the snow" (13). Thus begins Heinrich's life with an owl he fittingly titles, Bubo. (If you ever saw Clash of the Titans, you may grimace here recalling the metallic Tinkerbell-like sidekick to Harry Hamlin's Perseus, a little owl called...yes...Bubo. Rest assured that in the chest of Heinrich's owl beats a muscular, real heart. No Hollywood notions in this book.)

The author wraps Bubo in his jacket and applies to the necessary authorities for permission to raise him in "the interest of science" so that he can research possible reasons behind crow-mobbing of owls. Heinrich is honest in his assessment of his intentions as he admits that his research plan quickly becomes a thinly veiled cover for his more personal affection for this owl.

What unfolds are two hundred pages of precise journal entries, pencil sketches, and photographs that cover the spring and summer months of the next three years as he trains Bubo to hunt, introduces a pair of crows to the "family," and studies the owl's behaviors. Heinrich does draw some speculative conclusions at the end of this book about why Great Horned Owls may not attack their mobbers, but the real value of this story for me is its testimony to the connection between all forms of life, and the joys that closely attending to this life can bring. Hope you all had a good Christmas and are beginning a great new year with your nests safe from all high winds. Until next time...--Fay

One Man's Owl. Bernd Heinrich. Princeton University Press. @NIC Library, QL/696/.S83/H45/1987.



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OBSERVATION POST



OBSERVERS:

Laura Bayless(LBAY),
Kris Buchler (KBUC), Janet Callen
(JCAL), Corinne Cameron (CCAM), Del
Cameron (DCAM), Roland Craft (RCRA), Dick Cripe (DCRI)
Ken Eppler (KEPP), Bill Gundlach (BGUN), Alice Hardin
(AHAR), Lisa Hardy (LHAR), Steve Lindsay (SLIN), Nancy
Mertz (NMER), Theresa Potts (TPOT), George Saylor (GSAY),
Jan Severtson (JSEV), Lynn Sheridan (LSHE), Shirley Sturts
(SSTU), Jenny Taylor (JTAY) MICA Bay Survey observers:
(SSTU, BGUN, TPOT, KBUC, KEPP, RCRA, BGUN, JCAL,
DCAM, JSEV)

Red-necked Grebe 1 Sander's Beach, Feb. 10 (GSAY)

Greater Scaup 1 Harlow Point Road, Harrison, Jan. 28
Feb. 18 (SLIN)

Red-breasted Merganser 1 male CDA River seen from
Highway 97. Jan. 28, Feb. 18 (SLIN)

Bald Eagle 3 adults, 2 imm. Wolf Lodge Bay (Last date for
the BLM winter survey Feb. 5 (CCAM))

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 at her feeder CDA, Feb. 7 (JCAL)

Merlin 1 Post Falls, Jan. 28, 1 Rathdrum Feb. 18 (SLIN)

California Quail 100+ State Line Area, Feb. 19 (AHAR)

Common Snipe 2 Beauty Bay, CDA Lake, Feb. 5 (CCAM)

Thayer's Gull 1 adult CDA City Beach, Feb. 18 (SLIN)

Pileated Woodpecker 1 Farragut State Park, Feb. 11
(JTAY); 1 Armstrong Hill, Feb. 17 (KBUC)

Downy Woodpecker 1 S. 16th CDA, Feb. 19 (BGUN)

Hairy Woodpecker 1 Aqua Ave. n. of CDA, Feb. 7 (JCAL)

Northern Shrike 1 Mica Bay Survey, Feb. 12 (MICA)

Steller's Jay 1 Pine Ave. CDA, Feb. 12 (NMER); 1 11th and
Ash CDA Feb. 17 (GSAY); 1 in yard S. 16th Street CDA,
Feb. 19 (BGUN)

Steller's/Blue Jay Hybrid 1 N. 16th Street CDA, Feb. 7
(LSHE); 1 Pine Ave. CDA, Feb. 12 (NMER)

Gray Jay 1 Dawson Pass, Feb. 18 (LHAR)

Blue Jay 1 Pine Ave. CDA, Feb. 12 (NMER) 1 in yard
N. 16th Street CDA, Feb. 14 (LSHE)
1 back yard Arrowhead Road, CDA, Feb. 19 (TPOT)

Clark's Nutcracker 5 Twin Lake, daily in Feb. (LBAY)

Horned Lark 1 Rathdrum Prairie, Feb. 12 (SLIN)

Chestnut-backed Chickadee 4 and 3 Mica Bay Survey,
Jan. 22, Feb. 12 (MICA)

White-breasted Nuthatch 1 Twin Lakes, Daily in Feb.
(LBAY); 1 Thompson Lake, Feb. 18 (SLIN); 1 Kingston,
Feb. 22 (LHAR)

Golden-cr. Kinglet 3 Farragut State Park, Feb. 11 (JTAY)
1 Mica Bay Survey, Jan. 22 (MICA)

American Robin 5 backyard Fairmont Loop eating snow
berries, Feb. 19 (JSEV); 300 Armstrong Hill, Feb. 19
(KBUC)

Townsend's Solitaire 1 Higgins Pt, CDA L., Jan. 28 (GSAY)

Varied Thrush 5+ seen and heard daily since Feb. 9
Fairmont Loop Road Home (JSEV); 2 Lake shore Drive in
an apple tree, Feb. 13 (LSHE); 1 Sanders Beach, CDA,
Feb. 10 (GSAY); 1 Twin Lakes daily in Feb. (LBAY); 1+
heard Armstrong Hill, Feb. 19 (KBUC)

Bohemian Waxwing 25 Kingston, Feb. 19 (LHAR);
1 with flocks of Cedar Waxwing and American Robins Best
Ave. CDA, Feb. 16 (SLIN); 30 (mixed flock Cedar/
Bohemian) Lake shore Drive, CDA, Feb. 13 (LSHE); 25
Armstrong Hill, Feb. 19 (KBUC)

Harris' Sparrow 1 in yard Arrowhead Road Jan. 27 (rare
for our area) (TPOT)

Snow Bunting 1 Rathdrum Prairie, Feb. 18 (SLIN)

Red-winged Blackbird 29 at her feeder CDA Feb. 16th
(JCAL); 5 State Line area, Feb. 19 (AHAR)

Common Redpoll 1 Canyon Road west of Cataldo, Feb.
18 (with a flock of American Goldfinch) (SLIN)

Red Crossbill 8-10 Pinewood Estates CDA, Feb. 7
(JCAL); 1+ heard Armstrong Hill, Feb. 19 (KBUC)

White-winged Crossbill 1 Female (possibly more with a
flock of Red Crossbills) Stanley Hill, Feb. 18, 22 (DCRI)

Pine Siskin 3 Twin Lakes, Daily in Feb. (LBAY); 6 N. 16th
Street CDA, Jan. 30 (SSHE), up to 60 coming to feeder in
Jan./Feb. Armstrong Hill (KBUC)

Evening Grosbeak 1 flock on Tamarack Ridge west of
Cataldo, Feb. 18 (SLIN) ●

