

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society

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May 1993

Volume 3, No. 2

## CALENDAR CHECK! -

**NOTE - THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER AND THE MAY MEETING WILL BE THE LAST MEETING UNTIL WE RESUME IN SEPTEMBER. THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE MAILED OUT PRIOR TO THE SEPTEMBER MEETING.**

MAY 18,  
1993  
5:30 PM

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING!** Members of the Conservation Committee will meet on May 18th at 5:30 pm at the Takara Restaurant, 309 Lakeside Ave., Cd'A.

MAY 18,  
1993  
7 PM

**MAY MEETING!** The Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society will meet on Tuesday, May 18th at 7 P.M. at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 812 N. 5th, Cd'A. **PLEASE NOTE THIS NEW MEETING PLACE!** The Church is located on the corner of 5th and Reid Streets. You can park in the small parking lot in front of the Church on Reid St. or in the parking area across the way on 5th St.

The final 1993 summer meeting for the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society will take place on May 18, at 7 pm. Our featured speaker will be Kenneth Strom, manager of Audubon's Lillian Annette Rowe Sanctuary located on the Platte River in Nebraska. Ken will present a program on the migration of the Sandhill Cranes of the Platte. He'll tell us about the threats to this unique habitat and the efforts to improve and protect river flows for the crane's special needs.



Ken recently travelled to Russia and Pakistan to visit river systems comparable to the Platte's. In Russia, the Amur River features Red-crowned and Siberian Cranes. In Pakistan, the Indus River is home to the Common and de Moisselle Cranes. Ken was able to make the trip because of a joint project between Audubon's Sanctuary Department and Population Program. The program is designed to study the effects of human populations on wildlife.

We've asked Ken to bring a variety of Platte River paraphernalia along with him. Available for sale at the meeting will be items like T-shirts, audio tapes, and Sandhill Crane pins.

Please join us for this special evening devoted to the Crane species of the U.S., Russia, and Pakistan.

AUG 20, '93

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** for submitting articles, etc., for the September newsletter.

### **\*\*\* CHANGING OF THE GUARD \*\*\***

#### **Nominations for President:**

If you combined the years I served as president of the Rose Lake Bird Club with the years I've served as president of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society, the total would be five years. That's a long time without a break. Thankfully, we have a candidate for president -- Mike Mihelich. Mike has been very active on the conservation committee, and has been invaluable in helping us to understand forest issues and complicated government documents. Mike's expertise in matters of forest health and management will bring a fresh new spin to Audubon leadership. Those of you wishing to give Mike a run for his money by adding your name to the candidate list are encouraged to do so.

#### **Nominations for Vice President:**

Phil Waring has expressed a willingness to continue on as vice-president of Audubon. Giving Phil a little bit of competition is treasurer/board member Ronn Rich. Ronn has indicated he would be glad to serve as vice-president, or continue on as treasurer.

#### **Nominations for Secretary/Education Chair:**

Bee Finne has served with distinction as our secretary for three years, and as our education chair for the past year. Bee has lined up Audubon Adventures for the 1993 school year in elementary schools in Coeur d'Alene and the Silver Valley. Bee will be happy to assist the winning candidate/candidates in becoming familiar with the duties she has performed in her dual roles in Audubon's leadership.

**Nominations are also being accepted** for Hospitality Chair and Membership Secretary.

**A move to amend** a section of our bylaws will also be on the ballot in May. I will move to change the president's term from two, two-year terms, to two, one-year terms.



#### **Nominations for Newsletter Editor:**

Many of the folks who have served as officers of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society have been with us from day one. Pam Gontz, our creative and imaginative newsletter editor has monthly turned out a quality product for three years. The position of newsletter editor may be the single most important job for an organization like Audubon. The newsletter is our lifeline to one another. It keeps us informed of important conservation issues locally, statewide, and nationwide. The newsletter lets us know where and when we might find unusual bird species. The newsletter teaches us about wildlife and their habitats. Through our newsletter, we communicate with one another and the outside world. It tells others who we are and what we care about.

I know we all feel it would be a tough job to fill Pam's shoes. Many of us feel intimidated by a task she seems to accomplish with so much ease. Pam has made an outstanding contribution to Audubon and our membership, and now it is time to pass the responsibility on to someone new. Pam has assured me that her desire to train a new editor will free her to take a future role in Audubon's leadership. Pam has given us so much, and now it is time for us to reciprocate. If you are willing to accept the position of newsletter editor, please give Pam a call soon. Elections for new officers will take place at the May meeting by silent ballot. Please do not let the space under Newsletter Editor go unfilled. This position is the most critical to our survival as a viable conservation organization.

[-Susan Weller]



**BIRD NOTES -**

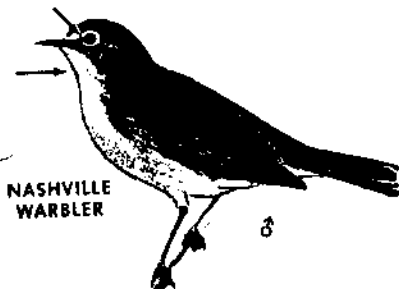
- Common Nighthawks - 03/30/93, pair seen at Poleline and Huetter Rds. by Pam Gontz ✓
- Turkey Vultures - 04/04/93, 3 seen in Jewel Lake area by Shirley Sturts, DeAnn Lloyd and Pam Gontz ✓
- Lesser Yellowlegs - 04/12/93, seen at Cataldo Slough by Susan Weller ✓
- Evening Grosbeak - 04/13/93, first two seen at the Gontz feeder this spring ✓
- Common Loon - 04/14/93, seen on Fernan Lake by Shirley Sturts - still there as of 4/25/93 ✓
- Cliff Swallow - 04/15/93, first one seen this spring by Susan Weller and Pam Gontz, was seen at Rose Lake ✓
- American Goldfinch - 04/15/93, seen in Harrison by Scott Robinson ✓
- Band-tailed Pigeon - 04/17/93, 1 seen at Shirley Sturts' feeder [eating sunflower seeds], still there as of 4/25/93 ✓
- Yellow-rumped Warbler - 04/17/93, first one seen this spring, was at the Gontz feeder ✓
- Cinnamon Teals - 04/17/93, first seen this spring by Pam Gontz - around Hauser Lake ✓
- Common Loons - 04/17/93, pair seen at Hauser Lake by Pam Gontz ✓
- Red-necked Grebes - 04/17/93, several seen at Hauser Lake by Pam Gontz ✓
- Nashville Warbler - 04/18/93, seen at Kelso Lake by Judy Waring and Shirley Sturts ✓
- Common Loons - 04/20/93, seen on Cd'A Lake and Fernan Lake by Nola Milleck ✓
- Barred Owl - 04/20/93, seen by Gertie & Wes Hanson at Carder Farm ✓
- Orange-crowned Warbler - 04/20/93, seen by Gertie & Wes Hanson at Carder Farm ✓
- White-crowned Sparrow - 04/21/93, pr seen at the Gontz feeder - first this spring ✓
- Pileated Woodpecker - 04/22/93, 1 seen at Mica Bay by Pam Gontz ✓
- Red-necked Grebe - 04/22/93, pr seen building a nest in Mica Bay by Pam Gontz ✓
- Common Loon - 04/22/93, seen in Mica Bay by Shirley Sturts ✓
- Sora rails - 04/27/93, 8 heard in various marshy areas near Cataldo/Rose Lake are by Pam Gontz ✓
- American Bittern - 04/27/93, 1 heard in marshy area near Rose Lake by Pam Gontz ✓
- Lesser Yellowlegs - 04/27/93, pr seen in flooded fields in Cataldo area by Pam Gontz ✓



Phil and Judy Waring saw their first Townsend Solitaire near Mission Dam, Montana on 03/15/93. They also saw a Burrowing owl west of Moses Lake on 04/06/93.

**APRIL 18TH FIELD TRIP -**

The first birds of the day were four Ring-billed Gulls in the parking lot of Montgomery Wards. We didn't see large numbers of birds but what we did have was quality. We decided to explore the Hoo Doo Valley which starts at Granite and Kelso Lake about 5 miles north of Athol and continues on to Clagstone, Hoo Doo Lake and on up north to meet with the Pend Oreille River. We put all our efforts into the area between Granite Lake and Clagstone.



NASHVILLE  
WARBLER

We knew spring was here when we found our first spring warbler. What was especially exciting was the fact that it was a Nashville Warbler. The Nashville is uncommon in our area. Other new spring arrivals were Red-naped Sapsucker 2, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3, Western Bluebird 2, Mountain Bluebird 1, Rufous-sided Towhee 1, and Cinnamon Teal 4 pr. Other birds included Red-necked Grebe 1, Canada Goose 21, Mallard 13, Wood Duck 9, Green-winged Teal 9, Northern Pintail 7, Bufflehead 8, Osprey 1, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Northern-Pygmy Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Tree Swallow 25, Black-capped Chickadee 4, American Robin 7, Common Raven 1, Red-winged Blackbird several, Brewer's Blackbird 2, Dark-eyed Junco 5, Song Sparrow 2. On our way home we drove across the Rathdrum Prairie and added Western Meadowlark, European Starling, Black-billed Magpie, Rock Dove, and another Red-tailed Hawk. Enjoying this outing were Judy Waring and Shirley Sturts.

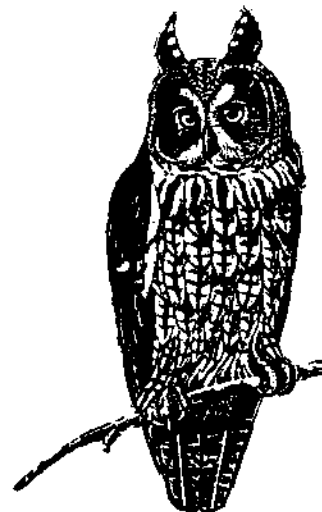
[Shirley Sturts]

**APRIL 24th FIELD TRIP TO MOSES LAKE-**

Even though the day started out under rain clouds, hardy soles Susan Weller, Ellen Scriven, Nola Mileck, Gertie Hanson and her friend we met in Moses Lake, Joy Best, and myself toughed it out and bluffed the storm clouds away. Just as we reached our first birding destination the raindrops stopped and we were able to bird around Sprague Lake. It was breezy and cool but there were plenty of birds to identify. As we pulled into the Moses Lake area the clouds parted and we actually had sunshine to bird by the remainder of the day.



We saw many species, 64 to be exact, but there were a few that stood out as personal favorites. It was great to be able to deliver two life birds for Susan -- a Burrowing Owl and a Sage Thrasher. The bird I was able to add to my list was a Long-eared Owl. It was a surprise sighting and one that I'll treasure -- owls seem to have a special place in my heart. I know these were new birds for a few people. We saw three Ross' Geese south of Sprague Lake intermixed with the Canada Geese. We spent considerable time debating size in comparison to the Canada Geese and checking for a Snow Goose's grin patch which we were unable to find on these white geese, hence the determination that they were Ross' Geese. That was a special treat since I had only seen one Ross' Goose before. The Great Egret and Black-crowned Night Heron seen near the Potholes area were also great sightings.



Other birds seen were: Common Loon, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Gadwall, N. Shoveler, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Duck, Canvasback, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Am. Coot, Am. Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Caspian Tern, N. Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Osprey, Am. Kestrel, Prairie Falcon, Short-eared Owl, Ring-necked Pheasant, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Western Kingbird, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Violet-green Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-billed Magpie, Am. Crow, Common Raven, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Marsh Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Am. Robin, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, W. Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer' Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Sparrow. I had heard on the radio that this weekend was National Bird Watching Weekend, which, actually, was news to me, but I think we did our best to partake in this special weekend.

Just as an aside, I returned to the Sprague Lake/Moses Lake area the next day with my Mother and to let you know how different birding can be from one day to the next, we saw most of the species above but tallied up these additional species: Long-billed Curlew, Vesper Sparrow, Herring Gull, Horned Grebe, Green-winged Teal, Am. Wigeon, Am. White Pelican, and the most breath-taking site of all, 92 Sandhill Cranes calling and flying overhead. If you're looking for a great one-day or weekend birding trip, this is a great place to consider.

[Pam Gontz]



*"The thing to remember when traveling is that  
the trail is the thing, not the end of the trail.*

*Travel too fast and you miss  
all you are traveling for."*

*- Louis L'Amour*

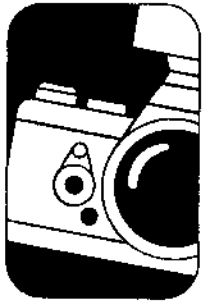
**I HOPE EVERYONE HAS A GREAT SUMMER!**



## BITS & PIECES

### BACKPACKER ALERT - DON'T REUSE THOSE FILM CANISTERS!

If you're heading out for the trail, heed the advice of *Backpacker* reader David Goodman. In a recent issue, he warned against reusing empty 35mm film canisters to store spices and seasonings in your pack.



"The canisters," Goodman wrote, "contain residues of silver, dyes and other chemicals found in film. Gene Renner, an Eastman Kodak toxicologist, says the containers aren't FDA-approved for food contact. Simply washing the containers

won't solve the problem. Renner suggests you use food-grade containers such as those made by Rubbermaid or Tupperware."

[-Backpacker]

### GLACIER REFUGE?

Montana's Blackfeet Indians want to create a 285,000-acre wildlife refuge on their reservation to preserve vanishing wetlands and boost the economy. The proposed refuge would be in north-central Montana just east of Glacier National Park. It would permanently protect several thousand acres of wetlands, grizzly bear habitat, unique plant communities, and wintering grounds for moose, elk, and other wildlife.

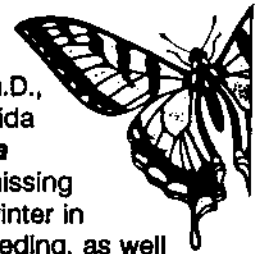
According to officials involved with the proposal, tribe members are hoping the wildlife refuge will stimulate tourism and lead to jobs. If all goes according to plan, a buffalo herd may be added to the refuge's rangelands.

[-Backpacker]



### A ROYAL DISASTER...

Did you notice that one of the summer's great symbols - the monarch butterfly - wasn't around much last year? It's true! The annual migration of tens of millions of monarchs from their Mexican breeding grounds to the eastern U.S. was dramatically interrupted this past summer, and scientists are worried about the butterfly's future.



Monarch expert Lincoln Brower, Ph.D., a zoologist at the University of Florida in Gainesville, told the *Philadelphia Inquirer* that the monarchs were missing in part due to the extremely cold winter in Mexico in 1991, which delayed breeding, as well as to habitat destruction, namely illegal logging of forests near their wintering sites in the mountainous areas about 80 miles west of Mexico City. Dr. Brower warned that continued logging near the sites could end eastern monarch migrations forever.

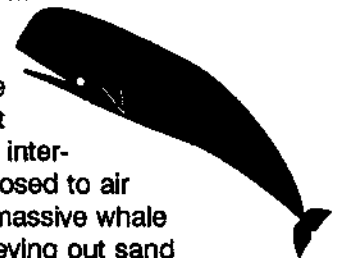
[-Organic Gardening]

### BEWARE - Biting Whales!

It sounds like ideal fodder for the sensationalist supermarket tabloids, but University of Washington scientists have actually documented gray whales biting Puget Sound beaches. At first local fishermen speculated that the two- to three-meter pits were the work of Bigfoot or space aliens. Then, a researcher caught one of the grays in the act.

The whales usually feed off the ocean bottom, but the scientist watched one as it dined in the intertidal zone, the beach area exposed to air when the tide goes out. The massive whale took bites out of the beach, sieving out sand and water through its baleen plates, then swallowed the tasty morsels that remained.

[-Backpacker]



**FIELD GUIDE INDEXES** - Want to add quick thumb-tab indexing to your field guides? Write *Russ's Natural History Books* for one of their catalogs and mention you're interested in the thumb-tab indexing for field guides. Besides these thumb-tabs which they have for various field guides, they have some pretty interesting books, as well. The address to write to and phone number is:

Russ's Natural History Books, 119 Lakeview Drive, P.O. Box 1089, Lake Helen, FL 32744-1089  
Phone number (904) 228-3356



# 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

## COEUR d'ALENE AUDUBON SOCIETY

### OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President:	Susan Weller	682-3413
Vice President:	Phil Waring	765-5378
Secretary & Education:	Bee Finne	667-0425
Treasurer:	Ronn Rich	772-4512
Board Members:	Scott Reed	664-2161
	Judy Waring	765-5378
	Ronn Rich	772-4512

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Conservation Chair:	Amy Klesbuy	664-9293
Membership Secretary:	Cathy Hurrell	664-0689
Hospitality Chair:	Talopatina "Moana" Anderson	772-6461
Newsletter Editor:	Pam Gontz	765-1115
Fieldtrip Chair:	Shirley Sturts	664-5318

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% Pam Gontz  
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