

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society
Editor: Shirley Sturts - 54615 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)

MAY 16 TUESDAY REGULAR MEETING

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Iron Horse

Program:

Susan Weller will present a program on bird migration. The slide presentation titled "The Miracle of Migration", will cover every aspect of migration from what ancient peoples thought about migration to what modern scientist now believe. Susan will explore the many navigational devices used by birds to guide them on journeys that sometimes encompass thousands of miles. Come and join us to learn why birds migrate, and find out how they know where to go and how to get there!

MAY 22, MONDAY CENTURY COUNT

Leaders: Wallace Keck, 664-4029 home or 683-2425

Time and Meeting place: Call Wallace for details. Also call if you are interested in joining in on only part of the day or if you know the location of hard to find species or to invite the group to stop at your feeder.

Activity: The goal of this count is to count 100 species of birds in one day and to have fun doing it. We will travel to several locations and visit many types of habitat. Bring a lunch and

snacks and be prepared for a long day. Why a Monday? It is the only day Wallace could go as he will be moving at the end of May to his new job at the City of Rocks National Preserve on the Idaho Utah Boarder.

MAY 12 AND 13 SATURDAY AND SUNDAY INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY AT FARRAGUT STATE PARK

Time: 7:00 p.m. Sat. to 5:00 p.m. Sun.

Place: Farragut State Park - see page 7 for a list of events and locations within the park

Purpose: To celebrate the return of migratory birds with events dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitat. Come join us in the celebration

Look for placemats in participating are restaurants celebrating this third annual International Migratory Bird Day

JUNE 3 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP TO FARRAGUT STATE PARK

Leaders: Wallace Keck, 664-4029 and Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Time: 8:15 a.m. for car pool or 9:00 at Park Headquarters

Place: Car pool-Panhandle Supervisor's office parking lot on Kathleen Ave. 1/2 mile west of US Hwy 95 N or Park Headquarters

Activity: We will help with the inventory of nesting birds in the park. Be prepared for some easy walking. We will probably bird for two or three hours and then have lunch

** LOCAL CONSERVATION **

By Wallace F. Keck

See, I told you so....A recycled plan to build an RV park on Blackwell Island is once again scheduled to go before the City Planning and Zoning Commission. This time the project will be slightly smaller, but the same concerns are there: building in a flood zone, liability to the city if (when) sewer waste runs into the Spokane River, loss of productive wetlands, traffic hazard entering and exiting highway 95, and more. My crystal ball tells me the city will approve the plan this time.



Are the decision makers listening to us? More letters of concern are needed on the development of Blackwell Island on both sides of Highway 95.

The BLM has issued its preferred draft plan to build the day-use and boating facility on the other side of Blackwell Island. The announcement kind of caught us off guard since it seemed the support for a massive parking and launch facility was not there. There won't be a non-motorized boat ramp or RV camping. There will be a bridge to the smaller island with trails, as well as observation points along the marsh. From the plan, it appears nearly half of the island will be under asphalt.

I sure wish I could have attended the Kootenai Environmental Alliance meeting held April 20. The Grizzly Bear/road closure alternative plan was discussed. I have been unable to determine when a decision will be reached on what roads will be closed. We're coming up on a year of discussing this subject. It's time for the Forest Service to take action.

Well, on to the real news. Conservation articles will take on a new look as Mike completes his term as president and takes over the conservation chair. Mike's connections and understanding of the environmental scene in North Idaho will continue to serve this organization in this capacity. Me? I've accepted an Assistant Manager position at City of Rocks National Reserve on the Utah/Idaho border. I have enjoyed the many friends I've met here, and the opportunity you have given me to serve. My door will always be open if you're ever in the area....and can put up with my environmental opinions.

(Comments by Shirley Sturbs)

The BLM will be doing an environmental assessment (EA) analyzing their proposed action for Blackwell Island. Following the completion of the EA, a thirty day written comment period will be held. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the EA or if you have any questions contact Bill Cook at the BLM or call him at 769-5042. They need to hear more from those of us who prefer low impact development of the area. What happened to the idea of providing only a non motorized boat launch? It was my impression that the majority of us attending the public hearings were more concerned with preserving the canals than with providing a major boat launching facility for ODA.

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 4 - send quotes to the editor for future newsletters)

"Bluebirds bring good luck they say
And happiness with song.
This house when bluebirds come your way
Should not be empty long."

"A meadowlark came back one day
And searched beneath the faded hay
out in the rocks, beside a cleft,
to find a song that he had left.
He found it. And he tried it out.
He tossed the melody about,
and not a note was hurt a bit
by Winter drifting over it!"

"They sing to you to brighten your day
They warn you of a storm your way
By their stillness.
And all they ask is a little kindness
along your way."

"At some glad moment was it Nature's
choice
To dower a scrap of sunset with a
voice?"

"The bluebird carries the sky on his
back."

"Many count their chickens before they
are hatched..."

"In order to see birds, it is necessary
to become part of the
silence."

Coeur d'Alene Audubon's Up-coming Election Roster of Candidates

At our meeting in april the following individuals were nominated for the positions indicated.

President: Ron Rich
Vice-President: Open
Secretary/Treasurer: Phil Waring
Conservation Chairperson: Mike Mihelich
Education Chairperson and Librarian:
Kris Buchler
Fieldtrip Chairperson: Judy Waring
Membership Secretary: Judy Waring
Hospitality Chair: Open
Board of Directors: Open

Shirley Sturts also needs an assistant to help her with the newsletter. This would include folding, labeling and mailing.

Anyone interested in learning more about a position that is open may contact Susan Weller at (208) 682-3413 for a full job description and list of duties. Elections will take place at the meeting in May.



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

OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Gertie Hanson (GH), Wallace Keck (WK) NIC bird class field trip (NIC), Dave Larson (JWN), George Saylor (GS), Jan Severtson (JS) Herb Severtson (HS), Shirley Sturts (SHS), Scott Reed (SR), Donna Young (DY), Roger Young (RY).

Correction from last week: Karna Borders name was misspelled, my apology.

- Common Loon 1 CDA Lake April 18 (JHS); 1 April 14 Fernan Lake (SHS); CDA Lake near NIC April 29 (WK-NIC)
 Bar-headed Goose 1 Cougar Bay. CDA Lake April 5 (JHS)
 Ross' Goose 1 Cougar Bay, CDA Lake April 27 and 28 (DL,RY,DY) and 1 on CDA Lake near NIC flying in from Cougar Bay (WK-NIC)
 Cinnamon Teal about 6 pair Cataldo Slough April 26 (RY)
 Green-Winged Teal about 6 pair Cataldo Slough April 26 (RY)
 Northern Shoveler 2 Spokane River near Ross Point April 29 (WK-NIC)
 Osprey 26 on the Spokane River between Post Falls and CDA Lake April 29 (WK-NIC)
 Northern Harrier 1 Cataldo Slough April 26 (RY)
 Killdeer 1+ Cataldo Slough April 26 (RY)
 Spotted Sandpiper 1 Cataldo Slough area April 26 (RY) (breaks earliest arrival date record of May 1)
 Bonaparte's Gull 2 Spokane River near Blackwell Island April 29 (WK-NIC)
 Glaucous-Winged Gull 1 Fighting Creek Landfill March 31 (DNS)
 Rufous Hummingbird 1st arrived Emerald Estates north of Hayden Lake April 15 (LS) and 4/28 KB; 1st arrived Fernan Hill April 24 (RY)
 Calliope Hummingbird 1st arrived Emerald Estates April 12 (LS) and by April 28 (KB)(This breaks the earliest record of April 14, 1994 also made by (LS); 1st arrived Fernan Hill April 23 (RY)
 Cliff Swallow 1st arrival date Quemlin Park, Post Falls April 29 (WK-NIC)
 Blue Jay 4 Fernan Hill 4/26 coming everyday for the last 2 weeks and 3 still in the Moscow area April 7 (Birding Hot Line)
 Rock Wren 1+ Asotin Creek near Clarkson WA April 1 (DNS)
 Canyon Wren 1+ Asotin Creek near Clarkston WA April 1 (DNS)
 Bewick's Wren 1+ Asotin Creek near Clarkston WA April 1 (DNS)
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 Carder Farm (Blackwell Hill) April 15 (GH); 1 Nine Mile Valley, N.W. of Missola April 7 (GS)
 Western Bluebird 1 pr Hayden View April 8 (RR)
 Mountain Bluebird 1 Flathead Lake, MT April 17 (JS,HS)
 Townsend's Solitaire 1 Quemlin Park, Post Falls April 29 (WK-NIC)
 Solitary Vireo 1 1st arrival date Quemlin Park, Post Falls April 29 (WK-NIC)
 Orange-Crowned Warbler 1 (breaks earliest arrival date record for latilong 33002) Farragut State Park April 27 (WK)
 Yellow-Rumped Warbler 1 Carder Farm, Blackwell Hill April 22 (GH)
 MacGillivray's Warbler 1 1st arrival Date Quemlin Park, Post Falls (WK-NIC)
 Rufous-sided Towhee 1 Carder Farm (Blackwell Hill) April 10 (GH); 2 in yard in Emerald Estates area north of Hayden Lake 1st part of April (LS) *1 pr*

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Answers to Quotes Quiz from page 3

Anonymous - Aileen Fisher - Levi Vance - Edgar Fawcett (To an Oriole) - Henry David Thoreau - Meguel de Cevantes (Don Quizote) - Robert Lynch



GAMLIN LAKE FIELD TRIP REPORT

By Wallace F. Keck

Good weather was the order of the day as Ed and Chris Buchler, Ron and Roberta Rich, Nancy Mertz, Janet Callen and I headed for Gamlin Lake (March 26). We decided to bring canoes, which turned out to be the best way to experience the area. The land surrounding the 160-acre Gamlin Lake is owned by the BLM and The Nature Conservancy, and is located east of Sagal near Pend Oreille Lake.

From the moment we left the vehicles, the sounds of wilderness came rushing. Red Squirrels barked as we unloaded canoes. Echoes and reverberations from honking Canada Geese set the tone. As we approached each of the three dominant marshes we observed Mallards, Red-winged Blackbirds, Great Blue Herons, Coots, and an occasional Song Sparrow.

We rowed ashore for a small meadow on the edge of a cedar-hemlock forest. The Cabinet Mountains served as scenic backdrop for lunch. Afterwards, we explored the woods to confirm Dark-eyed Juncos, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

Continuing around the lake we encountered several Bufflehead and Common Goldeneye, all paired and courting. Some of the rarer sightings included a Pied-billed Grebe, Violet-green Swallows and a pair of Ring-neck Ducks. In the coves, ice capped the waters, and reeds swayed at our passing. It's easy to see why these marshes were a priority purchase for the Conservancy. The habitat is some of the most productive nesting ground in North Idaho.

We concluded the tour by visiting the old homestead on the south end of the

lake which included the old trucks with trees growing through them. As we reached our vehicles, we were met by other boaters, one which proceeded to unload a john-boat and gasoline motor. We were under the impression that motors were not permitted, but after consulting with the BLM, it was determined that a 10 horse-power engine is allowed. Since the Lake itself is not owned by the BLM, the county is the enforcement authority.

The group continued on to Green Bay on Pend Oreille Lake for a short hike around the cliffs and along the beach. On the way home we observed a few more common birds bringing the total to 21 species--9 short of the last field trip, but the scenery and wilderness experience more than made up for the lower count.

KOOTENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FIELD TRIP REPORT



By Wallace F. Keck

Despite the best birding weather of the year, the only member of Audubon besides myself to attend this field trip was Shirley Sturts. Three students from the Community Education birding course at NIC were able to attend. Before departing Coeur d'Alene, we chased down a Savannah Sparrow and Western Meadowlark.

With Wallace at the Wheel and Shirley recording the sightings, we called out one bird after another along the 2-hour drive to the refuge. By the time we reached Bonner's Ferry, we had observed 15 species including 3 Ospreys,

Kootenai NWR Field Trip Continued

Ring-necked Pheasants, and Brewer's Blackbirds.

A quick stop at McArther Lake produced several waterfowl sightings. At the refuge we picked up their wildlife checklist and headed down Chickadee Trail--which we were convinced was mis-named. here. We did observe a Red-naped Sapsucker, a life bird for me.

The Myrtle Falls Trail turned out to be a pleasurable diversion from birding. Bluebells, Arrow-leaf Balsamroot, Blue-eyed Mary, Shooting Star, and Sweet-cicely were in bloom; and the falls were spectacular. The roar of Myrtle Creek drowned all sounds of wildlife. The only bird we observed was a Ruffed Grouse which flushed from trail's edge.

Back at the headquarters, Shirley observed a Rufous Hummingbird at the feeder. I waited for ten minutes to get a look but it never returned. On the road around the refuge we observed coots, Wood Ducks, Gadwalls, Ring-necked Ducks, American Wigeons, Red-necked Grebes, herons, geese, mallards, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harrier, Kestrel, Turkey Vulture, Belted Kingfisher, Tree/Violet-green/ and Northern Rough-winged Swallows, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds among others. We spent a considerable amount of time on a female Mountain Bluebird which (due to odd lighting) led me to believe we were observing a Say's Phoebe. The highlight of the drive were five white-tail deer, two coyotes, Northern Painted Turtle, Garter Snake, a Bald Eagle on the nest, and a mother goose and 8 goslings.

Shirley convinced us to drive just short of Canada in search of Long-billed Curlews. Sightings had been listed on the rare bird hotline. On the way we observed a number of Mule Deer, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, a Western Bluebird and Killdeer. No Curlews were

found. We stopped for a late lunch at the 3-mile Cafe and tallied the sightings. All told, we observed 46 birds, 2 reptiles, 1 amphibian, and 5 mammals--not a bad count for April.

ALERT - ALERT

Nancy Mertz attended the Endangered Species Symposium on April 29 and the upshot was that the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air and the Clean Water Act are facing major revisions that would drastically undermine them and roll back protection 25 years. She urges us to call or write our Representatives, Senators and President Clinton. The White House phone number is 202-456-1111, Fax 202-456-2461 Call Nancy for more information 765-5254 evenings

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sally Brownlee	Post Falls
John Burmeister	Harrison
Ronny D. Caldwell	Wallace
Barbara Christofferson	CDA
Cari Darm	CDA
Michael Dixon	Hayden Lake
Mrs. R. Duncan	CDA
Rose Jeffrey	Hayden Lake
Rodney Joki	CDA
Mrs. Hsinhsi Lin	CDA
Exner Menzel	Hayden Lake
Charlene Moser	CDA
Mr-Mrs Mickael L. Mure	CDA
Frances Nordquist	CDA
Linda Payne	CDA
Lynn Rogers	Mullan
George Saylor	CDA
Joseph Scardin	CDA
C Sharon	Post Falls
Donald Springer	Osburn
Debra Verbillis	CDA
Lillian Velma	CDA
Delores B. Wheaton	CDA
Robert J. Williams	Pinehurst
Mrs. A.D. Wilson	Hayden Lake

Transfers to our Chapter
Douglas Rosier
Nancy Wilson

Post Falls
CDA

1995 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY BEING CELEBRATED AT FARRAGUT STATE PARK



May 12

- 7:00 p.m. - Bayview Community Center

International Migratory Bird Day Kick Off.

Join Farragut State Park Ranger Tami Johnson for a slide show titled: Migrant Birds: A troubled Future? Produced by the Information and Education working Group of Partners in Flight/Aves de Americas

May 13

- 9:00 a.m. Locust Grove Picnic Area
Demonstration of Mist-netting and Bird Banding.

Come Join Park Ranger Cindy Samples from Albeni Falls Dam who will give a demonstration on census taking practices for migratory birds. Cindy will explain why we band birds, what you should do if you find a banded bird, and helpful information about our local flyways.

- 11:00 a.m. Locust Grove Picnic Area
Demonstration of a Breeding Bird Survey, BBS

Join Susan Weller from the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society as she explains a program that is designed to monitor migratory birds

- 1:00 p.m. Bayview Community Center
"The Miracle of Migration" Slide Presentation.

Susan Weller from the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society will present this program which will answer many of your questions about bird migration. How do birds know when to migrate? How do they know where to migrate? What navigational tools do birds possess?

- 2:15 p.m. Locust Grove Picnic Area
Children's Bird Activities:

Beth Paragamian, Watchable Wildlife Specialist, U.S. Forest Service will host children's bird activities. All are welcome to attend but these activities are geared for the more youthful in our society.

- 3:30 p.m. - Farragut State park Headquarters
Landscaping for Birds Project.

Join Farragut State Park Ranger Tami Johnson and Ameri corps Volunteer Alisson Vinci in landscaping a small plot at the Farragut State Park headquarters building specifically for birds. Bring your work gloves and boots.

COEUR D'ALENE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Vice President
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Ron Rich 772-4512

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Kris K. Buchler 664-4739

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Judy Waring 765-5378

Newsletter - Field Trips
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 Chapter
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