



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society  
Editor: Shirley Sturts - E4615 Fernan Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 - 664-5318

MAY 1996

VOLUME 5 No. 9

PAGE 1

## LAST CHANCE TO BE APART OF OUR "ITS FOR THE BIRDS" RAFFLE

We need every member to buy one or more \$1.00 ticket to meet our fund raising goal. You may be the winner of a beautiful original watercolor bird painting by Janene Grende (value \$650) **PLEASE HELP** your Audubon Chapter reach its fund raising goal. Buy your tickets before May 11. For tickets call Janet Callen at 664-1085, Shirley Sturts 664-5318 or any board member and we will get the tickets to you. Tickets sent by mail must reach us by May 10th. They can also be purchased at Wild Bird Crossing or at Farragut State Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Migratory Bird Day. The drawing will be at Farragut State Park May 11 at 2 p.m.



## CALENDAR CHECK

## MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

### **MAY 9 THURSDAY POINT COUNT WORKSHOP**

**Time:** 8 a.m.

**Meet:** Fairmont Loop Road turn off, just south of the Spokane River Bridge on Highway 95.

**Leader:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318

**Activity:** Sharon Ritter will give us instruction on how to do a Point Count in Mica Bay. We will then pick three dates in May and June to conduct three counts.

### **MAY 11 SATURDAY MIGRATORY BIRD DAY FARRAGUT STATE PARK**

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**For schedule of events call:** Farragut State Park 683-2425

Park Ranger: Tami Johnson Ext. 27 Ameri Corps: Cynthia Langlitz Ext. 25

Park Interpreter: Kris Buchler Ext. 22

**Activities:** Join the Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society and Farragut State Park staff for a celebration of the International Migratory Bird Day. The day will start with a kick-off celebration of the Farragut State Park's Raptor Rehabilitation Center. Local falconer, Mike Tylzyski, will give a presentation on Birds of Prey, and a workshop on making jesses and other equipment used in falconry. We will also have a nature hike to look for returning migratory birds. At 2 p.m. we will draw the winning "It's for the Birds" raffle tickets.

### **MAY 21 TUESDAY REGULAR MEETING**

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Idaho Fish and Game Office  
2750 Kathleen Ave.

**Program:** "Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest" presented by Kit Scates Barnhart, a well-known mycologist.

CALENDAR CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



# CALENDAR CHECK

Continued from page 1

## FIELD TRIPS

### **MAY 7 TUESDAY MICA BAY SURVEY**

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Meet:** Fairmont Loop Road Turn Off, just south of the Spokane River Bridge on Highway 95

**Leader:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318

**Activity:** We will be doing our usual survey. A good time to check for new arrivals.

### **May 12 Sunday Century Count**

**Leader:** Steve Lindsay 667-3418)

**Activity:** We will divide into three teams. Each team will visit a variety of habitats in its attempt to count 100 birds in a day. This will be a dawn to dusk event. You are welcome to join for all or part of the day. Team leaders are Steve Lindsay, Susan Weller and Shirley Sturts. To join the fun call Steve at 667-3418 (Animal Medical Center). After hours leave a message on his answering machine and he will call you.

### **MAY 14 TUESDAY BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG**

9th in a series of noon time birding

**Time:** 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

**Meet:** 3rd street entrance Tubbs Hill

**Leader:** Roger Young 664-4179

**Activity:** We will hike on the main trail of Tubbs Hill looking for year around residents and returning migrants. Join Roger for a noon hour adventure.

### **MAY 18 SATURDAY BIRDING BY EAR**

**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

**Location:** Home of Susan Weller near Cataldo

**Leader:** Susan Weller 682 3413

**Activity:** We will spend about 3 hours listening and identifying birds by their calls and songs.

### **MAY 23 THURSDAY MICA BAY SURVEY**

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Meet:** Fairmont Loop Road Turn Off, just south of the Spokane River Bridge on Highway 95

**Leaders:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318

**Activity:** We will be doing our usual survey. By now most of the summer residents should have returned.

### **May 25-27 SATURDAY-MONDAY MEMORIAL DAY TRIP TO BOISE**

**Leaders:** Phil and Judy Waring  
765-5478

**Activity:** Here is your opportunity to tour this first-class facility, and have fun while you're at it. We will have a variety of activities to keep us busy including a competition to see which car can spot the most species on its way to Boise. For more delightful details call the Waring's.

### **JUNE 9 SUNDAY LAKE PEND OREILLE**

**Time:** 7:30 a.m.

**Meet:** On the west side of Hastings Parking Lot 101 Best Ave.

**Activity:** Our main goal will be look for Western Grebe which nest in Denton Slough on the east side of Lake Pend Oreille. The Western Grebe has elaborate mutual displays performed by 2 or more birds. We will also drive up Lightening Creek and look for Harlequin Duck and Black Swift.

### **JUNE 22 SATURDAY MOYIE RIVER FLOAT TRIP**

Nancy is offering the trip for our chapter again this year. If you are interested call Nancy Mertz at her work phone: 765-0841 for details.

### **JULY 20 SATURDAY LOON SURVEY**

**Leader:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318

**Activity:** Our Chapter will be assisting the Northern Idaho Audubon Chapter in a survey of possible nesting Common Loons on the lakes of North Idaho. Teams will be formed to cover certain areas search out. If you are interested in being on a survey team or if you know of bays or lakes where loons have been seen please, call Shirley.

## Bird Quotes Quiz

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



(see answers on page 7)

"It was the most ethereal flight I have ever witnessed. It did not simply flutter like a butterfly, nor soar like the larger hawks, but it sported with proud reliance in the fields of the air."

"Over increasingly large areas of the United States, spring now comes unheralded by the return of the birds, and the early mornings are now strangely silent where once they were filled with beauty of bird song."

"What does the little birdie say,  
in her nest at peep of day?  
'Let me fly,' says little birdie,  
'Mother, let me fly away'"

"What does little baby say  
in her bed at peep of day?  
Baby says, like little birdie  
'Let me rise and fly away'"

### PROVERBS AND APHORISMS

"The early bird catches the worm."

"The shell must break before the bird can fly."

"To fright a bird is not the way to catch her."

"Even when the bird walks one feels that it has wings."

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Congratulations to George Saylor, our scholarship winner. Our Chapter will sponsor his attendance at Audubon Ecology Workshop in the Rockies this summer. There were 10 applicants for this scholarship. We wish to thank all those who applied and hope that they will try again next year.

## Idaho Audubon Council

Congratulations are in order for Susan Weller. She was elected president of the Idaho Audubon Council at their meeting April 27. Shirley Sturts was appointed Newsletter editor for the council. This newsletter will be published quarterly for the purpose of keeping the Audubon members better informed about activities of other Idaho Chapters and Audubon happenings on a State level.



## Bird Feeder Survey Apology

I have an apology to make to two of the mystery volunteer Bird Survey participants who I left off the survey. Under my piles of paper, mostly concerning birding stuff, I found two more bird feeder surveys after the April Newsletter went to print. However there were no names on the two reports. If you turned in a report and were not included in the feeder survey write up in the April Newsletter please contact me. Shirley Sturts 664-5318. If the two mystery participants identify themselves I will reprint the Bird Feeder Survey in the September newsletter.

## POPULATION TRENDS IN THE NORTHWEST: VEERY AND YELLOW WARBLER

by Susan Weller



When the Rose Lake Bird Club was first formed, we often began each meeting with a stroll along one of the many marshes of the Coeur d'Alene River. The river itself is highly contaminated with mine tailings as it flows through Cataldo and Rose Lake, and few bird species are sighted along its shores. But the river's waters effuse into the wetlands where the marsh plants serve as filters, allowing a diversity of bird life to flourish.

Two of the bird species we always tallied on our walks were the Veery and the Yellow Warbler. Sadly, the Veery can no longer be heard in the place it once inhabited in the wet woods along Bull Run Lake. The place has been logged, stripped of deciduous trees and dense underbrush, and the ground scraped to the bone. I suppose a trailer will be erected on the thin strip of land between the road, the railroad grade, and the back waters of the Coeur d'Alene River.

A Veery's call is very thrush-like and eerie. A double cascade of downward-spiraling notes pipe in greeting to the falling evening and leave the listener enchanted. You have to work like hell to actually catch a glimpse of a Veery, as it is secretive and solitary. The Veery, a robin-like bird, is a member of the thrush family with a tawny back and tail, and a lightly spotted buff-colored breast. It may be found singing from a lofty perch or foraging on the forest floor. It is helpful in keeping our forests healthy by eating a variety of wood-munching pests. Because it feeds so much in the trees, a significant

number of wood borers, leaf chafers, sawfly larvae, and gypsy moth caterpillars find their way down a Veery's gullet. If bluebirds are farmers' friends because they eat so many grasshoppers, then Veerys are a foresters' friends. Most of the dedicated birders I know concur that both the Veery and the Yellow Warbler are declining in Idaho. Trend analyses of Breeding Bird Survey data show that Veery populations were actually growing between 1966-79, by a non-significant increase of 0.7 percent per year. That changed after 1980, however, when Veery populations began suffering from a significant long-term decline of 2.2 percent per year over the continental United States. Population trends in Idaho, Washington, and Montana, show non-significant declines of 1.6 percent, 1.5 percent, and 0.8 percent respectively over that same time frame. While statistically, the declines in these states are classified as non-significant, it is significant--and alarming--that the declines continue.

Because Veerys are not common along many BBS routes in the west, it's difficult to track their progress in BBS trend analysis. In Idaho, only twenty percent of the BBS routes have Veery to be counted. A bird commonly found in the west, that is not difficult to track, is the Yellow warbler, counted on 80 percent of BBS routes in Idaho. Yellow Warbler populations in Idaho and Washington are in serious decline, 2.7 percent and 3.8 percent. To many BBS observers, these numbers are easily discernable in the field. The birds simply aren't being heard. I receive more comments about the absence of Yellow Warblers along routes than about any other species. Conversely, Montana is currently enjoying a 1.3 percent increase for Yellow Warblers. Are Washington and Idaho growing too fast? Breeding Bird Survey data is only able to provide the numbers and statistics, not the causes of fluctuations in bird populations.

Continued on page 5

## Veery and Yellow Warbler

*Continued from page 4*

How economical is it to destroy the habitat of a bird that eats tree-eating bugs, and replace it with a trailer that will be ruined by floodwater every few years? We think our wetlands and riparian areas are safe, but are they? Declines in riparian species like the Veery and Yellow Warbler seem to indicate otherwise.

The absence of one Veery along a river in Northern Idaho does make a difference, not only because it impacts the overall population of Veerys, but because it whispers other implications. I'll have to go out and hunt to find another place to hear the ethereal music of the Veery. You can't just go to the right habitat and expect to find one. More importantly, is what a missing Veery has to do with unchecked growth and development. The property that was once home to a Veery was under several feet of water during recent flooding.

(Susan Weller is the state coordinator for the BBS in Idaho).

## FIELD TRIPS TAKEN

HEYBURN STATE PARK April 6  
by Nancy Mertz

It felt like spring temperature-wise as nine of us met at the Heyburn State Park Ranger Station with Ameri Corps volunteer Lisa Kirchhoffer. Lisa took us to the site of a newly funded interpretive display and blind overlooking a wide marshy area which will be built this year. We walked along the shore until lunch time when we decided to picnic near the ranger housing area.

After lunch we drove further east along the lake and enjoyed the use of the Comries' spotting scope to observe waterfowl. A thrill of this outing was an unusually high number of muskrats sighted (8!) as well as an otter and a turtle "sunning" on a log.

Birds observed: Wood Duck, N.Shoveler, Green-w.Teal, Mallard, Ring-n.Duck, Great B.Heron, Am. Wigeon, Red-w.Blackbird, Golden-c. Kinglet, Black-

c.Chickadee, Chestnut-b.Chickadee, Red-b.Nuthatch, Canada Goose, Song Sparrow, N.Flicker, Osprey, Am.Robin, Gull sp. C.Raven, Rock Dove, Violet-g.Swallow, Am. Kestrel, Red-t.Hawk, Steller's Jay, Pied-b.Grebe, Red-n.Grebe, Am.Coot, Common Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Swan, Vaux's Swift.

FARRAGUT STATE PARK  
by Cynthia Langlitz

Saturday, April 20, was a blustery day for a field trip, but hardy souls that we are, 9 of us set out - determined to see as much as we could. We started out, searching the outer perimeters for that elusive Great Gray Owl that only days before, "Big AL" had seen, but it continued to be elusive. We did see Black-c.Chickadee, heard Red-b.Nuthatch, a N.Flicker and a Pileated Woodpecker, however. From there we proceeded to the north side of the park near the water tower where we began to see many of the birds that are returning to their nesting grounds: Am. Kestrel, the brilliant Western and Mt.Bluebird, a N. Harrier, W.Meadowlark, a Townsend's Warbler, many Am.Robin and a sparrow that may have been a Vesper Sparrow.

The excitement of so many birds seemed to warm us to the idea of continuing the field trip, so we drove over the hills and through the woods towards Locust Grove, which during summer, is a great birding spot. They say the journey is half the fun and indeed on the way to Locust Grove we saw 3 Turkey Vulture. Once at Locust Grove, besides the Mountain Goat on the cliffs across the lake, we saw Starling, an Am.Crow, C.Raven, Osprey, a Red-t.Hawk, a hawk we would like to think was a Goshawk but aren't sure about, Eve. Grosbeak and a Rufous sided (oops - excuse me - Spotted Towhee).

From there, we went to Eagle Boat Launch and walked the Shoreline Trail for a short distance, seeing Pine Siskin, and Bufflehead. As we were about to give in and all go home, Cliff Cameron spotted a Ruby-Cr.Kinglet in the brush next to the boat launch. Back at Headquarters a Red t.Hawk was hunting across the road. So we had a great day of birding, even though it felt like mid-winter instead of late April.

# "MANY VOICES A COMMON VISION"

## 7TH AMERICAN FOREST CONGRESS HELD

By Mike Mihelich

On February 20 I flew to Washington, DC to participate in the Seventh American Forest Congress on February 21-24. Quoting from the program: "For the first time in twenty years, citizens from all areas of interest in forests have gathered to chart a path for the future". There were over 1200 people representing industry, labor, federal, state and private forestry, as well as individuals from the environmental community from across the country. The National Audubon Society, along with other national environmental organizations, were able to raise scholarship money that enabled activists to attend the Congress.

The participants attempted to "...agree on a shared vision for the future of America's forests, a set of guiding principles, and the next steps necessary to realize the vision based on the principles." There were approximately 10 people per table and we spent the three and one-half days working on the vision and guiding principles in the ballroom of the Sheraton Washington Hotel.

While this process was taking place, a number of people from the environmental community attempted to get the program committee to have the Salvage Rider issue brought up before the Congress. This did not happen, but when the principles were proposed there was a principle introduced that requested that the Salvage Rider be repealed. There were approximately 60 principles drafted and the members of the Congress voted on each principle. The Salvage Rider principle was voted down as were several other proposed environmental principles regarding the National Forests.

The final document is expected to be released in late April or early May. After I have received my copy I will make it available to Audubon members who are interested in reading the results of this Congress.

## MICA BAY SURVEY

	April 2	April 13
Red-necked Grebe	4	2 pr.
Great Blue Heron	17	6+ nests
Canada Goose	40	8 + 3 nests
Wood Duck	2	3
Mallard	100	14
Northern Pintail	2 pr	-
Green-winged Teal	1	1 pr
Eurasian Wigeon	1 pr	-
American Wigeon	25	2
Common Goldeneye	3	-
Bufflehead	6	4
Common Merganser	8	2
Osprey	1	2 on nest
Red-tailed Hawk	1	1
American Coot	1	-
Killdeer	2	1
Common Snipe	-	2
Ring-billed Gull	-	-
Herring Gull	-	1
Gull sp.	2	-
Belted Kingfisher	1	-
Pileated Woodpecker	-	2
Hairy Woodpecker	1	-
Violet-g Swallow	-	1+
Tree Swallow	-	10+
Steller's jay	2	1
American Crow	2	-
Common Raven	2	1
Black-C Chickadee	6	-
Mountain Chickadee	-	1 pr nest box
Red-b Nuthatch	3	5
Pygmy Nuthatch	-	1
Golden-c Kinglet	1	-
Western Bluebird	2	1 pr
American Robin	5	-
Dark-eyed Junco	1	-
Song Sparrow	5	10
R-winged Blackbird	1	12+
House Finch	-	5
Pine Siskin	2	3
Evening Grosbeak	6	3
Chipmunk	-	3
Squirrel	-	1

## OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Kris Buchler (KSB), Don Carr (DNC) Earl Chapin (EC), Gordon Comrie (GC), Pam Comrie (PAC), Darylyn Dirkson (DD), Bill Gundlach (BG) Gertie Hanson (GH), Lisa Kirchhoffer (LS), Cynthia Langlitz (CL), Al Leiser (ALL), Dave Pratt (DVP) George Saylor (GES), Jan and Herb Severtson (JHS) John Shipley (JNS), Shirley Sturts (SHS), Judy Waring (JDW), Phil Waring (PW), Susan Weller (SNW), Roger Young (RY), RBR 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. Common Loon 1 Gotham Bay, CDA Lake April 6 (GC,PAC); 1 Fernan Lake March 9 still there 4/22 (SHS,SNW); 1 Oden Bay, Pend Oreille Lake April 18 (CL,KSB,SHS); 1 Chatcolet Lake every day in April as of April 16 (LK)
2. Great Egret 1 18 miles north of Priest River (exhausted and hungry probably from storm) April 26 it was fed and protected by Fish and Game and released on April 27 (DNC)
3. Horned Grebe 12+ Sunnyside area Pend Oreille Lake April 18 (CL,KSB,SHS)
4. White Pelican 5 Sunnyside, Pend Oreille Lake April 11 (EC)
5. Double-Crested Cormorant 1 Pend Oreille Lake, off Long Bridge Sandpoint April 11 (SNW)
6. Wood Duck 12 pr Cougar Bay, CDA Lake April 26 (RY)
7. Cinnamon Teal 1 pr Thompson Lake April 6 (GC,PAC); 2 Cataldo Area April 16 (SNW); 2 males Cougar Bay April 27 (RY)
8. Northern Shoveler 6-10+ Cougar Bay, CDA Lake March 23-April 26 (BG,SHS,RY) 6 Cataldo area April 16 (SNW)
9. Harlequin Duck 8 Pend Oreille Lake March 31 (DVP)
10. Oldsquaw 1 Pend Oreille Lake at Farragut State Park (PW,JDW)
11. Bufflehead 8 pr Cougar Bay, CDA Lake April 26 (RY)
12. Hooded Merganser 3 Cataldo area April 16 (SNW)
13. Greater Yellowlegs 2 Cougar Bay, CDA Lake (RY)
14. Ruffed Grouse 1 Mica Bay, CDA Lake April 26 (SNW,SHS)
15. Great Gray Owl 1 Farragut State Park April 17 (ALL)
16. Calliope Hummingbird 1 Fairmont Loop Rd. of Blackwell Island at their feeder (JHS)
18. Tree Swallow 15 Anderson Lake Feb. 25 (JNS)
19. Ruby-Crowned Kinglet 1 Blackwell Hill April 12 (GH) 1 Sanders Beach April 14 (DD); 1 Fernan Lake April 19 (SHS)
20. Yellow-rumped Warbler 1 April 25 Blackwell Hill (GH)
21. Dark-eyed Junco 1 nest Blackwell Hill in woodshed April 17 (GH) 1 nest with 4 eggs Higgins Point April 20 (SHS)

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Answers to Quotes Quiz from page 3

Henry David Thoreau, a description of a Merlin he saw one spring morning; Rachel Carson Silent Spring 1962; Alfred Tennyson from and poem "What Does Little Birdie Say"

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"It's for the Birds Raffle"  
The bird Painting by Jenene Grende and other prizes are on display at Wild Bird Crossing



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# COEUR D'ALENE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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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

