

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society
Editor: Shirley Sturts - 84615 Fernan Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 -664-5318

NOVEMBER 1994

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PAGE 1



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)

Nov. 12 SATURDAY RAPTOR RESCUE WORKSHOP

Time: 1 P.M.

Place: Home of Harvey Richman

Organizer: Susan Weller (208) 682-3413

See article on page 2 for details and directions to Harvey Richman's home.

NOV. 15 TUESDAY Conservation Committee meeting

Time: 6:30

Place: Iron Horse

Agenda: We will discuss local issues such as BLM plans for developing the property it owns on Blackwell Island and Cougar Bay. What should our role be on this and other local conservation issues in the area? Should we take a stand on this and other issues? All those interested are invited to attend.

NOV. 18 TUESDAY REGULAR MEETING

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Iron Horse

Program: Susan Weller will present a program on the Christmas Bird Count. Coming in December will be CdA's 4th CBC. Last year we counted 70 species and 4046 individuals. Susan will show slides and talk about the birds we can expect to see.

NOV. 19 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP TO BLACKWELL ISLAND



Time: 8:00 A.M.

Meet: Blackwell Island sign just across the Spokane River bridge on US Highway 95

Leader: Wallace Keck 664-4029

Activity: We'll walk the property, conduct a winter bird count and discuss

ideas. For more information read the article "Local Conservation" by Wallace Keck on page 3 of this issue.

NOV. 24 THURSDAY THANKSGIVING BIRD COUNT

To be made on Thanksgiving day (Nov. 24) for only ONE HOUR. The participant picks the time that fits his/her schedule. One could try a couple of such one-hour counts during the day but only report the most representative one. See form in this issue if you want to participate.

DEC. 17 SATURDAY

COEUR D'ALENE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Time: all day -

check with section leader for time and meeting location.

Leaders: Gertie Hanson 664-5318

Shirley Sturts 664-5318, Wallace Keck 664-4029, Pam Gontz (message phone 664-5318. Sign up at the November meeting or call one of the leaders. More information in the December newsletter.



RAPTOR RESCUE

by Susan Weller

One winter when I lived in Libby, Montana, a Snowy Owl blew into town on a north wind. Disoriented and badly bruised from flying into a chain-link fence, the owl needed a safe and quiet place to rest and recuperate. I also remember a Golden Eagle that was blown off of a road-killed deer by a logging truck. Bruised and bleeding, and too full of deer meat to become air borne, the eagle needed to mend for a few days in a safe place.



Because a dedicated group of people had formed a community network, both of these birds made a full recovery in short order, and were released back into the wild. Game wardens and conservation officers working with people in the community, can form a safety net for birds of prey. Many times, like with the birds mentioned above, a bird's misfortune is caused by something human related. When that is the case, some of us feel a responsibility to help.

A serious need for such a community network has shown itself in the Coeur d'Alene area. As the population continues to burgeon in northern Idaho, calls to the Department of Fish and Game concerning injuries to wildlife will increase. Volunteers are needed in an effort to provide assistance to the Department, and to help give injured or displaced birds of prey a second chance.

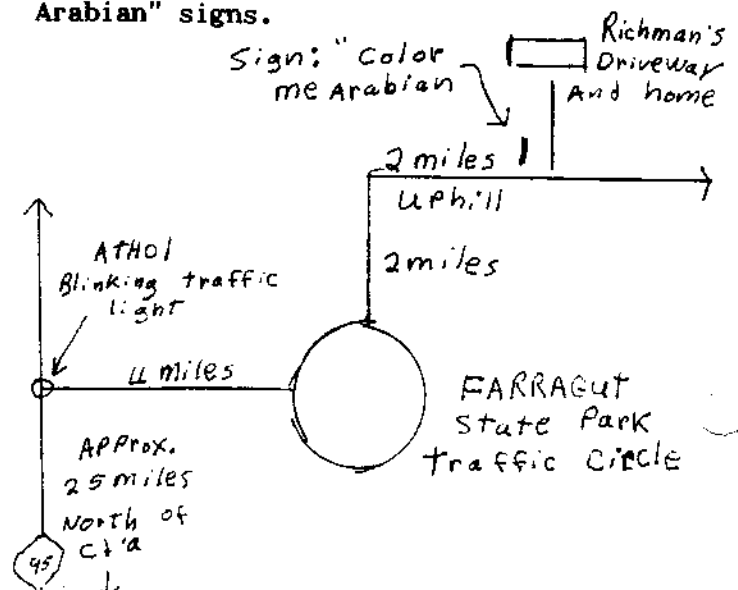
Two types of volunteers: First, people are needed to perform rehabilitation duties. Because no assistance or funding is available, you must be able to assume the costs associated with rehabilitation duties. Second, we need a large group

of volunteers trained to handle and transport birds of prey to a rehabilitator, in the event a Conservation officer is not available. Again, volunteers would be asked to assume the cost of gasoline, etc.

A workshop covering the handling of injured birds of prey is being offered at 1 pm on Saturday, November 12. All interested persons may call to register or obtain more information at (208) 682-3413. The workshop will be taught by Harvey Richman and Dr. Jim Cook. Advanced workshops will follow as needed. Anyone attending the workshop will be requested to provide their names and telephone numbers for a list to be made available to the Department of Fish and Game, as well as to local rehabilitators and veterinarians.

Dr. Cook will be using his trained falcons to demonstrate handling techniques, so participants should wear a heavy shirt with long sleeves. Dress warmly, as we may be outside or in a barn. Harvey suggests that bringing something hot to drink in a thermos is a good idea.

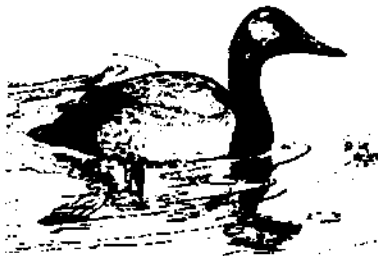
Directions: At Farragut Circle take the "ABC" exit (Athol Bayview Careywood) and follow the main road approximately 4 miles. The Richman driveway is at the top of a hill, to your left and clearly marked with red and black "Color Me Arabian" signs.



**** LOCAL CONSERVATION ****

By Wallace Keck, Conservation Chair

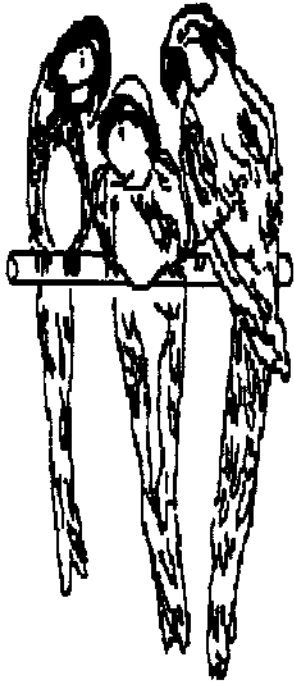
I don't know about you, but I can hardly take a trip without stopping to read the interpretive signs along the highway. Being relatively new to the area, I continue to orientate myself to Idaho's history, geography and vast public lands. On a trip to Boise, I barely made it out of Coeur d'Alene before stopping to read the Bureau of Land Management sign on Blackwell Island. It reads: "This area will be developed into a recreation site through the cooperative efforts of the county, state agencies and the public."



The west side of the island (about 33 acres) is impressive, and we are fortunate to have it held in the public's trust. Now I am curious about what the BLM has in mind. After conversations with Shirley Sturts and Gertie Hansen, I realize some of our members have been following this issue for awhile and have already participated in at least one public meeting. It seems I've been late to the table. Perhaps many of you are as well. Audubon members, indeed all conservation-minded residents, should be involved in the planning process.

- #1: It's in our backyard and opportunities like this don't come along often,
- #2: Blackwell Island is a beneficial marsh for waterfowl, osprey and countless songbirds,
- #3: Development pressures on the south side of the Spokane River will undoubtedly increase and Blackwell Island serves as an excellent green-space and buffer,
- #4: The BLM acquired this property to help alleviate congestion at boat launches at the north end of Lake Coeur d'Alene. The ramp location and size of the parking area should be carefully planned so as not to change the integrity of the marsh,
- #5: Attempts to annex the east side of Blackwell Island will lead to development that affects the parks usage and appearance.

These are just a few of the issues to be thinking about. Next month, I will explore these in detail to prepare interested members for a public meeting scheduled January 10. If you would like a fact sheet on Blackwell Island, write: BLM, CDA District, 1808 N Third St., Coeur d'Alene 83814; or call Bill Cook at 769-5042. Better Yet, join us for a field trip to Blackwell Island on Saturday, November 19th at 8 a.m. Plan to meet at the Blackwell Island BLM sign just across the Spokane River bridge on US Highway 95. We'll walk the property, conduct a quick and dirty winter bird list, and discuss ideas. I'll see you there! Also you can attend the Conservation Committee meeting at 6:30 at the Iron Horse on Nov. 15 right before the regular meeting.



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 5 - send quotes to the editor for future newsletters)

"The birds are flown"

"I should kill two birds with one stone, as that excellent thrifty proverb says."

"Drunk as owls"

"I deem it all but ducks and drakes."

"A brain of feathers and a heart of lead."

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mike Nibelich

This past Sept. 30th, I drove to Boise to attend the fall Idaho Audubon Council meeting. Other Audubon chapters attending included the Golden Eagle, Portneuf Valley, and Sanke River. Bob Turner, the Regional Vice President from the Rocky Mountain region of National Audubon also attended and had a number

of comments regarding National and Regional Audubon happenings. On Saturday, Oct. 1st, approximately 25 Audubon members, along with 4 BLM personael left Boise for a day in Owyhee couty to look at grazing on BLM lands. We visited the Ted Trueblood Wildlife Management Area along wht way to the BLM lands. A number of the people camped overnight on the North Fork of the Owyhee River.

News that may be of special interest for CDA Audubon members regards the 12th bi-annual 6 state Rocky Mountain Rgional Audubon conference scheduled for Boise May 31st to June 4, 1995. The theme will be "how to enjoy birding" and there will be dorm rooms available at Boise State University for a very reasonable fee of approximateley \$15 a day. A number of interesting programs are already scheduled. I will pass on more information in future newsletters as it becomes available.



National Audubon Society
&
Turner Broadcasting
present

The World of Audubon 10th Anniversary Special

Join hosts Lauren Hutton and Richard Dean Anderson on this remarkable adventure, featuring Audubon's most powerful and controversial films of the last decade.

Premieres on TBS SuperStation
Sunday, November 20, 1994
at 9:00PM (EST)

Encores: Monday, November 21 at 12:00AM (EST)
Saturday, November 26 at 10:05AM (EST)
Monday, November 28 at 2:35AM (EST)

BE SURE TO WATCH!

WHAT BIRD IS THIS?

(see answer on page 5 below)

This bird is a winter visitor to our area. They are very beneficial species, for their food consists almost entirely of rodents. This is a bird of open country and is usually seen soaring low over open fields or perched on the top of a telephone pole at the side of the road. It often hovers while hunting. Seen in flight from above look for white at the base of the tail and white patches at the base of the primaries on upperwings. From below look for dark wrist patches. In the more common light phase note the pale head, darker back and dark belly band. There are two color phases and much individual variation.



OBSERVATION POST

Observers: Kris Buchler (KB), Kas

Dumroese (KSD), Gertie Hanson (GH), Brian Howard (BH), Carol Howard (CH), Ron Rich (RR), Shirley Sturtis (SNS), Dan Svingen (DNS) Susan Weller (SW) Roger Young (RY)



1. Double-Crested Cormorant 1 Lake Chatcolet Oct. 14 (DNS)
2. Black-crowned Night-Heron 1 Thompson Lake Aug. 28 (BH)
3. Karasian Wigeon 1 Thompson Lake Oct. 10 (DNS)
4. Northern Harrier 2 Killarney Lake Oct. 23 (SNS)
5. Merlin 1 Cataldo Slough Sept. 14-15 (SW) (Correction from Oct. 1994 Newsletter when I reported this sightings as a N. Harrier)
6. Wild Turkey 8-20 in two groups almost daily since Pottlatch Hill July (KB)
7. California Quail 6 Hayden View Oct. 10 (RR): 10-19 (in two groups) Fernan Hill (RY)
8. Dunlin 1 imm. Cd'A River Delta Oct. 19 (DNS)
9. Thayer's Gull 1 Cd'A River Delta Oct. 10 (DNS)
10. Barn Owl 1 Black Lake area Aug. 1 26 but heard all summer (BH, CH) 1 at Big Pine Campground Sept. 15 (BH)
11. Pygmy Owl 1 Blackwell Hill Oct. 16-17 (GH)
12. Pileated Woodpecker 1 Fernan Lake Oct. 12 (SRS)
13. Blue Jay 1 Fernan Hill Oct. 8 and since then 2 coming daily to feeder (RY): 3 at home of Stan Kvern Oct. 12 (BH): and approx. 10-12 in the Moscow area seen
14. Northern Shrike 1 Killarney Lake Oct. 23 (SNS)
15. Lincoln's Sparrow 1 Moscow area (Birding Not line observer KSD)
16. White-Crowned Sparrow 1 Fernan Hill (SNS, RY)
17. Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch flock near Emida (DNS)
18. Pine Grosbeak 1+ near Emida (DNS)
19. Red Crossbill 12 Blackwell Hill all fall (GH)

Answers to Quotes Quiz from page 1

John Heywood "Three Hundred Epigrams". Thomas Shadwell "Niser II". Stevenson "Treasure Island" ch 24.
 Unkin "Careless Contest". Pope, Dunciad, II, L44

Answer to What Bird is This?

Rough-legged Hawk

COEUR D'ALENE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Vice President
Phil Waring 765-5378

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Conservation
Wallace F. Keck 664-4029
683-2425

Education - Librarian
Kris K. Buchler 664-4739

Membership
Judy Waring 765-5378

Newsletter - Fieldtrips
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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