



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

NOVEMBER 1995

VOLUME 5 No. 3

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)

### NEW MEETING PLACE

Starting Nov. 21st regular monthly meetings of the Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society will be held at the Idaho Fish and Game office at 2750 Kathleen Avenue just east of Atlas Road across from the Forest Service Tree Nursery.

#### NOVEMBER 11 SATURDAY WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION TO BENEFIT CEDAR MOUNTAIN ZOO PROJECT AT SILVERWOOD

Time: 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Place: Coeur d'Alene Resort

Activity: I.N.Z.S is having a wine and cheese reception for the host of "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom" Jim Fowler. Cost is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Jim will give a brief presentation on zoos & the role they play in society today. He will be available for photographs and a book signing after his presentation. Proceeds to benefit the Cedar Mountain Zoo Project at Silverwood. Phone (509) 924-7221 for tickets.

#### NOVEMBER 14 TUESDAY BIRDING WITH A BROWN-BAG 3rd in a series of noon time birding trips

Time: 12 Noon - 1 p.m.

Place: BLM Office 1808 North 3rd Street

Leader: Scott Robinson 769-5048 work  
772-6874 home

Activity: Take a break from your daily

routine. Join Scott in a walk around town starting at the BLM office. It will be a good time to share with others what you are doing in your backyard to attract birds.

#### NOVEMBER 21 TUESDAY REGULAR MEETING

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Idaho Fish and Game Office  
2750 Kathleen Ave.

Program: Janey Youngblood, from the Loon Lake Loon Association, will present a program called "Hello I'm a Loon". Jennifer Welch from Sandpoint will join Janey in educating us on the projects going on in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho to encourage nesting of the Common Loon. This is an excellent program - please come and bring your friends. In the meantime call Cityline: 765-8811 and then press 9879 to hear loon calls.

#### NOVEMBER 23 THANKSGIVING DAY BIRD COUNT

Thanksgiving Bird Counts take place on Thanksgiving Day and last for just one hour. Participants select the hour that best fits their schedule. To participate use the count form in this newsletter. I urge you to join the growing number of participants.

#### NOVEMBER 25 SATURDAY HARRISON FIELD TRIP

Time: 9 a.m.

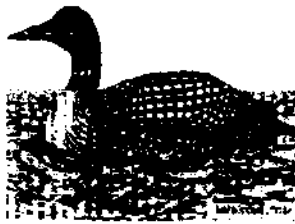
Meet: Fernan Ranger Station on east Sherman

Leader: Judy Waring 765-5378

Activity: We'll head south with our 1st stop at Wolf Lodge Bay to see if any eagles have arrived. We will check out the new viewing platform at Harrison Flats, plus a few other favorite spots. And of course pie and coffee at the Country Chef! Dress warmly and bring your lunch.

# 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 6)

- send quotes to the editor for future newsletters)

"Good Morning Dove; Good Evening Grosbeak."

"It is hard to soar with eagles when you work with turkeys"

"If you want to see birds, you must have birds in your heart."

"The ravens of the night were hushed  
The bird of dawn began his lay  
The rosebud, newly awakened, blushed  
To feel the touch of springing day  
And bade the roses round unveil  
Roused by the warbling nightingale."

"One swallow does not make a summer"  
+++++



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

# BALD EAGLE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Scott Robinson from the BLM is looking for 1 or 2 volunteers to survey Bald Eagles at Wolfledge Bay. The volunteers would count eagles once a week for 12 weeks from Nov. 12 through Feb. 3. If you are interested call Scott at the BLM office 769-5048 or at home 772-6874

# CONSERVATION NOTES

from Mike Mihelick

I drove to West Yellowstone, MT at the end of September to attend the fall Idaho Audubon Council meeting. Approximately 30 people were in attendance, with special guests Bob Turner, Regional Vice President for the Rocky Mountain Regional Office and Brian Peck, endangered species coordinator and also with the Regional Office.

Discussions on Saturday include threats to the Endangered Species and the status of Wolf recovery in Idaho. On Sunday a number of the attenders visited the Park.

The Idaho Audubon Council works to represent 2500 Idaho Audubon members on a number of environmental issues, and I am the CDA representative to the IAC. One of the highest priorities of IAC is to have better communications among each Audubon Chapter and also with IAC. Kay Ingram from the Snake River Audubon is the present IAC President. Among the items that are needed to meet this goal are a fax machine and e-mail capability for each chapter.

The Coeur d'Alene Chapter could use a fax machine and if there is a member who has access to an extra machine, or would like to donate a machine, please call me at 664-4741.

# \*\*\*\*\* AUDUBON FACTS

The National Audubon Society was founded in 1905. The organization is named for John James Audubon (1785-1851) famed American Naturalist, explorer, and wildlife artist.

## ADOPT A WETLAND ACTIVITIES ON MICA BAY

Shirley Sturts is organizing adopt a wetland activities on Mica Bay. Activities will include the following:

- a. twice a month birding trips for the purpose for making a species list
- b. point count during the breeding season
- c. clean up (twice a year)
- d. building bird houses - both Wood Duck and song birds
- e. putting up bird houses
- f. cleaning Wood Duck Houses
- g. looking into the possibility of building and maintaining a viewing blind

If you would like to help with any of the above activities please call Shirley Sturts and sign up (664-5318)

Starting right away is the year round birding survey. The survey will be done the first and third week of each month. Participants can sign up to go out sometime between the 1st and 7th of each month and/or the 14th and 21st of each month. If you don't feel confident in your bird identification skills and still want to participate in the surveys you can sign up as a helper. An extra pair of eyes are always welcome and it is good way to learn to identify birds.

## ECOLOGY WORKSHOP SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED

As part of its commitment to conservation and education the Coeur d'Alene Audubon will be offering a scholarship to send an educator or future educator to an Ecology Workshop in the Rockies. This is a one week camp of natural history experiences and environmental education. Participants stay at the Wyoming Mountain Wildlife Conservation Camp operated by Wyoming Fish and Game Department in cooperation with the National Audubon Society.

Our Chapter would like to make this an annual award and present it as a memorial scholarship or scholarship fund. We are looking for donors who would be interested in funding the

scholarship (in part or in full) and in naming it. The workshop currently costs \$700.

Anyone interested in seeking more information, please call the Education Chairwoman, Kris Buchler at 664-4739

## CDA CHAPTER ENRICHES SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The CDA Chapter has provided "Audubon Adventures" to 118 3rd and 5th grade classrooms in area elementary schools. Districts receiving these educational materials include CDA, Post Falls, Lakeland, Kootenai, Mullan, Wallace and Kellogg. Each teacher and classroom will receive six units of study. A unit includes 32 newsletters/work sheets and a teacher's guide of information and suggested activities. Subjects cover a wide range of topics such as recycling, migratory birds, sea turtles, deciduous trees, spiders and butterflies.

This educational project has been made possible by the generosity of the Margaret W. Reed Foundation.

## HABITAT IMPROVEMENT ON BLACKWELL ISLAND

Seven Audubon members joined other citizens and BLM employees Scott Robinson and Bill Cook in planting about a 1000 bushes including willow, red-osier dogwood douglas spirea and rose on Blackwell Island. The BLM is also working on knapweed control.

## AUDUBON HELPS FORESTRY CLASS

Five Audubon members helped the forestry class from Cd'A High School survey the birds on 20 acres of land that they are making a management plan for. Our list of birds was low due to rain. Birds included: Pileated Woodpecker (holes only), Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee, Golden-Crowned Kinglet, and Varied Thrush (after students had left).

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### GAMBLIN LAKE

September 30

Report from Judy Waring

Eleven hardy birders gathered on a not-too-promising day, canoes in tow, for a fall field trip to Gamlin Lake on the last day of September. Present were Nancy and Bruce Cergl, Janet Callen, Chris Buchler, Shirley Sturts, Phyllis Spring, Dick Hoskins, Don Matthews, Cindy Langlitz, Judy Waring and Janice Hill. Janice is employed by the Nature Conservancy and told us about the purchase of this piece of property as a refuge for wildlife.

As it turned out, we had a four hour break from the rain and toured the lake and interesting shore areas, getting only slightly damp.

Birds seen and heard: Canada Geese, Ring-billed Gull, Raven, Pied-billed Grebe, Red-winged Blackbird, Bald Eagle, Marsh Wren, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Flicker, Belted Kingfisher, Mallard Duck, Am. Robin, Hairy Woodpecker and Swallow (unidentified specie).

### Purcell Mountains

October 15

Report from Shirley Sturts

The fall colors made the drive through the Purcell Mountains a delightful day for the six Auduboners that ventured forth. Participants included Gorden and Pam Comrie, Corine Cameron, Kris Buchler Gertie Hanson and Shirley Sturts.

Our first stop, Smith Lake was the most productive. We counted 1 female Goldeneye, 1 Pygmy Owl, 1 Pileated Woodpecker, 1 Northern Flicker, 1 Raven, 4 Gray Jay, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 7 Red Crossbills and a flock of 20 unidentified songbirds (Possible Pine Siskin) At Bush Lake we picked up 4 Mallards, 8 American Wigeon, 4 Ring-necked ducks an Osprey nest (no Osprey) and chickadee sp.

As the morning progressed the beauty of the trees continued to enchant us but the birding became less exciting. At Robinson Lake we added to our list: 1 Belted Kingfisher, 4 Gray Jays, 5

Golden-Crowned Kinglets and 8 Evening Grosbeak. Driving along the Moyie River we added an American Dipper and one Ruffed Grouse (just killed by a hunter).

Leaving the Moyie River we wound up a mountain road to a parking area for Queen's Lake. The 1/4 mile (advertised in our directions) turned out to be at least a mile hike into the lake. They had closed off part of the road and not marked it. Gorden urged us on and we eventually came to the lake. On our hike we counted 1 Northern Flicker, 1 Hairy Woodpecker, 1 Gray Jay and 5 of the same mystery birds we saw at Smith Lake. They looked like large Pine Siskin. The sun was going down when we reached Dawson Lake but we had enough light to count 5 Pied-Billed Grebes.

As dark came, hunger descended on us as well. Gertie said she knew a good pie place in Bonners Ferry, so we returned our binoculars to their cases and set off in haste.

### Mica Bay

October 28

Report from Judy Waring

Bryan Hemlich, of Idaho Fish and Game, led a large and enthusiastic group of Auduboners on a tour of our newly adopted wetland, Mica Bay. Many interesting possibilities for our involvement in preserving and enhancing this area were raised. After a walking and birding survey of the property a sign was erected at the waters' edge signifying our commitment to this important habitat.

We then accepted Helen Delaneys kind invitation and enjoyed some excellent soup at her home which adjoins the public boat access at the bay.

Birds identified:

N. Shrike, Tree Sparrow, Blue Heron, Brewer's Blackbird, Song Sparrow, Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Mallard, Canada Goose, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-necked Grebe, Kingfisher, Bufflehead and Red-tailed Hawk.

Field Trips continued on page 5

Field Trips continued from page 4

## Birding with a Brown Bag

NIC Campus Sept. 26  
Leader Susan Weller

Rain may have put a damper on participation but for the four participants, including leader Susan Weller, the hour bird trip was a success. Susan first walked the group through the mounted bird collection in the Science building at NIC where they studied field marks and size comparisons close up. Stepping outside again the group found the rain had abated and they went in search of live birds. Birds found included Pygmy Nuthatch, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Crow, House finch, California Gull and Ring-billed Gull.

Tubbs Hill October 24

Leader Roger Young

A biting cold wind greeted our group as we got out of our cars at the Third Street Boat Ramp, but we soon found it very pleasant as we got on the lee of the hill. Or was it the short steep climb to the fire protection trail that warmed us up? Anyway it turned out to be a very nice day to be on the hill.

Eight people showed up for the walk, including two from the Spokane area. To make up for the lack of birds--we think we saw some Golden-crowned Kinglets high in a tree and we did see Nuthatches and Gulls---I showed the group the site of the home of Mr. Tubbs, identified trees and bushes, and talked about the geology and formation of the lake.

There really are a number of birds on the hill, let's try the other side in the spring.

+++++

Congratulations to Audubon member Dick Hoskins on the publication of his new book More Montana: Tall tales, damn lies, and otherwise. To obtain an autographed copy of his new book (\$10.95+tax) or his first book Building Character: Tales from Montana (And other damn lies) (\$7.95+tax) send a check to:

Polecat Press  
612 West Haycraft  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

## TO RAISE A SWALLOW



Part 3 of a series

By Susan Weller

16 July I think my swallow may be a Violet-Green. He has a wash of grey underneath the white feathers on his chest and belly. Also, the line through his eye is not so solid anymore. What an enormous appetite for such a small creature. On average, he eats the following menu every day: 1 box meal worms, 15 crickets, 15 moths, 25 flies, 50-100 mosquitoes, 3 yellow-jackets, 3 lace wings, 3 crane flies, 6 ants, and additional various and sundry beetles and bugs. I have enlisted the help of Noah and Hailey Couser, and a neighbor boy named Josh Mullen. Josh was very helpful and collected insects for a whole week, earning about \$25 to take on vacation. Without the help of these kids, I'd be even more worn out than I already am. I've got a good case of sleep deprivation going, and have had to cancel three eye-appointments, a dentist appointment, a camping trip, and one canoe trip down the river with Dick Hoskins.

17 July According to my calculations, my swallow is 21 days old and should fledge any day now. I put his box up outside on the house by my bedroom window. He was starting to fly all around the bathroom, and was ready. He became immediately wary when placed outside. He still sits in the hole of his nest box, but his peeping is greatly subdued. He sleeps inside the box cavity though, rather than sitting in the hole like he did indoors. He sees basically the same scene as he saw outside the bathroom window, but he has a lot more to entertain him and seems quite content. I saw him take a snap at a gnat, and he is tracking bugs with his eyes. He still chortles when I put him down for the night, I can hear him down in his box snuggling and chirring.

## OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Jane Badraun (JAB), Kris Buchler (KSB), Corin Cameron (CC), Gordon Comrie (GC), Pam Comrie (PAC), Rich Del Carlo (RDC), Cindy Langlitz (CL), Jack McNeel (JM) Nancy Mertz (NM), Phyllis Spring (PHS), Shirley Sturts (SHS), Judy Waring (JDW), Susan Weller (SW), 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. Pacific Loon 1 Spokane River near Post Falls Oct. 21 1st seen by (PAC) later by (GC, SHS)
2. Common Loon 6 Coeur d'Alene Lake near Harrison Oct. 22 (GC, PAC)
3. Horned Grebe 2 Thompson Lake Oct. 22 (GC, PAC)
4. Great Egret 6-7 near Kellogg Oct. 26 (SW)
5. Ruddy Duck 2 Cougar Bay, CDA Lake Oct. 15 (NM)
6. Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 yard in Coeur d'Alene Oct. 16 (JDW)
7. Rough-legged Hawk 1 Harrison Flats Oct. 22 (GC, CAM)
8. Osprey 1 Hayden Lake Sept. 19 (CC), 1 North Fork, CDA River Oct. 15 (JDW, PW)
9. American Kestrel 2 Rathdrum Prairie (Atlas Road) Oct. 12 (JAB), 1 Post Falls Oct. 16 (KSB), 2 Farragut State Park Oct. 10 (CL)
10. California Quail 25-30 coming to yard every day Fernan Hill (RY)
11. Great Horned Owl 2 Round Lake Sept. 28 (KSB)
12. Hairy Woodpecker 1 Heyburn State Park Sept. 25 (KSB, CL, PHS)
13. Pileated Woodpecker 1 Heyburn State Park Sept. 25 (CL, PHS, KSB), 1 Round Lake Oct. 28 (KSB), 2 Priest Lake Oct. 14 (RIL),
14. Blue Jay 1 a feeder Stanley Hill in Coeur d'Alene Oct. 16 (JM)
15. Gray Jay 2 Round Lake Sept. 28 (KSB)
16. Pygmy Nuthatch 1 pair nested off their deck and are staying around Fernan Hill, Coeur d'Alene (RY)
17. Varied Thrush 1 on the 20 acre forestry plot being managed by the Cd'A High School Forestry class south of Farragut State Park Oct. 24 (RY, CL, SHS, PHS, PAC)
17. Western Bluebird 15 Rathdrum Prairie Oct. 13 (JAB)
18. Mountain Bluebird 10 approx. Twin Lakes Oct. 10 (CL), 31 Farragut State Park Oct. 10 (JDW, PW), 3 Rathdrum Prairie Oct. 13 (JAB)
19. Northern Mockingbird 1 Bonners Ferry Oct. 11 (RDC) (of rare occurrence in Northern Idaho - I have only 4 records of this species north of Lewiston and 5 records in the Lewiston area - this is a 1st fall record - last record was Jan 3 at Thompson Lake reported by John Nigh.
20. Bohemian Waxwing 1+ (first seen this winter) Kootenai Wildlife Refuge Oct. 28 (RDC) - if anyone has a 1st date for the Coeur d'Alene area please let me know - Shirley at 664-5318
21. Cedar Waxwing 10-12 Heyburn State Park Sept. 25 (KSB, CL, PHS), several Thompson lake Oct. 22 (GC, PAC)
22. Yellow-rumped Warbler 1 Thompson Lake Oct. 22 (GC, PAC)
23. Rufous-Sided Towhee 1 Fernan Hill CDA Oct. 1 (about) (RY)
24. Snow Bunting 1 Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Oct. 26 (RDC)

=====  
Answers to Quotes Quiz from page 4

E.O. Grundser - Anonymous - John Burroughs - Jami - Aristotle

NOV 1995

# Thanksgiving Bird Count Form

Thanksgiving (window watch) Bird Count.  
Counter's name and mailing address:

Record your observations on the field form below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Count \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, Temp. \_\_\_\_\_

Time: Begin \_\_\_\_\_, End \_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

Habitat type: \_\_\_\_\_

Feeders/baths (types) \_\_\_\_\_

Feeders/baths (Number) \_\_\_\_\_

**Procedures for Count:** Select a circular area on the ground (may include water area), 15 feet in diameter, to include feeders, bird baths, shrubs, etc., as you wish. Imagine the circle extending upward as a cylinder. Count the numbers of individual birds of each species which come into this circle (or cylinder) during exactly ONE HOUR. Try to judge as best you can the actual number of individuals which are making visits to the Circle, or which fly through the imaginary cylinder. Try NOT to count the same individual bird over and over again! Please print clearly the number for each species in the "In Circle" column. If you wish to report any seen outside the Circle, list them in the "Outside" column.

Pick any ONE-HOUR period during the day -- and make the count on Thanksgiving Day! Please send your count results (even if you see no birds at all) to:

Dr. John G. Hewston  
Natural Resources Building  
Humboldt State University  
Arcata, CA 95521

Species seen	In Circle	Outside
--------------	-----------	---------

- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Rock Dove
- Mourning Dove
- Anna's Hummingbird
- Northern Flicker
- Woodpecker, (list) \_\_\_\_\_
- Steller's Jay
- Scrub Jay
- Common Raven
- American Crow
- Chestnut-backed Chickadee
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Mountain Chickadee
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Wrenit
- Northern Mockingbird
- American Robin
- Hermit Thrush
- Varied Thrush
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Cedar Waxwing
- European Starling
- Rufous-sided Towhee
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Golden-crowned Sparrow
- Fox Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Purple Finch
- House Finch
- Lesser Goldfinch
- American Goldfinch
- Pine Siskin
- Evening Grosbeak
- House Sparrow

Other species:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NOV 1995

# COEUR D'ALENE AUDUBON SOCIETY

## OFFICERS

President  
Ronn Rich 772-4512  
Vice President  
Susan Weller 682-3413  
Secretary  
Janet Callen 664-1085  
Treasurer  
Phil Waring 765-5378  
Board Member  
Scott Reed 664-2161

## COMMITTEE CHAIR

Conservation  
Mike Mihelich 664-4741  
Education - Librarian  
Kris K. Buchler 664-4739  
Membership - Field Trips  
Judy Waring 765-5378  
Hospitality  
Nancy Mertz 765-5254  
Newsletter  
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

NON PROFIT

