



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society
Editor: Shirley Sturts - E4615 Fernan Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 -664-6318

NOVEMBER 1996

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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)

MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 7 THURSDAY BOARD MEETING

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Home of Jan and Herb Servertson
1460 Fairmont Loop Road

NOVEMBER 18 MONDAY REGULAR MEETING

Time: 6:30 Bird Identification - "Gone Birding" a fun video identification game for birders of all ages and experience. Bring pencil and paper to play and learn.

7:00 p.m Meeting starts

Place: Idaho Fish and Game Office
2750 Kathleen Avenue

Program: Dan Pennington, manager of the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge, will present a slide program on the refuge system and the future management plans of the Kootenai NWR (located a few miles north of Bonners Ferry).

DECEMBER 16 MONDAY REGULAR MEETING

Time: 6:30 Bird Identification - "Gone Birding" Bring pencil and paper.

7:00 p.m Meeting starts

Place: Idaho Fish and Game Office
2750 Kathleen Avenue

Program: Susan Weller will present a program on the up coming Christmas Bird Count.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

NOVEMBER 14 THURSDAY

Workshop: Comprehensive State Water Plan for the South Fork of the Snake River Basin Sponsored by United Rivers

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Ponderosa Springs Golf Course

Purpose: To Prepare for the November 19th hearing of the Idaho Water Resource Board-Kootenai County Extension Office.

NOVEMBER 16 SATURDAY

**AUDUBON REFUGE KEEPERS
WORKSHOP**

Time: 9:30-3:30

Place: Turnbull NWR, Cheney WA.

Contact: For information and registration call Laura 202-861-2242

Activity: This event is sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the Turnbull NWR. Some of the subjects covered will be Lobbying/Advocacy, Education and Volunteers.

NOVEMBER 28 THURSDAY

THANKSGIVING DAY BIRD COUNT

To participate see form on page 4

DECEMBER 21 SATURDAY

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT AND POTLUCK

Further details in the December. Contact person Susan Weller (208) 682-3413

Wildlife Rehabilitation Seminar

The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council will be presenting a weekend seminar next March. This event is currently being organized by some Audubon members and two area wildlife rehabilitators. For more information call Kris 664-4739.



CALENDAR CHECK

(Continued from page 1)

FIELD TRIPS

NOVEMBER 5 TUESDAY NOVEMBER 23 SATURDAY MICA BAY SURVEY

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop Rd. turn off, south of the Spokane River Bridge-Highway 95

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Activity: We will bird the area until 11:00 a.m. so you can plan on being back to Fairmont Loop by 11:30.

NOVEMBER 12 TUESDAY BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

3rd in a series of noon time birding

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

Meet: Corner of 23rd and Fernan Hill Road/French Gulch Road

Leader: Roger Young 664-4179

Activity: Roger will take the group by his bird feeders on the way up

Fernan Hill. Roger gets a variety of birds coming to his home including California Quail, Pygmy Nuthatch, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Blue Jays (during the winter of 1994-95)

NOVEMBER 16 SATURDAY HEYBURN STATE PARK

Time: 8 a.m.

Meet: Rosauers Parking Lot (s.e. corner)

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318 **Activity:** We will hike the 3 mile Indian Cliff Trail and bird along the shores of Chatcolet and Benewah Lake. Bring a lunch, hiking shoes and dress for the weather. We should be home around 3 or 4 p.m..

MANN LAKE FIELD TRIP

by Gordon Comrie (Trip Leader)

On Saturday October 5th, eight hearty birders left Coeur d'Alene for a fall birding adventure at Mann Lake near Lewiston, Idaho. Included in the group were: Chris and Ed Buchler, Gordon and Pam Comrie, Sandy and Ken Light and Ronn and Roberta Rich. Upon arriving in Lewiston they were joined by Shirley Sturts who had driven down the night before to visit with friends. Our first day of birding produced the usual fall inhabitants including Red-tailed Hawk, Meadowlark, White-Crowned Sparrow, Mountain Chickadee, Western Grebe, Northern Harrier, Snow Goose, Canada Goose and Kestrel. That evening the gang of eight gathered at the Helm Restaurant for a very nice meal. I think we would all recommend their food.

On Sunday morning we all gathered once again to chase those elusive fall migrants. Once again we returned to Mann Lake. This proved to be the most exciting part of our field trip when we witnessed two Northern Harrier giving chase to a hungry immature Bald Eagle. I think the Eagle gained some respect for his small birds of prey cousins through this encounter. Shortly thereafter this same eagle gave chase to a Great Blue Heron and we all agreed that the heron had a religious experience while evading the pursuit of the eagle.

While at Mann Lake on Saturday the birding was really good with sightings of the following species: Greater White-fronted Goose, Double-Crested Cormorant, Lesser Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitcher, American Golden Plover, American Pipit, Horned lark, Horned Grebe, Ruddy Duck, Redhead, a possible Baird's Sandpiper and possible Lapland Longspur.

From Mann Lake we drove to Coyote Gulch for a change in habitat. This area was not only beautiful but had a few good birds including Bewick's Wren, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, Savannah Sparrow and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

If you missed this trip, try to arrange to join us on one of our future trips. I guarantee you will learn something and have fun.



IDAHO BIRDING HISTORY

Taken from: The Oologist Vol.XX #1 Nov. 1903

"A NESTING DAY IN IDAHO"

By Chas. S. Moody, M.D.(1903)

Continued from the October Newsletter
Dr. Moody is collecting in Bottle Bay, Pend Oreille Lake

The water is now only a few feet deep and is overgrown with the pads of the pond lily. What bird is that who with outstretched wings and neck is running with the speed of a horse over the very water it seems? A charge of shot from the collecting gun brings him down and we are at leisure to examine him more closely. The upturned bill, the half webbed feet, the white upon back and wings tell us the story.

This is the American Avocet, a rather rare bird with us, but quite common in Montana, Wyoming and Utah.

As we land his mate flies up and another charge of fine shot lays her beside her mate, mute witnesses to man's rapacity. The nest cannot be far from the place where she rose. It is not hard to locate, being a mere depression in the sand lined with a few wisps of dried grass and leaves, containing four olive-buff eggs plentifully spotted with chocolate brown uniform with all the waders, and like them, pointing inwards. In size about 1.80 x 1.35- They too, go into the capacious maw of the collecting case.

(editors note: This is the only breeding record of American Avocet for Northern Idaho where it is considered a rare transient

A whistle of wings overhead causes us to look up in time to see a pair of Mallards alight on the water and swim gracefully away. For of all our water birds the Mallard is the most graceful. In this country the Mallard nests among the rocks some distance from the shore of the lake or pond and we must look for this one in yonder cliff of rocks in the direction from whence they came. An hour search fails to reveal the coveted nesting place of Mrs. Anas and we give up the quest and recline under the shade of a great pine to rest. We are hidden from a view of the lake by the body of the tree.

In a short time the duck alights not sixty feet from our resting place and with a preliminary look around waddles serenely upon her nest.

In vain have we walked around that very spot, but the nest is cunningly secreted among the rocks and the tall grass that grows between them.

Cautiously we approach. Even then so nearly does her soft brown back blend with the surrounding that we all most tread upon her before she gives a startled quack and takes wing.



There are 9 olive green eggs within a mere depression among the rocks lined with grass and down from the mother's breast. All is fish that comes to

our net, and while they are not very valuable let us look up the nests of the Red-wings that are continually circling above us making the air vocal with their "konk quer ree" and flashing their scarlet epaulets as they whirl above us. In this country they build upon the rushes above the water and in the thorn and alder thickets that skirt the edge of the lake. So with wading boots pulled up high we wade out some feet from shore and are in the veritable city of blackbirds. Nests and nests everywhere; some completed, some nearly ready to hatch and a few containing only one or more eggs.

The nests are compactly made of dried grass and small sticks lined with moss and hair, fastened securely to the tule. We select a few complete sets of the eggs which are the most typically marked, light blue or slate colored with clouded markings of dark purple or black.

CONTINUED IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE



OBSERVATION POST

Observers: Kris Buchler (KSB), Janet Callen (JC) Corrine Cameron (CC), Earl Chapin (EC), Gordon Comrie (GC), Pam Comrie (PAC), Bill Gundlach (BG), Cynthia Langlitz (CL), George Saylor (GS), Herb and Jan Severtson (HJS), Shirley Sturts (SHS), Susan Weller (SDW)
 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 2 Upper Priest Lake Sept. 28 (BG); 2 Mica Bay, CDA lake Oct. 20 (GC,PAC) 2. Western Grebe 2 Upper Priest Lake Sept. 28 (BG); 2 Mica Bay, CDA lake Oct. 20 (GC,PAC); 1 Wolf Lodge Bay Oct. 5 and 1 at Bayview Oct 24 (GS)
3. Eared Grebe 1 Bayview Oct.24 (GS)
4. Sharp-Shinned Hawk 1 Pottlatch Hill CDA Oct.11 (KSB); 1 Mica Bay, CDA L.Oct.20 (GC,PAC)
5. Rough-legged Hawk 1 Cataldo Slough Oct.19 (GC,PAC,SHS), 2 Rathdrum Prairie Oct. 23 (CC)
6. Ruffed Grouse 1 Fairmont Loop (HJS)
7. Dunlin 2 Mica Bay, CDA Lake Oct. 20 (GC,PAC)
8. Bonaparte's Gull 10 Cougar Bay, CDA Lake Oct. 20 (GC,PAC)
9. Common Tern 1 Sandpoint City Beach Oct. 11 (EC)
10. Northern Pygmy-Owl 1 took bath in birdbath Pottlatch Hill home CDA Oct. 8 (KSB)
11. Red-naped Sapsucker 1 home in CDA Sept. 9 (BG)
12. Pileated Woodpecker 2 Mineral Ridge Oct. 20 (BG)
13. Blue Jay 1 Prichard Oct. 12-14 (CL); 1 Fairmont Loop Road Oct. 23 (HJS)
14. Pygmy Nuthatch 5-6 roosting in a birdhouse CDA (JC)
15. Brown Creeper 2 Mineral Ridge Oct. 18 (BG; 1 Cataldo home Oct. 18 (SDW)
16. Golden Crowned Kinglet 1 Fairmont Loop Oct 15 (HJS)
17. Western Bluebird 5 Cataldo home Oct. 1 (SDW)
18. Varied Thrush 15+ Upper St. Joe River near Red Ives Oct. 6 (BG)
19. Northern Shrike 1 (1st seen this winter) Mica Bay Oct. 13
20. American Dipper 1 Mica Bay, CDA L.Oct.20 (GC,PAC); 3+ St.Joe R.near Red Ives Oct. 6 (BG)

MICA BAY SURVEY

Observers: Kris Buchler, Janet Callen, Cliff Cameron, Corinne Cameron, Gordon and Pam Comrie, Bill Gundlach, George Saylor, Shirley Sturts

	Oct. 1	Oct. 19
Common Loon	1	-
Western Grebe	2	-
Red-necked Greb	1	3
Pied-billed Grebe	8	1
Great Blue Heron	1	-
Canada Goose	100+	-
Mallard	39	2
American Wigeon	10+	-
Bufflehead	3	2
Northern Harrier	1	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	-
Red-tailed Hawk	1	-
Wild Turkey	-	16
American Coot	40+	60
Killdeer	3	5+
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	1

Dunlin	-	2
Common Snipe	-	6+
Ring-billed Gull	1	-
California Gull	1	-
Belted Kingfisher	1	1
Downy Woodpecker	-	1
Northern Flicker	1	3
Black-b Magpie	-	1
Common Raven	2	-
Black-C Chickadee	3	1+
Mountain Chickadee	2+	-
Red-b Nuthatch	3	-
Western Bluebird	-	14+
Marsh Wren	-	1
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	-	1
American Robin	2	25+
Cedar Waxwing	-	24
Northern Shrike	-	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	10+	-
Song Sparrow	5	5+
White-crowned Sparrow	8	2+
Dark-eyed Junco	-	1
Red-winged Blackbird	50+	50+
House Finch	-	1

Board of Directors

President - Ronn Rich 772-4512, **Vice President** - Susan Weller 682-3413, **Secretary** - Janet Callen 664-1085, **Treasurer** - Corinne Cameron 664-0344, **Field Trips** - Gordon Comrie 664-1050, **Conservation** - Mike Mihelich 664-4741, **Education - Librarian** - Kris K. Buchler 664-4739, **Membership** - Jan Severtson 667-6209, **Hospitality** - Nancy Mertz 785-5254, **Newsletter** - Shirley Sturts 664-5318, **Board Member** - George Saylor 664-2787

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member in the National Audubon Society and my local chapter, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter (Chapter Code GO67XCH8).

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Introductory membership is \$20.00 for individual or family.

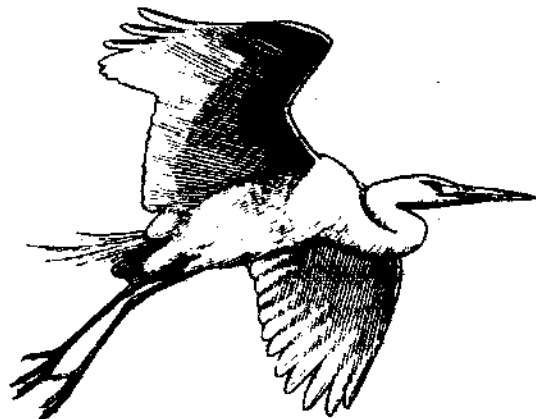
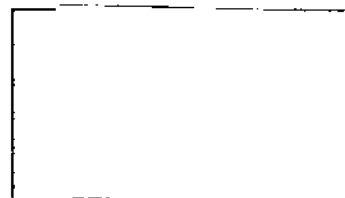
Members receive 6 issues of Audubon magazine and the chapter's local newsletter. Please make check payable to the National Audubon Society and mail to Jan Severtson, Membership Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter, P.O. Box 361, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Subscription to the The Fish Hawk Herald newsletter is only \$10.00. Please make checks payable to the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter and mail to Jan Severtson, Membership Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter, P.O. Box 361, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

The Fish Hawk Herald

November 1996

National Audubon Society
Coeur d'Alene Chapter
P.O. Box 361
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816



GREAT EGRET
Ardea alba