



THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society
Editor: Shirley Sturts 4615 E. Fernan Lake Rd. Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Volume 9, Issue 3

November 1999

NOVEMBER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

REGULAR MEETING

DATE: November 15, Monday

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: First Presbyterian Church 521
Lakeside - Annex building

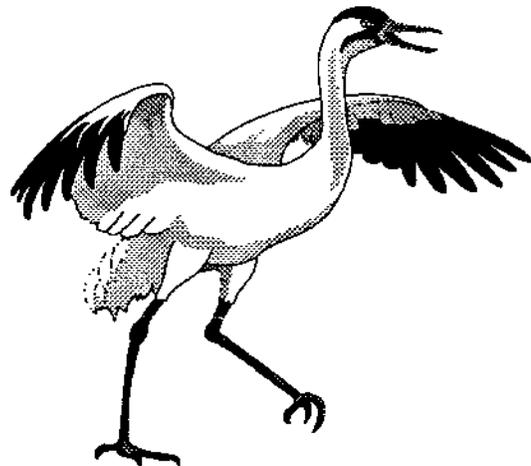
PROGRAM: Brian Holt, Wildlife
Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service talks about the status of the
Canada Lynx.

THANKSGIVING BIRD COUNT NOVEMBER 25

Pick any ONE-HOUR period on Thanksgiving
Day and count the birds at your feeder. Forms
and instructions for doing the count will be
available at the meeting or by calling Shirley
Sturts 664-5318

Birds on the Internet

Lisa Hardy



The Internet is a source for an overwhelming amount of information on birds and birding. Some examples of the types of information you can find are:

- ◆ "fine points" for field identification, including photographs and song recordings from different sources to round out hard copy guides and tapes.
- ◆ conservation, range, and life history information.
- ◆ birding checklists and information for an area where you are planning to travel.

Continued on Page 2

BIRDS ON THE INTERNET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Not all of us have the time to wade through the immense volume of offerings, so here are three good sites to get you started:

- ◆  Breeding Bird Survey
- ◆  - Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
- ◆ <http://www.audubon.org/> - National Audubon Society

The Breeding Bird Survey site is an excellent source of distribution maps compiled from BBS and Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data. It also provides species descriptions for most North American birds. I have not found these species descriptions or the "identification tips" to be any more detailed than what can be found in a basic field guide, but the species accounts often include sound files ("wav" files) which can be downloaded. The "Seasonal Bird Lists" feature allows you to click on any portion of a U.S. map to obtain a list of birds, along with their likelihood of being observed. This is a site you can spend an hour or two getting familiar with. And then, you can play the "Patuxent Bird Quiz" to hone your birding skills. The BBS site has been having technical difficulties in the last month, but hopefully will have things straightened out soon.

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (CLO) site includes "Birdsource", a set of programs for birders to contribute their observations to the scientific study of bird populations. These programs include FeederWatch, WarblerWatch, and the Backyard Bird Count. If you are not hooked up to the Internet at home, but want to participate in these programs, you can use the computers available at your local library. The CLO site is also worthy of an hour of exploration time. It does not have the comprehensive species coverage of the BBS site, but has more detailed discussion of various species.

Access our local chapter, through the Audubon Society page, for information on field trips and

programs if you can't find your Fish Hawk Herald in that stack of papers on your desk. Also, check out the birding links page and coverage of conservation issues.

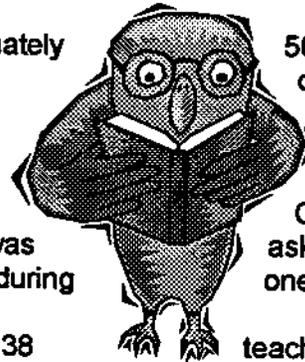
The following links pages are a starting point for many hours of exploration. Try these pages for a birding fix on those long winter evenings.

- ◆ <http://www-stat.wharton.upenn.edu/~siler/birdlinks.html> Birdlinks
- ◆ http://www.americanbirding.org/abalinks/links_gen.htm - American Birding Association links page •

IDAHO SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Kris Buchler

Approximately various Idaho ISTA held at School chapter was program during



500 teachers from communities in attended the Conference Lake City High October 7-8. Our asked to give a one of the sessions.

About 38 teachers attended the 50-minute workshop and collected all the educational materials we provided. Many were unfamiliar with the "Audubon Adventures" program so I spent some time on that and encouraged them to contact their local chapters. Tips and materials were given on bringing birds to the classroom for study. Handouts included project plans and bird study guides for elementary students. They received information on local, regional and global conservation projects in which students and classrooms can participate. They were an enthusiastic group and hopefully will form a working relationship with Audubon. •

MICA BAY SURVEY

Observers: Shirley Sturts, Jan Severtson, Bill Gundlach, Lisa Hardy, Kris Buchler, Lynn Sheridan, Ken Epper, Theresa Potts, Mary Brosky, George Mund,

SPECIES	October 8	October 22.
Common Loon	9	2
Red-necked Grebe	2	2
Pied-billed Grebe	2	3
Western Grebe	-	12
Great Blue Heron	1	2
Canada Goose	148	16
American Wigeon	7	-
Mallard	12+	8+
Common Goldeneye	2	-
Bufflehead	-	5
Hooded Merganser	1 f	-
Northern Harrier	1	1
Sharp-shinned Haw	-	1
Red-tailed Hawk	2	1
American Coot	150+	70
Killdeer	-	5
Ring-billed Gull	-	2
Gull, sp.	1	20
Belted Kingfisher	2	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	-
Hairy Woodpecker	2	1
Northern Flicker	2	1
Pileated Woodpecker	1	-
Steller's Jay	1	-
Black-billed Magpie	-	1
Common Raven	2	2
Black-capped Chickadee	1	10
Mountain Chickadee	-	1+
Red-b Nuthatch	2	4
Brown Creeper	-	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	-
American Robin	37+	-
Cedar Waxwing	45+	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	-
Song Sparrow	6	2
Red-winged Blackbird	-	4
House Finch	3	2

Ken warned members of our survey party to read the fine print next time. Does it read "bring shovel" (grin)? On Oct. 22 we spent an hour of our survey time working on the trail to the new viewing platform. Earlier that week Idaho Fish and Game leveled out some parking spaces and the East Side High Way District left us some dirt to level out the new parking area. Roger Young (champion trail builder) directed the job of leveling out the big pile of dirt. Keith Sturts came out with his chain saw and cleared small trees and brush so we could have a better view. Thank you workers. We did our first survey from the platform. •

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATE: November 8 and 22, Monday

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

LEADER: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours twice a month counting all the birds we can find in the Mica Bay area. Beginner birders are welcome to join us.

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE: November 9, Tuesday

TIME: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

MEET: Blackwell Island Parking Space

LEADER: Bill Gundlach 667-3339

ACTIVITY: We look for birds on the Spokane River and walk the trails along the channel.

THOMPSON LAKE

DATE: November 13, Saturday

TIME: 8:00 a.m.

MEET: East side of Rosner's Parking Lot

LEADER: Bill Gundlach 667-3339

ACTIVITY: We will drive along the east side of Lake Coeur d'Alene stopping at suitable viewing spots in bays along the way. After birding the Thompson Lake area we will drive home on Highway 3 through the Chain of Lakes. Bring a lunch and some money for a possible coffee stop in Harrison. Loons will be one of our target birds.

ROUND LAKE FIELD TRIP OCTOBER 9

Judy Waring

After three days of rain the sun broke out and a relief it was to the nineteen folks heading out to find those birds.

The day started

around

Lake led by Anne who studied the birds throughout the summer.

Not much luck in the way of waterfowl here but we saw and heard a dozen or more species as we passed through the woods.

From here we went on to Morton Slough to add a few more to the list. But we hit the jackpot at a small pond near Vay where there were dozens of migrating ducks. A little later we arrived at Gertie Hansen's bluebird trail on Kelso Lake road and we were delighted to find thirty or more Mountain Bluebirds feeding in the fields. Their coloring seemed every bit as bright as in spring breeding season.

Birds seen:

Canada Goose	33+	Pied-billed Grebe	3
Am. Wigeon	18	Mallard	20
Teal (species)	2	Scaup (species)	1
Great Blue Heron	4	Song Sparrow	5
California Gull	1	Ring-billed Gull	1
B-c. Chickadee	15	Red-b. Nuthatch	10
Northern Flicker	1	American Robin	4
Steller's Jay	1	Gray Jay	2
Golden-c. Kinglet	2	Ruby-c. Kinglet	3
Dark-eyed Junco	5	Northern Harrier	1
Raven	5		
Red-w. Blackbird	6	Belted Kingfisher	1
Mt. Bluebird	30	E. Starling	100+
Wild Turkey	5	Dock Dove	5

ORDINARY BIRDS BROWN BAG BIRDING OCTOBER 12

Shirley Sturts

Elaine Swarthout and myself spent an enjoyable hour birding along the marsh at the East End of Fernan Lake. We did not find any of the species that bird watchers get excited over. What we did find was even better in some ways. How often do we bird watchers take the time to appreciate the beauty and grace of the more common species, "Ordinary Birds"? There was a small flock of Mallards and 2 female Green-winged Teal in the pond on the north side of the road. The light was perfect and the birds were close enough to enjoy without a scope.

The male Mallards were dressed in all their splendor. We marveled at the color of their field marks: iridescent green head, yellow bill, chestnut breast and white neck-ring. The female is rather plain compared to her mate, yet her bill is very unique. She sports an orange bill with broad black markings in the center. When she stretched her wing out we could see the dark blue speculum bordered by white, a characteristic she shares with the male.

Next we studied the two female Green-winged Teal, the smallest of North America's dabbling ducks. It is 14" compared to the 24" of the Mallards. It has a dark streak through the eye, a green speculum (sometimes hard to see when they are just sitting in the water) and a small bill. One of the field guides I have says the female has a buff triangular patch on the dark undertail coverts. Another guide indicates largely white undertail coverts that contrast with mottled flanks. These are field marks I'll have to look for next time around.

Other birds we found were Great Blue Heron 1, Ring-billed Gull 1, California Gull 1, Gull sp. 2, Pied-billed Grebe 3, American Coot 2, Northern Flicker (heard). •

PUZZLE BIRD

**FIELD TRIP TO PEND OREILLE LAKE,
OCTOBER 23**

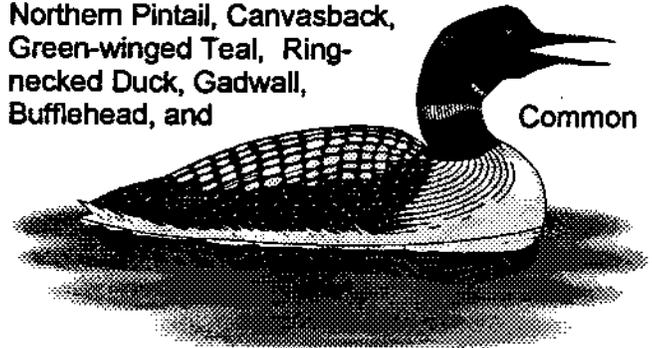
Shirley Sturts

Our first stop was at Sandpoint City Beach where there was a cold wind blowing. We put on all the cold weather gear we had brought with us and set up scopes to check out the gulls and waterfowl. It wasn't very long before we spotted the "puzzle bird". "Hey, what bird is this?" someone called out. All binoculars and scopes focused in on this bird and field marks were called out: "white eye ring, white around the bill, white patch on back of head, dark bill, diving for food". Those who brought field guides were soon leafing through the pages on ducks. Various members of the party suggested possibilities: Wood Duck (eye-ring is not that large nor is it tear-drop shaped), Ring-necked Duck (didn't have a white ring at the tip of the bill), Harlequin (location of the white patches don't match), Scaup (bill not dark enough, white patch at base of bill not that distinct, body too dark), Surf Scoter (bill is not the right size and shape, doesn't have a white patch on the side of the head). In the meantime the "puzzle bird", being unusually cooperative, moved closer. Better light and a closer view were just what we needed to make a more positive identification. The puzzle bird had all the field marks of a female Redhead as pictured in Stokes Field Guide To Birds: buffy eye-ring, dark bill with a black-tipped at the end, indistinct white around the bill and warm brown body. The white patch at the back of the head that appeared at a distance was not very distinct when viewed close up. It was more like a few lighter feathers. We decided the lighting and wind made it appear as a white patch. This brought to our attention the fact that we almost always identify ducks by the colorful male. We need to start focusing in on the more drab females if we want to move out of the amateur class into the expert class of bird watchers.

"Wow! Are we cold, how about a coffee break", I suggested. Cheers went up and we retired to the Starbucks Coffee shop for next half an hour. Fortunately the rest of the trip was minus the cold wind and we enjoyed our sack lunches along the beach on the west side of the Pack River Delta while identifying 2 Common

Loons, 2 Horned Grebe and 1 Red-necked Grebe. We continued along the north side of the lake to Denton Slough and the Drift Wood Yard before returned to Sandpoint, ending our birding day at the 3rd Street dock on the Pend Oreille River. Here we worked on Grebe identification with Horned, Eared, Red-necked and Pied-billed all being present.

There were rafts of waterfowl out in the open water consisting of 1000's of Canada Goose, Mallard, American Wigeon, Redhead, and American Coot. We counted smaller numbers of Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Gadwall, Bufflehead, and



Merganser. Five species of grebes were scattered all along our route. We got two great views of Belted Kingfisher, several Great Blue Heron, a Pileated Woodpecker in flight, and a Northern Flicker. Gulls consisted of 3 Herring, 2 California, 60+ Ring-billed and several we left at Gull Species. We didn't get many Raptors. One immature Bald Eagle was at Sandpoint City Beach and another one at the DriftWood Yard. Passeriformes consisted of Robin, Song Sparrow, Steller's Jay, European Starling, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee, House Sparrow, American Crow and Common Raven. Participating in this adventure with me were: Wendy Aeschiman, Lisa Hardy, Theresa Potts, Jan Severtson, Lynn Sheridan, and (braving all these women) Ken Eppers. •

FOR SALE BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED

50 Pounds \$14.00
Thistle (Niger) Seed
\$1.50 Pound

Available at Regular Meetings
Or call Janet Callen at 664-1085
Audubon Fund Raiser

BETWEEN EARTH AND SKY

Susan Weller

Starmen chart the galaxies
Copernicus, Kepler, Newton,
Galileo only recently forgiven
for the heresy of truth.

Yet, how could any man conceive
that earth - a gravity-bound
seahorse - would jettison the
moon from ocean depths?

The lunar infant independent
and precocial, spinning within
bounds of watchful eye, it's
blue parent proud.

Shamen chart the psyche
Jung, Freud, mapping thought,
impulse, memory, dreams. Collective
compensation to the earth-bound

Caught between Mars and Venus,
minds not so grounded, but
embracing both the shadow and
the luminance of heaven.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

Lynn Sheridan

- ◆ President Susan Weller tells us that 3 local areas have been designated "Important Birding Areas". These are Wolf Lodge Bay, Spokane River by the NIC Campus, and Flat Nowhere (an isolated old growth forest on the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. All of us are asked to keep a protective watchful eye over them.
- ◆ Recent expenses for our club were \$466.00 for birdseed, which we sell at a small profit. George Saylor received a check for \$100 to pay for the beautiful books we gave to the First Presbyterian Church. Thank you George.

- ◆ Work on the Mica Bay Memorial Trail and Viewing Platform is almost complete. Ideas are requested for what kind of sign to put up. Call Shirley Sturts if you want some input. Dedication is planed for May 2000!
- ◆ Mike Mihelich as our sole representative at the State Audubon Council Meeting on Sept. 25-27. Thank You. Mike.
- ◆ We voted to buy some Audubon BirdCall tapes, a teaching tool for our members, to add to our books. Call George Saylor 664-2787 to borrow them.
- ◆ We voted to take part in Earth Watch Day, April 2000 at NIC.
- ◆ Couer d'Alene Audubon was incorporated on Dec. 17, 1990. We are planning to celebrate our 10th year next fall. Susan and others will research into getting a top-notch speaker .
- ◆ The appeal from all conservation groups including our Audubon chapter, to stop wholesale logging of Bark Beetle Forests was denied. We will continue our efforts. •

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

- ◆ Monthly field trips will be held the second Saturday of each month. There could also be special field trips in addition to the regular scheduled field trips - check your newsletter.
- ◆ Brown Bag trips will be held the second Tuesday of each month between Noon and 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ Mica Bay Survey trips are held twice a month - check your newsletter for dates and time.
- ◆ Special weekend field trips will be announced
- ◆ Next field trip December 11 - Liberty Lake - leader needed - to volunteer call - Bill Gundlach 667-3339
- ◆ Volunteers are needed to lead field trips: Call: Bill Gundlach 667-3339
- ◆ Registering with the leader for field trips is a good idea. It helps the leader plan transportation and if the trip is changed in anyway the leader can call you.



OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Wendy Aeschliman (WAES), Kris Buchler (KBUC), Rich Del Carlo (RDEL), Alice Hardison (AHAR), Cynthia Langlitz (CLAN), Herb and Jan Severson (JSEV), Stephen Lindsay (SLIN), George Saylor (GSAY), Lynn Sheridan (LSHE), Shirley Sturts (SSTU), Grant Tester (GTES), Roger Young (RYOU)

RBA Rare Bird Alert for Northern Idaho-Eastern Washington-Northeastern Oregon Phone (208) 882-6195 or Internet-Web Site: <http://pimacc.pima.edu/~cwilliamson/index.html>

(Locations (Armstrong Hill, Fernan Hill, Arrowhead Rd. are in Coeur d'Alene)

Roger's Big Day - On Oct. 23 - all the birds in the neighborhood decided it was time to take a bath at the same time in the two birdbaths at Roger Young's house. It was such an extraordinary sight that Roger stopped what he was doing and watched for awhile. Bathing birds included: 3 Black-Billed Magpie, 2 N. Flicker, 15+ Robin, 6 Pygmy Nuthatch, 2 Mt. Chickadee, 4 B-Capped Chickadee, 6+ House Finch, 8 Dark E. Junco.(RYOU)

Common Loon: 4 Feman Lake Oct. 12-13 (SSTU); 30 Coeur d'Alene Lake (east side) Oct. 13 (PWAR,JWAR); Oct. 9 12+ Beauty Bay /25+ Squaw Bay, CDA Lake and Oct. 23 3 Wolf Lodge Bay/ 22 Beauty Bay, CDA Lake (SLIN)

Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Oct. 10 Drift Yard (near Clark Fork) Pend Oreille Lake (SLIN)

Wood Duck: 7 Oct. 12 and 2 again on Oct. 22 Shepherd Lake (WAES)

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Oct. 24 Armstrong Hill (KBUC)

Coopers Hawk: 1 Oct. 20 eating Robin in Fir tree in his front yard Feman Hill(RYOU)

Red-tailed Hawk: 1 all Fall Holland Rd. Post Falls (AHAR); 3 Oct. 13 soaring over Blackwell Island (JSEV)

Rough-legged Hawk: first this winter Oct. 22 Rathdrum Prairie (SLIN)

Merlin: 1 Oct. 12 at her home near Kingston (LHAR)

Wild Turkey: about 8 sitting on a wooden fence and in the yard Feman Village Oct. 30 (SSTU) California Quail: 30+ at feeder all fall Feman Hill (RYOU); pair with 12 chicks all fall Post Falls (AHAR) Long-billed

Dowitcher: 1+ Oct. 9 Cataldo Slough (Harlow Pt. Rd) (SLIN)

Common Snipe: 1+ Oct. 9, 6 Oct. 23 Cataldo Slough and 1+ Oct. 10 Sandpoint City Beach (SLIN) Forster's Tern: Northern

Pygmy-Owl: 1 taking a bath in his birdbath on Feman Hill Oct.

Bonaparte's Gull: 1+ Oct. 9 Cataldo Slough (Harlow Pt. Rd. (SLIN)

22 (RYOU); 1 Oct. 3,4,6,25 home on Armstrong Hill (KBUC); 1 Oct. 7 Arrowhead Road(TPOT)

Barn Owl: 1 heard off and on this fall Holland Road Post Falls (AHAR)

Hairy Woodpecker: 6 Oct. 13 Mica Bay, CDA Lake(feeder) (JHAN), 1 Oct. 25,27,29 Armstrong Hill(feeder) (KBUC)

Northern Flicker: 2 16th and Garden CDA (LSHE)

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Oct.12 (swooping about making alarm calls-Merlin was nearby- after a flock of about 30 Starlings flushed it settled down to eat berries from a bush) her yard near Kingston (LHAR);Oct.16 Mica Bay, CDA Lake (JHAN); 1 Oct.24 Armstrong Hill (KBUC); 1 Oct. 10 Priest Lake (SLIN)

Northern Shrike: first fall arrival Oct. 10 Oden's Bay, Lake Pend Oreille (SLIN)

Blue Jay: 1 Oct 14(feeder-Feman Hill (RYOU); 2 Oct.1-17 West Eagle Creek (near Murray) (GTES)

Mountain Chickadee: 1 16th Street CDA (LSHE)

Winter Wren: 1 Oct. 1 Armstrong Hill (KBUC); 1 Oct. 10 Arrowhead Rd. (TPOT)

Mountain Bluebird: 4 Oct. 9 Rathdrum Prairie (CLAN)

Varied Thrush: 2 Oct.16 birdbath area home on Shepherd Lake (WAES)

Northern Mockingbird: 1 Oct. 18 near Boundary Co. near Canadian Boarder (RDEL)

American Pipit: large flock Oct. 4 Rathdrum Prairie (SLIN), 1+ Oct. 10 Sandpoint City Beach (SLIN)

Savanah Sparrow: 12+ Oct 9 Rathdrum Prairie (CLAN)

White-crowned Sparrow: 5 Sept. 19-26 Arrowhead Rd.(TPOT); Large flock Oct.4 Rathdrum Prairie (SLIN)

Dark-Eyed Junco: 1 almost all white (a few black splotches) with flock of about 30 (feeder) on Feman Hill (RYOU)

American Goldfinch: 4 Oct. 9 Rathdrum Prairie (CLAN)15 Oct. 27 Armstrong Hill, CDA (KBUC)

Board of Directors

President: Susan Weller 682-3413

Secretary/Publicity: Lynn Sheridan (No phone)

Field Trips: Bill Gundlach 667-3339

Education/Librarian: George Saylor 664-2787

Hospitality: Janet Callen 664-1085

Historian: Nancy Aley 773-0991

Member at Large: Janet Allen 772-2475 & Theresa Potts 765-0229

Vice President: Kris Buchler 664-4739

Treasurer: Ronn Rich 772-4512

Conservation: Mike Mihelich 664-4741

Membership: Jan Severtson 667-6209

Newsletter: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

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).

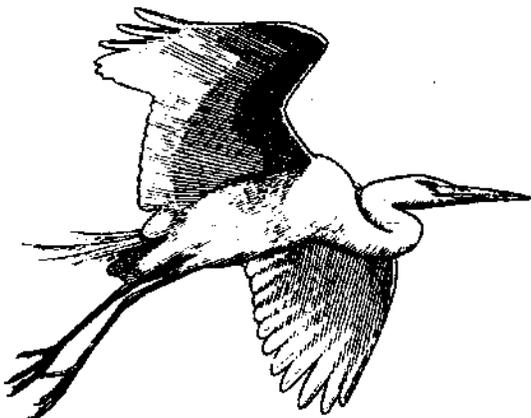
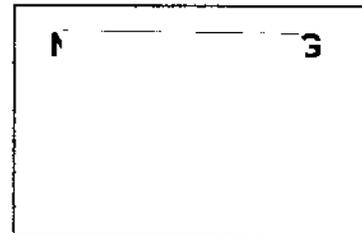
Name _____ Phone _____

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'Aene, ID 83816

Subscription to the The Fish Hawk Herald newsletter only is \$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 83816

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



GREAT EGRET

Ardea alba