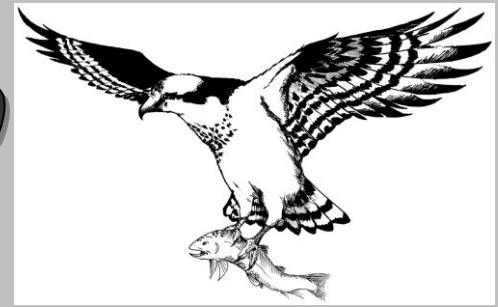


# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society

November 2001

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3

Visit our website: [www.cdaaudubon.org](http://www.cdaaudubon.org)

## COMING EVENTS

### BOARD MEETING

**DATE:** November 15, Thursday

**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Mountain West Bank  
125 Ironwood Dr.

### NOVEMBER PROGRAM

**DATE:** November 19, Monday

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** The Spokesman Review Building, 608 Northwest Boulevard  
**PROGRAM:** "Epiphany on the Arctic Plain." Rich Landers from "The Spokesman Review" will present a slide show that incorporates the perspective on wildlife and energy policy gained 10 years ago from research for a series of articles. The work was capped with a two-week adventure with two buddies through the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from the Brooks Range to the Beaufort Sea.

## RICH LANDERS ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

November 19, 2001 - 7:00 P.M. The Spokesman Review Building, Northwest Blvd., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

"To drill or not to drill? Oil vs. caribou. It's tempting to view the debate in such constricted terms, but what's really at stake here is the integrity of what many consider to be North America's last great wilderness area."

---- from "*Swamped by Beauty, Swallowed by Space,*" by James R. Udall



Rich Landers, Outdoor Editor of "The Spokesman Review", will give us a personal look at the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. To understand more about the complex issue of oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, consult various webpages providing information. "Audubon" magazine has two issues dealing with the refuge. Check out October 2001 and special issue May 1988.

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS ANSWERED - SEE PAGE 7

## BIRD & WHALE WATCHING BY SEA KAYAK IN BAJA - 2002

See Page 7 for more information



# MISTER STELLER COMES TO STAY

And grants me an honorary place  
within the jay clan

*Continued from the October Newsletter*

Susan Weller



*Photograph by Susan Weller*

## 12 August

Today I have had Jay for approximately one month. I estimate his age at between 56 and 60 days. I have, all totaled, spent a couple hundred dollars on his enclosure, mealworms and crickets; spent long nights catching moths around the porch lights; robbed wasp's nests at the risk of being stung; flailed in an ungainly display of limited hand/eye coordination to catch grasshoppers; and spent hours teaching him foraging and feeding strategies and techniques. And yet, I wonder if I have worked as hard or expended even an nth the time and energy of a mother bird.

In truth, I have done all I can to guarantee his survival. Yet a situation has arisen that is the very definition of painful irony. While I have played both nurse and nanny to Jay as he matures into a beautiful and healthy adult bird, our cat Lazarus is enjoying the same care as he wastes away from kidney failure. Twice a day I have administered four different medications to Lazzie. Twice a day I have infused his

body with an IV needle carrying life-giving fluids into his subcutaneous flesh.

Many times a day I coax and cajole him to eat anything -tuna, cottage cheese, ice cream, yogurt -to sustain him. While Jay wolfs food down with enthusiasm and gusto, growing sleek and fat, Lazzie languishes and continues to drop weight. With the same hands, I feed Lazzie tidbits of real tuna, and Jay morsels of mealworms. I have to wonder at the dichotomy of human affection, how we can embrace both predator and prey. As humans, our capacity to love seems limitless and unbounded. We've been given this ability that is shared with no other creature on earth. The beauty of both processes, of blossoming life and impending death, fills me with reverence and gratitude. The wisdom of a higher power has gifted me with this goofy and rambunctious bird at exactly the same time my cat of eleven years is dying.

## 13 August

Last night there was an impressive display of thunder and lightning. The fire season has been bad this year, with fires burning all over the West. Greg and I felt both excitement and trepidation with the approaching storm. As usual, we sat together and watched over the back of the couch, as the impending storm hammered the St. Joe, and then advanced over the mountains to the Coeur d'Alene River valley.

Ah, then the blessed rain began, a male rain, as Tony Hillerman would call it. It has been a hot summer and Jay has never experienced rain, let alone thunder and lightning. At the height of the storm I dashed out to Jay's enclosure to see how he was faring. As I hit him with the flashlight beam he opened one eye to acknowledge my

presence. Despite the booming and crashing, earth shaking thunder and nearby lightning strikes, he was sleeping! His head was turned, beak buried in the feathers on his back between his wings. Jay was puffed up to twice his normal size against the rain and cooling temperatures but was otherwise unconcerned. The dog cowered while Jay slept without a care.

## Later...

Jay flew from atop his enclosure straight into one of the small windows at the back of the house. Thankfully, he pulled up at the last minute and was only dazed by the impact. Now all the windows in the house are peppered with post it notes.

Jay decided to inhabit the birch tree today. He hung out between the birch and the trees on the patio. I put out suet for him and he's been feeding on it frequently. I tweezed a few mouthfuls of mealworms, moths, and crickets for him, but he has fed himself the entire day. About five p.m. I called him in to sleep the night in his enclosure. The coyotes have been extra active lately, so I'm glad he's safe. Of course he'd be safe roosting in a tree, but I would have worried about him all night.

*Continued in the December Newsletter*

<b>BIRDSEED FOR SALE</b>
<i>Black Oil Sunflower</i>
<b>50LB \$15.00</b>
<i>Niger (Thistle) \$1.25 LB</i>
<b>Available at Regular Meetings</b>
<b>or call Janet Callen at 664-1085</b>
<b>Price includes sales tax</b>
<b>All proceeds benefit</b>
<b>Coeur d' Alene Audubon</b>

# NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS

## FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

1. Please register with the leader ahead of time.
  - a. It helps the leader plan the trip.
  - b. You will be informed if the trip time or location is changed or if the trip is canceled.
2. Fees: (to paid to the driver of the car) \$5.00 - all day trips \$3.00 - 1/2 day trips.
3. We sometimes use radios to communicate between cars. If the radios are used we are asking participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries.

## MICA BAY SURVEY

**DATES/TIME:** November 5 and 19, Mondays / 9:00 a.m.

**MEET:** Canal Street (Fairmont Loop) and Highway 95

**LEADERS:** Shirley Sturts, 664-5318 - Kris Buchler, 664-4739

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

## INTRO TO RAILS-TO-TRAILS

**DATE/TIME:** November 11, Sunday / 8:00 a.m.

**MEET:** Cove Bowl Parking Lot

**LEADER:** Janet Callen 664-1085 or [jgoldfinch@mindspring.com](mailto:jgoldfinch@mindspring.com)

**ACTIVITY:** Join us for a morning of birding on the new trail being constructed on the old railroad grade along the Coeur d'Alene River. We will access the trail at Black Rock, and at Cataldo, walking along the level, paved trail for several miles at each access. Be prepared to walk on railroad ties across bridges that have not yet been paved. We will bird until noon, then (optional) adjourn to the cafe in Cataldo for lunch.

## BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

**DATE/TIME:** November 13, Tuesday, 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

**MEET:** Fernan Boat Dock - west end

**LEADER:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318 or [ssturts@iea.com](mailto:ssturts@iea.com)

**ACTIVITY:** We will walk around the area of the boat dock looking for both waterfowl and songbirds. If time permits we will drive down to the east end of the lake.

## Heyburn State Park

**DATE/TIME:** November 18, Sunday/ 7:30 a.m.

**MEET:** K-Mart Parking Lot - behind Fast Burger

**LEADER:** Lisa Hardy 682-4808 or [basalt@earthlink.net](mailto:basalt@earthlink.net)

**ACTIVITY:** We will bird the varied habitats of this park located at the south end of Coeur d'Alene Lake. Depending on the weather, we will explore some of the upland trails in addition to the shoreline access areas, so dress for hiking. Bring a lunch and water, as this will be a full day trip.

## Hayden Lake

**DATE/TIME:** December 9, Sunday/ 8:00 a.m.

**MEET:** K-Mart Parking Lot - behind Fast Burger

**LEADER:** Lisa Hardy 682-4808 or [basalt@earthlink.net](mailto:basalt@earthlink.net)

**ACTIVITY:** This lake often hosts interesting winter visitors, such as Long-tailed Duck and Pacific Loon. We will scope the lake from several vantage points, and probably walk a bit, depending on the weather. This is a half-day trip, followed by an optional lunch at a local restaurant.

## Christmas Bird Count Dates

December 15, Saturday - Coeur d'Alene

December 29, Saturday - Indian Mountain

January 5, Saturday - Spirit Lake

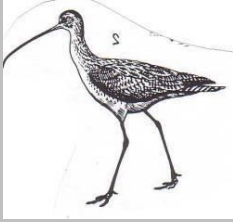
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# LETTER FROM JOHN FLICKER

ABOUT THE ARCTIC REFUGE

To the Audubon Family:

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 underscore what is most



important to us, including protection of our most precious wild places. Audubon has been committed to the protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for more than 25 years, and our efforts in support of that goal are now more important than ever.

Because of the importance of the Arctic Refuge to Audubon, and to me personally, I am sending this message to update you on the approach we have taken and are taking to protect the refuge from oil drilling. The Public Policy Division in Washington, Audubon Alaska and other State Offices, and Audubon chapters, members and supporters all over the country are actively engaged in this effort. At present, this issue is Audubon's top organization-wide advocacy priority.

Because in its earliest days the new Administration made clear that drilling in the Arctic was one of its high priorities, Audubon has over the last 9 months: made an Arctic Refuge video for its grassroots network and the public to show what is at stake; produced and aired a television commercial urging citizens to contact their lawmakers to protect the Arctic Refuge; incorporated Arctic Refuge action measures into advocacy workshops; used our Audubon Advisory, Armchair Activist and Action Alerts to encourage members to contact

their Members of Congress in support of protecting the refuge; established a special "Protect the Arctic" website that presents current updates and background information on the issue and offers the opportunity to communicate with Members of Congress instantly; and through Audubon Alaska, worked with the scientific community to bolster the case for protection of the Arctic Refuge, document the impacts and "footprint" of the oil industry, and bring scientists' concerns directly to the White House, Congress and the news media.

In the summer, as it became clear that House action on energy legislation would involve a close vote on oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge, key State Directors came to Washington to talk to their representatives, while others communicated by telephone, letters and e-mails. Our grassroots staff in The Washington policy office made thousands of phone calls to chapters and activists across the country and sent tens of thousands of e-mails. All of these efforts were coordinated with those of the larger conservation community. Unfortunately, we know all too well that politics triumphed over policy, and the House voted 222-206 on August 1 to open the Arctic Refuge to oil drilling.

This vote was and should continue to be a wake-up call to the entire conservation community. It certainly led us within Audubon to reevaluate and redouble our efforts. The fight to save the Arctic Refuge is so important that we must give it everything we've got, both for the sake of the refuge and for the sake of our broader conservation goals. Indeed, the Arctic Refuge has taken on such symbolic importance, that a loss on this issue could haunt us for years.

Looking to the immediate future, the action is now in the Senate. Before September 11, all signs pointed to a final vote on the Senate floor by late September, and we had plans in place to turn swing Senators to our side, including active outreach to and by Audubon Board members, State Offices, Chapters, advocates, and members. In light of the horrific Events of September 11, the Arctic Refuge debate in Congress was delayed and the next steps remain uncertain. In the next few weeks, our efforts are focused first on ensuring that the Senate not act hastily to attach the Arctic Refuge oil drilling measure to an energy bill or some other legislation. In concert with the other organizations that have made the Arctic Refuge a top priority, we are tapping Audubon resources across the organization to reach key Senators on this issue. These efforts include radio and television advertisements, grassroots lobbying, work with the news media—all the tools in our toolkit. I personally will be visiting Senate offices in Washington and expect to call upon State Directors and national and state board members to help.

Depending on what happens in Congress in the next few weeks, we may have more time to implement a more deliberate Senate strategy to build awareness of and support for protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We are actively collaborating with other environmental groups to align our approach in these difficult times and will be asking many of you to help. As a first step, I would encourage you to call, write or e-mail your own Senators to encourage them to oppose opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development. You can also ask

your friends and neighbors to do the same. Please let our D.C. staff know about your communications so they can have a record of contacts by Audubon Board members and staff. If you need additional information, you can go to our Arctic website ([www.protectthearctic.com](http://www.protectthearctic.com)) or contact our D.C. office at [audubonaction@audubon.org](mailto:audubonaction@audubon.org).

Our work to protect the Arctic Refuge—for all it symbolizes and means to Audubon and to our nation as a unique and special place—must continue. I have made it a personal as well as an Audubon priority, and look forward to working with the entire organization to secure permanent protection for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I welcome your comments and your suggestions about how we can work most effectively to achieve this goal.

Thank you,  
John

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## BOOK REVIEW

By Faye Wright



Photograph by Wayne Tree

This month I write of poetry, that much avoided genre, but I write not just of any poetry, I write of the poetry of Mary Oliver in her collection *New and Selected Poems*.

Much poetry (or at what passes as poetry today) is little more than personal confession

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

bleeding across a page, reeking of obscure references, and lacking any subtle meaning or music. No wonder, then, that few people respond to it. But Ms. Oliver's writing is rife with lyricism and BIG meaning, revealed through careful observations of the natural world in Maine and Virginia, where she lives and teaches.

So if you love birds (but of course you do—you're in Audubon) and bears and water and grass and mushrooms and...everything that makes Earth herself, you will relish Oliver, and so what follows are two poems from the book, reprinted for your pleasure.

Have a lovely month, each day, moment by moment, and READ POETRY. It saves lives.

### **"LITTLE OWL WHO LIVES IN THE ORCHARD"**

His beak could open a bottle,  
and his eyes—when he lifts their  
soft lids—  
go on reading something  
just beyond your shoulder—  
Blake, maybe,  
or the Book of Revelation.

Never mind that he eats only  
the black-smocked crickets,  
and dragonflies if they happen  
to be out late over the ponds, and  
of course  
the occasional festal mouse.  
Never mind that he is only a  
memo  
from the offices of fear—

it's not size but surge that tells us  
when we're in touch with  
something real,  
and when I hear him in the  
orchard  
fluttering  
down the little aluminum  
ladder of his scream—

when I see his wings open, like  
two black ferns,

A flurry of palpitations  
as cold as sleet  
rackets across the marshlands  
of my heart,  
like a wild spring day.

Somewhere in the universe,  
in the gallery of important things,  
the babyish owl, ruffled and  
rakish,  
sits on its pedestal.  
Dear, dark, dapple of plush!  
A message, reads the label,  
From that mysterious  
conglomerate:  
*Oblivion and Co.*  
The hooked head stares  
from its blouse of dark, feathery  
lace.  
It could be a valentine.

### **"WILD GEESE"**

You do not have to be good.  
You do not have to walk on your  
knees  
for a hundred miles through the  
desert, repenting.  
You only have to let the soft  
animal of your body  
love what it loves.  
Tell me about despair, yours, and  
I will tell you mine.  
Meanwhile the world goes on.  
Meanwhile the sun and the clear  
pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the  
landscapes,  
over the prairies and deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.  
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in  
the clean blue air,  
are heading home again.  
Whoever you are, no matter how  
lonely,  
the world offers itself to your  
imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese,  
harsh and exciting—  
over and over announcing your  
place  
in the family of things.

## GRANDMOTHER - GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN

Field Trip - September 30, 2001

Shirley Sturts

Sunshine,  
eleven  
enthusiastic  
hikers, and a  
beautiful  
mountain trail  
made for a very



Photograph by Wayne Tree

successful birding trip in the St. Joe National Forest. The trailhead is located at Freezeout Saddle (east of Clarkia on Forest Road 301) at an elevation above 6000 feet.

It is a moderate 8 mile round trip which follows the ridges going first to Grandmother Mountain and then dipping down and back up to Grandfather Mountain.

We had two goals: (1) to reach to top of Grandmother and Grandfather Mountain (2) to see birds, especially those that prefer high mountain habitats. We divided up into two groups. Judy Waring led the group that wanted to make it all the way to Grandfather Mountain. It was a coincidence that I chose one of the hikes from Rich Landers' book, *100 Hikes in the Inland Northwest*. For Judy, this was her 80th hike from her personal goal of doing all hundred hikes. I led the group that wanted to take a more leisurely approach, hiking only as far as Grandmother Mountain.

We were partly successful in finding high elevation birds. Theresa and Pat saw a female Pine Grosbeak but it didn't stick around for the rest of us to admire. The male Pine Grosbeak is a very striking bird with a red-rose head, chest and back, gray belly; black wings with 2 white-wing bars, and a thick, stubby

black bill. A dull yellow replaces the red in the female. In summers it is found in high montane forests. During the winter it drops down to lower elevations to feed in fruit and seed trees. We occasionally see them on our local Christmas Bird Counts or at local feeders. They are one of the irruptive species of birds that sometimes move south of their normal range in large numbers. This generally happens when populations are high and food sources in their normal range are scarce.

Some Moscow birders saw a Spruce Grouse along this trail in August. It didn't put in an appearance for us. The most pleasing of our feathered friends (seen by everyone) included a mixed flock of 9+ Mountain and Western Bluebird, 3+ Yellow-rumped Warbler and 2+ Gray Jay. A Red-tailed Hawk and Northern Goshawk flew over and an American Kestrel was perched on a snag. (Total -15 species - see total list on our website)

*Participants included: Janet Callen, Roland and Pat Craft, Lisa Hardy, Carl and Judy Hanson, Theresa Potts, Shirley Sturts, Judy Waring, Karen and Marvin Williams*

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## BERRY-PICKING ON THE FLOATING BOGS

Lisa Hardy

A canoe trip in October? Whose idea was that? Actually, it turned out to be not a bad idea as the weather cooperated while we filled our buckets with ripe cranberries. But the route we traveled to the berries had a number of twists and turns.

Friday was cold and rainy, but Saturday morning dawned clear as ten trippers launched their boats into Killarney Lake. Our first challenge was to examine the

map and pick a route to the bogs. Concerned that the water levels were low, we opted for the longer route down the river. We paddled through a canal and then down the river, bucking a headwind until we reached an island. A short hike across the island brought us to the floating bogs of Hidden Lake.

Branches and small logs form a primitive bridge from the island out onto the floating mat of vegetation. Joan intrepidly led the way; we all watched as she slipped and plunged in up to mid-thigh. This was sufficient to dissuade several of us from making the crossing, but the rest of us very cautiously made our way onto the floating mat. The trembling and rolling sensation from walking on the bog was quite eerie. Joan and Judy found the cranberries immediately; while I was looking for something like a huckleberry bush, the cranberries actually grow as a low groundcover, with the berries often buried in the underlying sphagnum moss. The group picked several gallons of berries.

Though the berries were our main goal, we could not help but bird on the way to and from the bogs. Highlights were a Bewick's Wren flitting through the reeds, and the first Northern Shrike of the season. (See the webpage for complete trip list.) As we pulled our canoes from the water, two Tundra Swans landed on the lake. And then it started to rain...

*Trip participants: Janet Callen, Jan Grossoehme, Joan & Bill Gundlach, Lisa Hardy, Lynn Sheridan, Shirley Sturts, Judy & Phil Waring, Karen Williams.*

*An expanded version of this article plus the complete trip list is on our webpage*

[www.cdaudubon.org](http://www.cdaudubon.org).

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## MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS ANSWERED

(Jan Severtson--Membership)

- ◆ **Does the local chapter process National Audubon renewals?** No!! Please send them to National Audubon in the envelope provided with your renewal notice.
- ◆ **How do I receive the Chapter's newsletter?** After Joining the National Audubon Society call Shirley or Jan (backpage) and request the newsletter by mail or by computer.
- ◆ **I'm not receiving my newsletter, why?** Call Shirley or Jan to confirm your address or e-mail address. Sending the newsletter by bulk mail means the mail will NOT be forwarded if your address has changed and is not current in our files.
- ◆ **Can I make a Donation to the local chapter?** Yes!! Please make your check to Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society and mail to P.O. Box 361, Cd'A, ID 83816 (Donations are tax deductible)

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our chapter and hope to see you at the field trips and meetings! Karen Williams, Robert L. Fairchild, Kenn Goodrich, Jos00ua Henson, Carolyn West, Margaret Wilson, Salina Kenyon and Cathy Welker. A BIG WELCOME !!!

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## BIRD & WHALE WATCHING

by Sea Kayak in Baja - 2002

Naturalists Terry Prichard and Nancy Mertz, Audubon Society Chapter members in Coeur d'Alene Idaho, are offering a seven-day camping and sea kayak tour Feb 23 to March 1, 2002, to watch birds and get a kayak's-eye view of gray whales in Magdalena Bay off Baja California. Magdalena Bay is a protected lagoon and the calving grounds of the California Gray Whale. Bordering the lagoon are extensive shallows, tidal mud flats and mangrove thickets teeming with bird life. Miles of uninhabited ocean beaches and fascinating sand dunes are only a short hike from our sand dune island base camp. No previous paddling experience is necessary. Sea kayaks are stable, comfortable, and allow close-up observation of wildlife. All equipment is provided including tents and meals. Cost is normally \$975 including 2 nights' hotel accommodations, airport transfers in Loreto, all camping/kayaking gear & guides. Inland North West Audubon members receive special price of \$895 if booked before Nov 30, 2001. Info:765-3116  
[www.seakayakadventures.com](http://www.seakayakadventures.com)

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## BIG SIT RESULTS

October 14, 2001

Our first "Bit Sit" was a great success. Thirteen birders counted birds in 1-2 hour shifts from 6:45 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. at the Mica Bay Platform. We counted a total of 28 species. Visit our website for list of participants and bird species recorded.

[www.cdaudubon.org](http://www.cdaudubon.org)

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## OBSERVATION POST

**OBSERVERS:** Kris Buchler (KBUC), Lisa Hardy, Cindy-Rick Langletz (CLAN RLAN), Steve Lindsay (SLIN), Nancy Mertz, Theresa Potts (TPOT), Ellen Scriven(ESCI) S. Sturts (SSTU)

**Pacific Loon** 1 Hayden Lake October 18 (SLIN)

**Great Egret** 5 Hayden Lake September 24-28 (RLAN); 1 Hayden Lake September 30-October 5 (CLAN,SLIN,KBUC,TPOT,SSTU)

**Surf Scoter** 1 Hayden Lake Oct.18 - 21, Wolf Lodge Bay, Oct.2 (SLIN)

**Pileated Woodpecker** 1 eating grapes Killarney Farm Oct.5 (ESCI)

**Blue Jay** 1 daily during October at feeder Coeur d'Alene (NMER)

**White-breasted Nuthatch** 1 Arrowpoint Road Oct.20 (TPOT)

**Bewick's Wren** 1-2 Mica Bay Oct.5& 21 (KBUC,TPOT,SSTU)

**visit our website for more observations** [www.cdaudubon.org](http://www.cdaudubon.org)

### CHECK IT OUT

#### THANKSGIVING DAY COUNT

This is one bird count which can be made in comfort (indoors) and won't take much time. Last year, in the Western States, Alaska and Hawaii, 449 people made 462 counts and tallied 149 species of birds Dr. John G. Hewston, count compiler, would like to get over 500 participants this year.

To participate, pick up a Bird Count Form at the November meeting or call Shirley 664-5318 to get one in the mail. The count is easy and fun to do. You select a circular area in your yard (or elsewhere), 15 feet in diameter and count all the birds you see in your circle or passing over your circle during any one-hour period on Thanksgiving day.