

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society

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October 1991

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CALENDAR CHECK! --

- Oct. 15, 1991**
7 pm October Meeting -- location, basement of the Security Pacific Bank in Hayden Lake. A video from The Peregrine Fund and World Center for Birds of Prey will begin the program in October. Then, Jim Cook, a veterinarian and falconer from Post Falls, Idaho, will introduce us to one of his birds, and talk about the sport of falconry.
- Oct. 26, 1991** **Field Trip Leader:** Susan Weller **Location:** Rainey Hill area. Last fall, several Auduboners joined me at Rainey Hill for our chapter's first official field trip. Roger & Donna Young, Phil & Judy Waring, and Chuck & Bee Finne were just a few of the folks who turned out for that first excursion. I remember the day well because it was my birthday, and it was a perfect way to spend the day -- surrounded by beautiful scenery, great company and flocks of swans and geese!
- I hope that you will join me on October 26th, for our second annual trek to Rainey Hill. Let's meet at the Country Chef Restaurant in Rose Lake, **8 am** for breakfast, **9 am** for birding. Bring a lunch, something hot to drink and be sure to dress warmly and in layers. Remember that the duck hunters will probably be out in force, so we will have to practice tolerance. But the hunters don't seem to affect the birding. See you there!
- Oct. 28, 1991** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** for submitting articles, etc.
Note: I have moved the newsletter deadline up a few days so that we can have sufficient time to get it printed and mailed.
- Nov. 9, 1991** **Field Trip Leader:** Pam Gontz **Location:** Coeur d'Alene Lake Road to Cd'A River Wildlife Management Area near Harrison, then drive a little farther south to pick up the Rose Lake Road for our route back. We will watch for bald eagles, waterfowl, hawks and stop in a few areas for forest birds. **Meet:** At Rosauer's parking lot -- we will leave at **9 am**. Pack a lunch and water and dress in layers as it can be cooler by the lake. If the weather does not permit traveling the lake road we will decide a Plan B at the Rosauer's parking lot before we head out.
- Nov. 19, 1991**
7 pm November Meeting -- location, basement of the Security Pacific Bank in Hayden Lake. Fish and Game biologist Frances Cassirer will present a program on Harlequin Ducks. Frances has been conducting field research on Harlequins for several seasons in Idaho, and has some surprising things to tell us about these beautiful ducks.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE --

Anyone interested in becoming actively involved in conservation issues is invited to join the Conservation committee. A meeting will be scheduled for late October or early November to determine our focuses, assess our energies and make plans for the most efficient means of effectively expressing our viewpoint to politicians, agencies, businesses and the public on such issues as wetlands, ancient forests, recycling, energy efficiency, air and water quality on local, state or national levels. If enthusiasm and commitment run high we could take on an "in the field" conservation project. Please contact Ellen Scriven, E. 14600 Killarney Lake Rd., Cataldo, ID 83810, Susan Weller at 682-3413, or Amy Kiesbuy at 664-9293, or sign up at the October Chapter meeting. Please indicate your preference for a meeting time.

[Ellen Scriven]

AUDUBON EGRET SURVIVES NEAR EXTINCTION --

In 1990, National Audubon Society President Peter Berle, decided that Audubon needed a symbol to take our organization into the Twenty-first century. He thought we needed a symbol that would show the Audubon Society meant more than just birds. He thought we needed a symbol that demonstrated how complex, how diverse and how global protection of the environment had become.

National Audubon hired a graphic designer from New York City to create a new logo that would be indicative of all that Audubon stands for. Not long ago, Audubon leaders across the country were informed that a new logo had been penned and would soon replace Audubon's much-beloved egret. The new logo, supposed symbol of all that Audubon stands for, was a sterile and general blue flag.



Frankly, if graphic designers from Madison Avenue get paid the big money to come up with such simplistic and inappropriate artwork, then many of the nation's editors need to get out the proverbial blue-pencil -- and a giant one too! A contest among school-age children would have produced a more imaginative and appropriate logo. Nevertheless, the blue flag logo was born, and was intended to inherit the estate of our elegant egret -- whose air-borne figure has graced the Audubon logo for many decades.

But the egret was not yet dead and buried. Many chapter leaders raised a ruckus; many of us had no intention of recognizing an Audubon logo that did not include the egret.

I am very pleased to announce that on September 27th, chapter leaders were informed that the Audubon Society has formally 'dropped the flag,' and is featuring the egret prominently as a means of marking the Audubon name. Whew! Thanks are in order to Peter Berle for being responsive to Audubon's membership. It is gratifying to know the people at the top really listen to us. Even though his intention of changing Audubon's logo was well-meaning, it takes a big man to admit he's wrong. It is good to know that such a man is at the helm of the National Audubon Society.



The entire incident is reminiscent of the 'squeaky wheel gets the oil first' metaphor. It is an important lesson to Audubon members that we have influenced the internal policies of our own organization. We did it by individual protest that made our separate voices come together as one voice. Peter Berle could not ignore the resounding chorus of our collective voices -- and neither can our elected representatives. Let us remember that we saved the Audubon egret from extinction, and may our logo serve as an on-going metaphor for all we need to accomplish for the world's wildlife species.

[-Susan Weller (sdv)]

AUDUBON TV UNDER ATTACK AGAIN --

National Audubon Society President Peter Berle has asked for our help in defending Audubon's television specials. Berle said "Audubon is under attack for putting before the public a television special that portrays a highly controversial subject -- the grazing of cattle on public land."

Berle pointed out that we lost Stroh Brewery's sponsorship due in part to controversy over our film "Rage over Trees". Now, Berle said, our new program, "The New Range Wars" about the devastation of our public lands in the West by overgrazing, has displeased the National Cattleman's Association. Even though the show portrays the ranchers' perspective as well as that of environmentalists, the cattle lobby and the National Inholders' Association lobby have launched an all-out campaign to try to persuade General Electric to drop its underwriting of Audubon television. They are seeking boycotts of GE products and deluging the company with mail.

It is urgent that GE hear from the other side, said Berle, from thousands of Americans who care enough about our message to write or call GE in support of Audubon television. Berle asked that we send a letter to GE as a private citizen at the following address, or call the number below. Berle asked that we praise GE for underwriting Audubon TV Specials and request that they continue to do so. Berle said every TV show we produce reaches 20 million Americans with a powerful environmental message, and that he needs our help to continue these message.

Here's where to write: Mr. Jack Welch, Chairman of the Board, GE, 3135 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield, CT 06431. Telephone: (203)373-2971.

[-sdw]

A FEW WORDS ABOUT LOGGING, PILEATED WOODPECKERS AND PARKS --

This weekend I learned that logging even a few acres of a forest may completely displace an entire family of pileated woodpeckers. As my neighbor across the road busily buzzed down a logging deck worth of trees, and a few truckloads of firewood, a frantic pair of pileated woodpeckers flew circles around my property -- all the while calling in distress. As a chainsaw whined annoyingly in the background, it was not difficult to guess the cause of the bird's distress.

Pileated woodpeckers are primary cavity nesters. They require a tree that is at least twenty inches in diameter, which means they usually inhabit forests that contain mature trees. However, the pileated requires more than one snag within their nesting territory. Besides a nesting cavity, pileated pairs require roosting cavities -- several for either mate. Traditionally, the male incubates the eggs at night while the female sleeps in a roosting cavity. But, both the male and female pileated need several roosting cavities, and will often rotate sites to discourage predators.

These roosting sites are of particular importance in the fall, as family groups stay together well into September and October. You can well imagine that a family of three or four pileated woodpeckers cannot all fit into one nest cavity once the juveniles have reached their growth potential.

Of course, these roosting cavities also offer protection to the birds during the snowy and bitter nights of winter. Many other bird and mammal species in the forest also utilize these roost sites -- not only in winter, but during the nesting season as well.

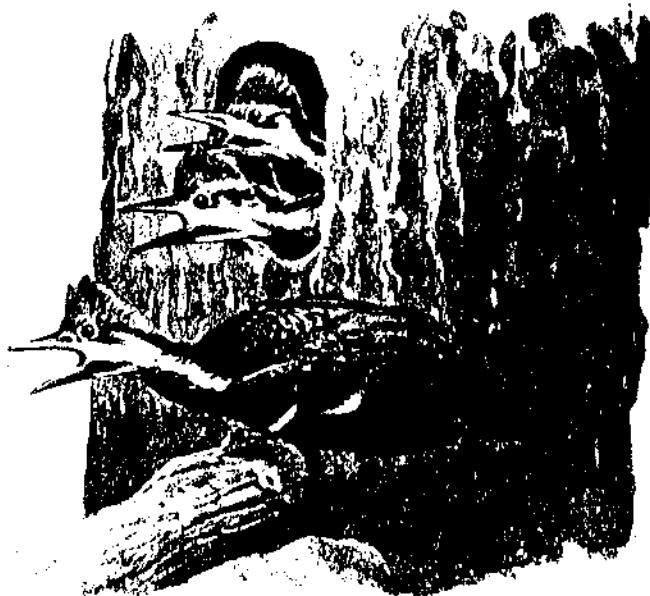
A pileated woodpecker needs a forest that contains dead and dying trees -- the kind of habitat a forester usually sees as needing to be "thinned out" and "cleaned up." In other words, the birds need a forest that is going through all the stages of growth and decay and the same time: a healthy forest.

A pileated woodpecker needs dead and decaying trees not just for nest and roost cavities, but because seventy-five percent of its diet is made up of carpenter ants, grubs, moths, wood-boring beetles, and other insects found in dead and decaying trees. The other twenty-five percent of their diet consists of berries and other forest fruits.

My neighbor did a really nice job of logging off a few acres of his property -- I mean that sincerely. When he was finished, it was hard to tell that three men with chainsaws and another on a bulldozer had been at work on his property. But my heart still goes out to the family of pileated woodpeckers that lost not just a nesting cavity, but an entire territory. These birds are now faced with the prospect of having to establish a new territory with winter coming on, a time when they need to be reserving their precious energy -- not expending it on excavating new cavities.

No one should be able to tell a private land-owner what to do with his own property. But we all share ownership of our nation's parks, preserves and refuges. Definitively, a park is a public area of land, usually in a natural state; to preserve is to keep alive or in existence; and a refuge is a place of shelter, protection, or safety. That is why we have an obligation to leave our national and state parks with their ecosystems in tact.

Where will the pileated woodpecker go when we have logged off our private lands? Where will any of us go, to find the comfort and solace of a forest in its natural state? Perhaps the term multiple-use may be more relevant to the multitude of creatures and growing things that live within an ecosystem, than to the hoards of resource-related companies and corporations clamoring for timber and mineral rights. [sdw]



[Illustration from Stokes Nature Guides - A Guide to Bird Behavior]

MEAT PRODUCTION --

Animal agriculture in the U.S. accounts for 220 million acres of forest lost to pastureland. This figure only begins to show what we pay for the heavy proportion of meat in our diet. Topsoil is lost; manure fouls underground water; much of the water we use is poured into meat production. All this supports a most inefficient way of growing food. To produce a pound of protein a steer must eat 21 pounds of protein. Cutting down on the meat in your diet protects rain forests and helps keep water pure and plentiful. It may encourage better ways to feed our crowded planet.

[from National Wildlife Calendar]

FIELD TRIP REPORT -- Sept. 21, 1991 at Cataldo Mission Marsh --

Eighteen species were tallied in and around the Cataldo Mission Marsh area and another seven species were picked up by Mary and Shirley as they explored the Cd'A River and Porter and Bull Lake. Species counted were: Pied-billed Grebe 10, Great Blue Heron 5, Canada Geese 16, Wood Duck 6, Mallard 60+, Ring-necked Duck 4, Bufflehead 1, Osprey 1, Northern Harrier 1, Red-tailed Hawk 2, American Coot 50+, Killdeer 1, Ring-billed Gull 1, Belted Kingfisher 1, Northern Flicker 1, Empidonax Flycatcher (probably a Dusky) 1, American Robin 1, American (Water) Pipit 1 (usually seen in small flocks migrating through in the fall but we only saw the one), European Starling approx. 300, Cedar Waxwing 2+, Yellow-rumped Warbler 1, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow 1, Cassin's Finch 6. We had hoped to see some migrating shorebirds but unfortunately none appeared in our binoculars or scopes. Observers included Mary Brosky, John Echererria, Scott Reed, Hersh and Jan Servertson, Art and Joan Sestak, Shirley Sturts, and Susan Weller. We felt very honored in having John Echererria on the field trip. He is on the General Counsel of the National Audubon Society in Washington D.C. and he just happened to be visiting Scott Reed on his way home from California. After the field trip, Scott and John went canoeing on Killarney Lake where they counted as many as 50 Wood Duck.

BIRD NOTES --

Canada Goose - 46 nests were found between Harrison and Cataldo with one lost to avian depredation (John Nigh-Idaho Department of Fish and Game [IDFG] manager of the Cd'A River Wildlife Management Area)

Ducks - Jimmie J. Reynolds, assistant refuge manager of the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge estimated the duck population on the refuge at approx. 1200 from about 751 breeding pairs with Mallards and Cinnamon Teal being the principle nesting species.

Wood Duck - a survey of Wood Duck boxes on the Lower Cd'A River by John Nigh (IDFG) yielded about 1700 young.

Harlequin Duck - 2 nests, 1 successful on tributaries of Pend Oreille Lake were reported by Francis Cassirer of the Forest Service.

Bald Eagle - Jack McNeel from the IDFG reported 3 new nests of Bald Eagles raising the total to 14 in North Idaho. All but one of these nests are north of Sandpoint.

Osprey - 54 active nests on the Lower Cd'A River between Cataldo and Harrison and 22 active nests on the St. Joe River between Mission Point and Harrison - John Nigh (IDFG). As of Sept. 3rd most left the area with only about 1/3 of them remaining into fall. Note: They all migrate.

Sora Rail - 1 was counted by Gertie Hanson at her farm on Blackwell Hill during June and July.

Great Horned Owl - nest with 2 young were observed being raised at Mary Brosky's in a tree in the woods back of her house in the Hayden Lake area. Joe Taggart observed a nest in the Rathdrum Prairie area with 2 young.

House Wren - 2 nests were watched by Barbara Dorrell at her home in Squaw Bay on Cd'A Lake.

American Robin - Mary Manning watched 2 nests of Robins in her yard in Cd'A, one fledging as late as Aug. 10th.

Western Bluebird - at my Bluebird Trail on Mica Flats, I had 6 bird houses with Western Bluebirds and I banded 9 young and 1 adult from 4 of the houses; other houses had Tree Swallows from which I banded 11 young; one house fledged 4 Mt. Chickadee and 1 house fledged 5 House Wrens. -Shirley Sturts

Yellow-rumped Warbler - Richard Beeks watched one feeding a young Cowbird in July of 1991 near his home on Highland Drive West near the Spokane River.

Lazuli Bunting - 2 seen by Gertie Hanson at her farm on Blackwell Hill.



SPECIAL
THANKS
TO:



The Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society would like to thank ALPINE PRINTING for their donation to our newsletter. Please support ALPINE PRINTING, 205-F East Seltice Way, Post Falls, with your patronage.

SPEAK OUT ON ANCIENT FOREST PROTECTION AND THE WETLANDS DEFINITION!!

Your letters and calls are urgently needed for impending legislation on Ancient Forest Protection and Wetlands Definition.

Please ask our representative, Larry LaRocco, to support Rep. Jim Jontz's Ancient Forest Protection Bill (HR 842). Apparently he is still uncommitted and this bill provides the strongest protection for Ancient Forests. It is the only bill which relies upon scientific criteria for defining Ancient Forest and would ensure protection for all significant types (not just westside spotted owl habitat) of Ancient Forest as well as associated forests/buffers and wildlife corridors. Congress would determine the boundaries. The bill would also provide for community stability by establishing a fund in the U.S. Treasury from portions of timber sales receipts to assist timber dependent communities through the current transition. In the Senate the comparable bill is S 1536 (introduced by Senator Broch Adams of Washington). Though our Senators Larry Craig and Steve Symms have among the worst voting records environmentally, it certainly doesn't hurt to let them know that another of their constituents is opposed to the destruction of the less than 10% of remaining original forests of the Pacific Northwest due to logging and road building. Tell them and Rep. LaRocco that you are absolutely opposed to the timber industry bills (HR 2463 and S 1156). If these pass, timber production on every national forest would override all other public forest values; heavy logging would even be allowed in so-called "Ancient Forest Reserves!"

Also tell Rep. LaRocco that you are opposed to HR 3263 which ignores scientific recommendations, mandate logging in protected roadless areas, prohibit legal challenges, and ignore forests east of the Cascade Mountains. These bills are the latest attempt to deny that forests are in serious trouble and desperately need real protection. Under these bills, logging would be allowed in "protected" areas and citizens could be fined \$10,000 if the Secretary rules that appeals are "trivoltous".

For more information call the National Audubon Society (202)547-9009. **NOW IS THE MOST CRUCIAL TIME TO SPEAK OUT TO SAVE YOUR FOREST!** Please write, telephone and visit the local offices of your Representative and Senators as soon as possible and continue with additional letters and calls through the next several weeks. State your opinions, give information including your own personal experience, ask questions. Insist on reduced logging, real and permanent Ancient Forest protection, enforcement (not weakening) of environmental laws, and meaningful assistance for timber communities.

The Honorable Larry LaRocco
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Symms / Larry Craig
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

ACTIONLINE - [202] 547-9017 -- Call for a recorded update on fast-moving environmental legislation.

Any Senator or Representative - Call [202] 224-3121

Any Bill Status - Call [202] 225-1772

The Bush Administration recently proposed to "redefine" what a wetland is -- so that millions of acres of wetlands will be defined out of existence.

The public has until **Monday, October 15th** to comment on the new definition. Please write a brief one page letter to the EPA to urge the agency to maintain **scientific** criteria when determining what is a wetland. Express your outrage that millions of acres of wetlands will be lost because of political considerations. Send a copy to President Bush and urge him to uphold his pledge of "**No Net Loss of wetlands.**" It is critical that we get as many letters into the public record as possible between now and October 15th.

BACKGROUND INFO: The Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies use a guide, called the 1989 Wetlands Delineation Manual, to identify and determine the boundaries of wetlands. Most of the changes proposed by the White House to this technical document were motivated not by sound wetlands science, but by political pressure from business interests within the Administration, acting in collusion with oil, gas, homebuilding and farm lobbyists who wish to deregulate millions of acres of easy-to-develop wetlands.

POINTS TO MAKE WHEN WRITING:

- * The new definition of wetlands makes a mockery of the President's No Net Loss pledge.
- * Any changes to the Manual must be based on sound science and the recommendations of wetlands experts from the scientific community, not developers, the oil industry and other special interests.
- * The long saturation requirement, the new definition of growing season, and the requirement that wetlands be saturated "at the surface" are not based on sound science. These changes make wetlands more likely to be developed rather than protected.

WRITE TO:

Mr. Gregory Peck
Chief, Wetlands and Aquatic Resources
Regulatory Branch, Mail Code A-104F
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20460

WITH COPIES TO YOUR SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO:

President George Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YES, I'd like to join. Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send the Audubon magazine and my membership card to the address below. My check for \$20 payable to the National Audubon Society is enclosed.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Send this application and your check to

National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

Local Chapter
Coeur d'Alene G06

Local Chapter Code
7XCH8

Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society

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Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society
% Pam Gontz
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Handwritten signature: [Signature]

Shirley Sturts 4615 Fernan Lake Rd. E. Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
