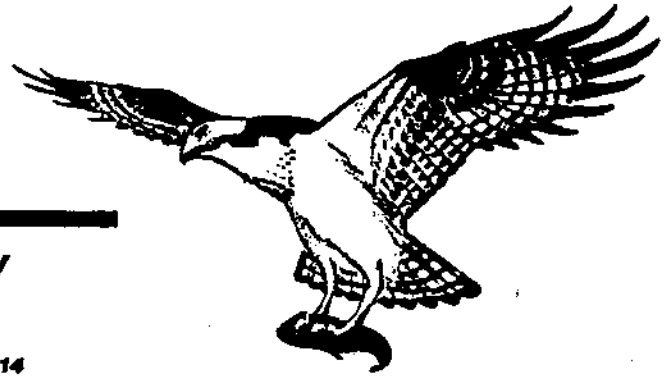


THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society



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October 1992

Volume 2, No. 7

CALENDAR CHECK! -

OCT. 20,
1992
6 PM

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING!
The members of the Conservation Committee and Board of Directors will be meeting together on Oct. 20th at 6 pm at the Lake City Senior Center. It is important to attend this joint meeting as we will be discussing issues and policies for the coming year. Most importantly, we will be discussing new developments concerning the Idaho Fish & Game Department's policy to log in Farragut State Park.

OCT. 20,
1992
7 PM

The September meeting of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society will be held on Tuesday, October 20th at 7 P.M. **REMEMBER THE NEW MEETING PLACE: Lake City Senior Center, 1916 Lakewood Drive, Coeur d'Alene.** What is it about Cougar Bay that has the environmental community in Coeur d'Alene up in arms? Why is the Cougar Bay wetland so special that even ordinary citizens are turning into activists to preserve it for future generations? At the October meeting, we'll be exploring those questions in an open forum. Chick Burge will present a slide program to provoke your thoughts and comments. The general public and Audubon members alike are invited to share their opinions on why Cougar Bay needs to be preserved.

OCT. 23,
1992

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for submitting articles, etc., for the October newsletter.

DEC. 15,
1992

The December 15th meeting of Audubon will be dedicated to reviewing bird species likely to be encountered during the Christmas Bird Count. Planning and strategies will also be discussed.

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

DEC. 19,
1992

Second Annual Coeur d'Alene Christmas Bird Count
- mark your calendars!!

C°O°N°S°E°R°V°A°T°I°O°N° N°E°W°S

Senators Adams and Leahy Introduce Ancient Forest Bill

HIGHLIGHTS

Establishes Ancient Forest Reserves:

Allows no logging or road building and only very limited fire, insect and disease "suppression" in old-growth forests.

Establishes Watershed Protection:

Restores, maintains and protects endangered fish species and salmon stocks.

Protects and Studies Forests in Eastern Oregon and Washington:

Creates an interim protection plan for eastside federal forests of northern California, Oregon and Washington pending a study to recommend ways to restore these devastated forests.

Supports Logging Communities:

Establishes funds for investment in timber communities and timber workers to aid their transition away from old-growth logging. In addition to loans for economic diversification, retraining programs, and relocation assistance, the bill liberalizes the formula for federal timber revenues to states.

States are given the right to restrict log exports from state and private land to ease temporary timber supply shortages.

The *Rural Development and Ancient Forests Ecosystem Conservation Act* (s. 2895) provides scientifically-based, comprehensive ancient forest protection for Washington, Oregon, and northern California. It offers a strong legislative package for protecting ancient forests, the threatened northern spotted owl, and watersheds that provide habitat for Pacific wild salmon.

WRITE OR CALL NOW

Senator _____
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Please co-sponsor the *Adams/Leahy Rural Development and Ancient Forests Ecosystem Conservation Act* (S. 2895)

This bill would bring scientifically-based permanent protection to all ancient forest ecosystems. And it pledges economic investment in timber communities faced with transition.

Clip and place on your refrigerator

Capitol switchboards

House: (202) 225-3121

Senate: (202) 224-3121

Only 13¢ a minute before 8:00am

COUGAR BAY FIELD TRIP REPORT-

After waking up with a cup of coffee and breakfast at Rustler's Roost, ten of us set off for Cougar Bay and Mica Bay. At the Spokane River Bridge we counted Common Merganser 20, Song Sparrow 1, Red-winged Blackbird 2, and several Ring-billed Gulls. At Cougar Bay we counted Western Grebe 1, Red-necked Grebe 1, Pied-billed Grebe 5, Great Blue Heron 3, Canada Goose 20+, Mallard 50+, Hooded Merganser 1, Common Merganser 3+, American Kestrel 1, Killdeer 2, Ring-billed Gulls 200+, Tern sp. 2 (possibly Forster's), Northern Flicker 3, Belted Kingfisher, Chestnut-backed Chickadee 1+, Chickadee sp. 1+, Pygmy Nuthatch 5, American Robin 50, European Starling 7, Cedar Waxwing small flock, Red-winged Blackbird 2, House Finch 5, Song Sparrow 4.

On our way to Mica Bay we enjoyed some mammal watching when 2 coyotes were spotted out in a field -- at times a short distance away from a Great Blue Heron. Our Mica Bay count consisted of Western Grebe 2, Red-necked Grebe 4, Great Blue Heron 4, Canada Goose 18, Mallard 100+, Blue-winged Teal 1, American Coot 8, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Northern Flicker 1, Chickadee sp. 1, Steller's Jay 1, Black-billed Magpie, American Robin 25, Yellow-rumped Warbler 1, Red-winged Blackbird several, White-crowned Sparrow 4.

Participants were Chuck and Bee Finne, Pam Gontz, Gertie Hanson, Nola Mileck, Herb and Jan Severtson, Roger and Donna Young, and Shirley Sturts (leader).

(- Shirley Sturts)



HOODED MERGANSER

BIRD NOTES -

- Northern Hawk Owl - mid-August, seen by Earl Chapin near Hidden Lake nw of Bonners Ferry, reported by Paul Sieracki
- Steller's Jays - 09/92, seen reguarly on 4th of July Pass, Susan Weller
- Greater Yellow Legs - 09/92, seen at Cataldo Slough by Gertie Hanson
- Caspian Terns - 09/15/92, reported at Cougar Bay (south side) by Gertie Hanson
- Killdeer - 09/17/92, 250+ seen in burnt fields on Poleline Ave. near Post Falls, Pam Gontz
- California Quail - 09/18/92, (1 M, 6 F) seen feeding on NE corner of Ramsey and Dalton, Pam Gontz
- Common Loons - 09/19/92, 2 on north end of Pend Oreille Lake near Hope, ID, Pam Gontz
- Red-necked Grebes - 09/19/92, 3 on north end of Pend Oreille Lake near Hope, ID, Pam Gontz
- Great Horned Owl - 09/22/92, Carbon Creek on Dobson Pass, seen by Lori Pfahl
- White-crowned Sparrows - 09/22/92, (3 mat./1 imm) at bird bath and feeder of Pam Gontz
- American Pipits - 09/23/92, 12 in field near Wyoming & Hwy 41, Pam Gontz
- Common Snipe - 09/28/92, flying parallel with Sherman Ave., Susan Weller
- Northern Harrier - 09/30/92, 1 in field NW corner of Poleline and Idaho Rd., Pam Gontz
- Northern Harrier - 10/01/92, 1 in field NE corner of Poleline and Huetter, Pam Gontz
- Steller's Jays - 10/05/92, 2 in Chuck and Bee Finne's backyard

09/26/92 at the home of Susan Weller there were a pair of White-crowned Sparrows traveling with about 30 Juncos. Also at her house she had a Red-naped Sapsucker, Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3 Steller's Jays, Evening Grosbeaks, and Cassin Finches.

09/29/92 at the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River birds seen were: Cooper's Hawk, 2 Gray Jays, Red-shafted Flicker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and 2 Steller's Jays - Susan Weller

Have you noticed the robins, crows, juncos, and cedar waxwings flocking up for migration?



***"Nature speaks in a foreign language.
It speaks softly. You have to listen to it carefully."
- Maynard M. Miller***



ARE FROGS LITERALLY "CROAKING"?



We hear the words "Silent Spring" and we relate it directly to our current down-spiraling populations of many of our bird species. There is another critter with bulging eyes, glistening fat bellies, and ludicrously wide mouths that are the baritones of nature. The deep *chug-a-rum* of the frog is fast becoming obvious by its absence. In a recent article in the *Smithsonian* [Oct. 1992] it appears, through interviews with biologists, that frogs may be fading away just like a number of species of migratory birds. These biologists are in a quandry as to why it is becoming harder and harder to locate these amphibians and many of the species are just simply disappearing.

Having evolved more than 350 million years ago, amphibians are among the oldest creatures on Earth and once shared their swamps with dinosaurs. One biologist stated, "if they disappear now, after all of that time, there's something to be concerned about." Amphibians are a vital link to the food chain. Their larvae eat plants and/or animals, and predatory adults consume a wide spectrum of creatures such as reptiles, birds, fish and mammals, who in turn, eat them.

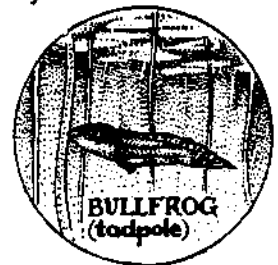
Amphibians may signal environmental stress earlier than most other organisms due to their dual habitats. They are exposed to both water-based and land-based contaminants and predators. Their permeable skin also interacts with water, air and dirt, and because they lack feathers and hair, small increases in ultraviolet radiation may cause immediate damage. Many biologists say that amphibians are the canaries in the global coal mine.

The most confounding disappearances of amphibians are those occurring in preserves and parks worldwide, where hunting, fishing and farming are prohibited. Habitat destruction does not explain why many species are disappearing in protected areas on five continents at both high and low altitudes. Some scientists believe the most important factors in this mystery are still to be unveiled. Among the favored hypotheses: acid rain, global warming, pathogens and increased ultraviolet radiation.

One factor in the decrease of certain frog populations is the demand for frog legs. France consumes 3,000 to 4,000 [metric] tons of frogs' legs each year which is about ten times more than 20 years ago. [It takes at least 20,000 frogs to make up a metric ton.] The majority of frogs' legs sold in France are those of the Asian bullfrogs and these days they are becoming increasingly more difficult to find.

Of course, many a frog and toad have died for human benefit and research. Indians use the poison-arrow frogs' skin secretions to tip their darts. Frogs' legs gave us an understanding of electrical nerve impulses as well as gourmet dining. The African clawed frogs have recently offered up clues to cystic fibrosis and Parkinson's disease.

What is being done about this amphibian alert? A Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force has been formed by the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). They will evaluate the health of populations and probe peculiarities on an international level. The resulting information will be entered into a "Frog Log" database, which will be available to scientists worldwide. Hopefully this will be a start of a better understanding of what's happening to those stewards of our wetlands. [Pam Gortz]



"Take time to listen and talk about the voices
of the earth and what they mean --
the majestic voice of thunder,
the winds,
the sound of surf or flowing streams."

- Rachel Carson
"The Sense of Wonder"



WOLF HEARING RESULTS -

I recently received a Memo from Brian Peck, Wolf Specialist, regarding the results of the Wolf Hearings held August 18-19, 1992. He congratulates and thanks everyone who participated for Audubon in this wolf hearing process. He said that,

"Despite the fact that these hearings were politically motivated and crafted to derail wolf recovery, the result was exactly the opposite. Pro-wolf recovery opinions carried the day at every hearing! Clearly, this would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of many of you in the region. You have helped deal a major setback to the 'multiple abusers' who opposed us on this issue."

The actual hearing results were as follows:

Location	Pro-recovery	Opposed
Boise, Idaho	70%	30%
Cheyenne, Wyoming	85%	15%
Helena, Montana	60%	40%
Salt Lake City, MT	90+%	less than 10%
Seattle, Washington	90+%	less than 10%
Washington, DC	90+%	less than 10%

It appears that howling can be understood in many dialects! [-Pam Gortz]



IN MEMORY OF

WALTER KNOLES



Walter Knoles passed away October 5, 1992, and I, for one, will truly miss him. My first meeting with Walt was a teacher/student relationship -- I had enrolled in one of Walt's camera courses at NIC about ten years ago. I learned a lot about photography and, in fact, took another four photography courses from him. But I also learned about many other things from him. Walt was a wealth of information about nature subjects and was an excellent facilitator in that area. It was his knowledge about plants that peaked my interest to learn all I could -- even the scientific names. He also taught me a great deal about birds and mammals. He was always eager to share his knowledge with me or help me to better understand those areas that were gray to me.

Walt helped in Audubon with providing sightings, writing an article for the newsletter, helping with our first Christmas Bird count by feeder counting, and was very generous with his time in helping with the breeding bird census at Farragut State Park.

In the ten years I've known Walt our friendship blossomed and, after my father passed away a few years ago, I even kind of thought of him as a second father. I will miss the advice he gave me and the times he listened. I will miss bouncing ideas off him for my newsletters, slide shows, and ideas for the native plant society. **I will miss him.**

[-Pam Gortz]



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 G08

Local Chapter Code
7XCH8

COEUR d'ALENE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Fieldtrip Chair:	Shirley Sturts	664-5318

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