

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society
Editor: Shirley Sturts - E4615 Fernan Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 -664-5318

OCTOBER 1994

VOLUME 4 No. 2

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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)

OCT. 18 TUESDAY BOARD MEETING

Time: 6:15

Place: Iron Horse

Agenda: We will be discussing our objectives for the year. If you are an officer or committee chair please come to this important meeting. This is an open meeting if any member would like to join us in discussing chapter activities and goals you are more than welcome.

OCT. 18 TUESDAY REGULAR MEETING

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Iron Horse

Program: Beth Paragamian will be giving us a mammal quiz. We will learn how to be animal detectives. Come see how many species native to our area you can recognize from pelts, skulls and tracks.

OCT. 30 SUNDAY FIELD TRIP TO KILLARNEY LAKE

Time: 8:30 AM - Noon

Place: Mailboxes at Killarney Lake Road and Highway 3 or for car pool meet at 8:00 AM at the Fernan Lake Ranger Station Parking lot

Leader: Ellen Scriven 682-3413 (message phone), for car pool information call Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Activity: We will look for birds in the wetlands and along the road. We will do a lot of birding by foot so be prepared for walking through fields and along dike. Bring a lunch to eat before heading home or if you want to stay into the afternoon for more birding in other areas.



Bird Quotes Quiz

(Bird watching inside Literature)

Check your bird/literary IQ. There are many memorable quotes, poetry, and quips about birds. How many can you recognize? Who said..... (see answers on page 5 - send quotes to the editor for future newsletters)

"The early bird catches the worm"

"A fly can't bird but a bird can fly"

"A little bird told me"

"Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie."

"It was the lark, the harold of the morn, No nightingale...I must be gone."

** TAKE ACTION **

Conservation News From Wallace Keck

GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IN NORTH IDAHO

On August 25, I learned of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest's plan to close certain roads and trails in the Priest Lake Ranger District. The purpose of the closures is to provide additional protection for the meager



population of the Endangered Grizzlies in the Selkirk region. I requested a copy of the proposal and made a first hand inspection of some of the roads to be closed. On September 15 I attended the Kootenai Environmental Alliance meeting where Ken Dunstan, District Ranger, addressed

concerns of the proposal. While the comment period ended on September 16, you might be interested in a few details, and that a decision will be made in October or November.

* The current grizzly population in the region is estimated between 20-40. (In recent years 13 are known to have been shot).

*The Kalispell-Granite Grizzly Bear Recovery Unit (where the road closures are proposed) is important spring and summer habitat for a portion of this population.

*To prevent displacement of bears by human activity, to reduce the chance of bear/poacher encounters, and to increase the population of grizzlies as mandated by the Endangered Species Act, Security habitat must be increased to a minimum of 70%.

*Existing roads in this recovery area allow for only 42% security habitat. Proposed road closures would provide 74%.

How will the proposed road and trail closures effect you? They probably won't. It is my observation that many of these roads were built to access previous timber sales. The roads I visited first hand were rough, overgrown and either through or directly adjacent to large clear cuts. The roads currently provide access for hunting, huckleberry picking, wildlife viewing and little else. The most popular routes and trails will remain open, and will benefit from closure of others (i.e. time and money saved on maintenance of all roads/trails can now be invested in upgrading the more popular ones). Hunters, hikers, equestrians, bikers, cross-country skiers and snowmobilers will still have access to these areas, but will inevitably penetrate less into the security area without the use of automobiles for shuttling. Access is not denied, only the method of access. Some roads will have a gate to provide for seasonal management and fire protection, others will be obliterated to enhance fisheries and watershed qualities.

Those opposed to the proposal are mainly concerned about the loss of recreational opportunities and impact on local businesses through the possible loss of tourism generated revenue. Currently, no timber sales are under contract in these specific areas, and the primary income from tourism is tied to Priest Lake which is outside the security habitat.

While it may be too late for you to voice concerns about the proposal, it is never too late to understand the issue, and support the right decision. If the right decision is made.

I plan to send a letter of appreciation. Until then, I agree with one concerned citizen who wrote, "I trust that you (USFS) will act in what you know to be the greater interest of the larger public you work to protect,

Continued on page 3

Take Action Continued

and take these difficult steps to avoid the extinction of the Selkirk grizzly from the U.S. portion of its habitat."

To request a copy of the proposal or to voice your opinion, write

Ken Dunstan, District Ranger
 Priest Lake Ranger District
 HCRS, Box 207
 Priest River, ID 83856
 or call (208) 443-2512

FIELD TRIP TO FARRAGUT REPORT

By Wallace F. Keck

On Sunday, September 18, a field trip was held at Farragut State Park. Shirley Sturts, Ellen Scriven, Wallace Keck and Emily Bush met at 8 a.m. at the park headquarters. We birded Whitetail Campground which was closed for the season. Four Wild Turkeys were observed immediately. A large flock of Evening Grosbeaks and several Red-breasted Nuthatches were working the old-growth Ponderosa. Along the trail to the lake, Juncos, Ravens and Golden-crowned Kinglets were observed. Three Red-necked Grebes were swimming just off-shore, and a pair of Common Mergansers kept reappearing ahead of us. One gull was observed across the lake. Based on its common occurrence, we speculated it to be a California Gull. Ring-billed Gulls are strangely uncommon around Idlewilde Bay. Three Canada Geese flew by just before we left the lake. On the return hike we encountered at least a dozen Yellow-rumped Warblers and Black-capped Chickadees. Wallace led the group off-trail and into a thick stand of timber. A Ruffed Grouse and Barred Owl were flushed by our approach.

American Robins, a Red-tailed Hawk and Hairy Woodpecker brought the species count to 17. Although not seen on the field trip, Mountain Bluebirds were still present at the park in good numbers on Monday, September 19.



FIELD TRIP TO BACK YARDS AND THE RATHDRUM PRAIRIE

By Shirley
 Sturts

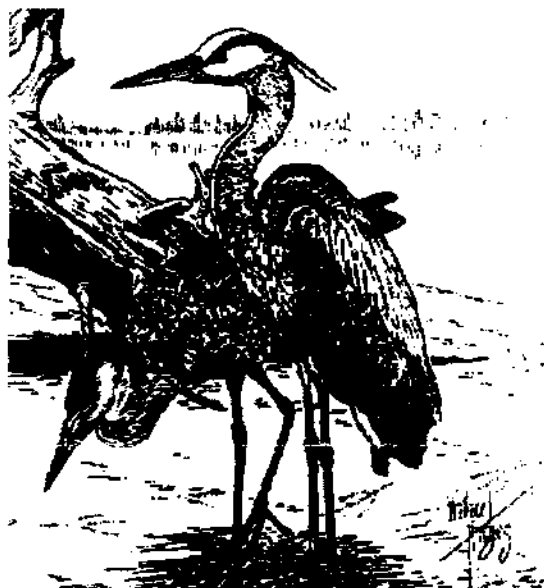
On Oct. 2 at 8
 a.m. Gertie

Hanson, Emily Bush, Judy Waring, Ron and Roberta Rich and myself met in the Hastings parking lot where we picked up our first bird of the day, a Ring-Billed Gull. We then headed to the home of Clifford and Lee Strelz north of Hayden Lake. On the way Jane Badraun joined us. We admired Clifford and Lee's backyard garden, complete with home made feeders, while sipping coffee and eating fresh baked huckleberry muffins. Coming into eat were Juncos, Black-capped Chickadees, a Steller's Jay and a Downy Woodpecker. On our way to Jane's we added a Red-tailed Hawk, several House Sparrows and a Savannah Sparrow. A walk around Jane's home, barn and woods revealed an array of feeders and feeding and nesting areas. Her home made pond is an attraction for a variety of birds and wildlife. Now we know why Jane gets more birds on her backyard list than we do. We all decided we want a pond like Jane's for our own yards. A cold wind must have been keeping the birds under cover. We only saw Juncos, B.C. Chickadees and R.B. Nuthatches. On our return to Cd'A by way of side roads Ron, Roberta and Shirley added 4 Turkey Vultures, about 4 Savanna Sparrows, some Starlings, a flock of about 40 American Pipits, a Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk (feeding of something), and a Raven.

ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENT

(source)

July/August 1994 editorial on the correlation (or lack thereof) between economic growth and environmental protection, from the Prairie Falcon, the newsletter of the N. Flint Hills AS in Manhattan KS



Must we choose between jobs and the environment? This question poses one of the greatest challenges for conservationists today, since there is no question that governmental tendencies, regardless of which party is in power, are in favor of jobs, more jobs, and economic growth. Wise-use groups, business interests, and governmental entities such as the Dan Quayle-chaired White House Council on Competitiveness, have boosted the rhetoric so that most people believe that environmentalism and economic prosperity can never coexist. But is this really true? Surprisingly enough, the hypothesis had never been tested. But now it has, and turns out to be false.

A recent study (1) by Stephen Meyer, a professor of political science at MIT, examined the so-called "environmental impact hypothesis."

Simply put, the environmental impact hypothesis states

That governmental regulations which protect environmental quality will result in lower economic growth and development. Meyer tested the hypothesis by analyzing the twenty year economic record of each of the fifty states, and looked for a negative correlation between environmental regulations and five primary indicators of economic growth. The ranking of environmental quality of states depended on the number of regulations, the amount of public and private expenditures on enforcement and compliance, and the level of the restrictions on land use, waste disposal, emissions etc. Economic indicators used were gross state product growth, non-farm employment growth, construction employment growth, manufacturing labor productivity, and overall labor productivity. Analysis of these data indicated that not only is there no negative correlation, there is a significant and consistent positive correlation between protection of the environment and economic performance. The environmental impact hypothesis fails; it will no longer be acceptable to oppose governmental regulations to protect the environment on the grounds that they will stifle economic growth.

Meyer concludes with this statement: At minimum we can conclude that shifts in environmental policy, whether intended to extend environmental control or reduce it, have no discernible effect on state economic performance. If environmentalism does have negative economic effects, they are so marginal and transient that they are completely lost in the noise of much more powerful domestic and international economic influences. The environmental impact hypothesis, while p73 theoretically intriguing, has no empirical foundation and focuses attention on what is certainly one of the least influential factors affecting the pace of economic growth and development.

Continued on page 5

Economics and Environment Continued

These findings also indicate that it is mistaken to contemplate a reduction in environmental regulations, based on the supposition that this would jump-start the economy. In the fall of 1994, the Clean Water Act will come up for debate and, hopefully, strengthening. Powerful lobbying forces will argue against enforcement of stricter regulations to protect water resources, based on the putative economic harm that will derive from these regulations. The Endangered Species Act, also up for debate soon, has come under attack on similar grounds. We need to let our representatives know the facts. Simply put, strict environmental regulations protect people, wildlife, ecosystems, and the future, but they do not hinder economic growth. We don't have to choose between jobs and the environment; we do have to choose between facts and rhetoric, however.

1. Environmentalism and Economic Prosperity: Testing the Environmental Impact Hypothesis, S.M. Meyer, October 1992. A full copy of this report, as well as an update prepared in February 1993, can be obtained for \$7.00 by writing to Prof. Meyer at:
Project on Environmental Politics and Policy
Bldg/Room E38-628
Cambridge MA 02139
- Dave Rintoul



OBSERVATION POST

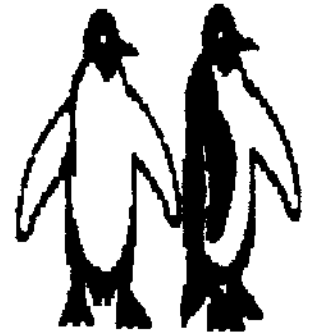
Observers: Jane Bacraun (JB), Gertie

Hanson (GH), Edie Hickman, (EH), Wallace F. Keck, Zoltan Porga (ZP), Scott Robinson (SC), Lee Strelz (LS), Judy Warring (JW) Susan Weller (SW)

1. Turkey Vulture 1 Cataldo slough Sept. 14-15 (SW)
2. Northern Harrier 1 Cataldo slough Sept. 14-15 (SW)
3. Common Barn Owl 1 Potlatch area Aug. 13 (ZP)
4. Common Nighthawk 1 Coeur d'Alene Sept. 9 (SR)
5. Piliated Woodpecker 1 at JB home on Boekei Road and at the home of (LS) north of Hayden Lake during Sept., 1 at Big Pine Campground Sept. 15 (EH), 1 at English Point Oct. 4 (JW)
6. Horned Lark 7 Farragut State Park Sept. 20 (WK)
7. Blue Jay 1 at the home of Mike and Connie White in Rose Lake Sept. 21-24 (SW)
8. Mountain Bluebird 6 Farragut State Park Sept. 19 (WK)
9. Western Bluebird 20 Boekei Road on Rathdrum Prairie all fall (JB)
10. Yellow-rumped Warbler 6 Potlatch area Sept. 22 (ZP)

WHAT BIRD IS THIS?

(see answer on page 5 below)



This bird is a common fall migrant in North Idaho from September through early November in open fields and meadows. It nests on tundra in the north and in alpine areas further south. One good place to look for this species is on Rathdrum Prairie.

Look for flocks of sparrow-sized birds with buffy streaked underparts. They have an eyebrow streak which matches the color of the underparts, outer white tail feathers and slender bills. They walk bobbing their tail almost constantly and dip up and down in flight. In the older field guides you will find Water in their name but that has been changed to American.

Answers to Quotes Quiz from page 1Camden (1936, Winnie-the-Pooh (1926), Marryat (1833), Mother Goose, Shakespeare Romeo and Juliet

Answer to What Bird is This?

American Pipit

**COEUR D'ALENE
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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Vice-President: Phil Waring 765-5378
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Scott Reed 664-2161
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Conservation: Wallace F Keck 664-4029
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Newsletter: Shirley Sturts 664-5318
Fieldtrips: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: A membership in the National Audubon Society also entitles you to chapter membership in the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society and receipt of the bimonthly Audubon magazine and the chapter newsletter, The Fish Hawk Herald. First time members should make their checks payable to the National Audubon Society and send them to our membership chairman (see address below) if you send your membership check direct to the National Audubon Society data center, please mention you wish to be affiliated with the Coeur d'Alene Chapter and give them the chapter code 75042
New Membership \$20, Regular Membership \$30.

The Fish Hawk Herald is published monthly (except for June, July and Aug.) by the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Annual nonmember subscriptions to The Fish Hawk Herald are \$5.00 which should be sent to the membership chairman & Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter - P.O. Box 361 - Coeur d'Alene, Id 83814. The deadline for submission of materials to be included in the newsletter is the 25th of each month. Copy should be sent to the Editor at 64615 Fernan Lake Road - Coeur d'Alene, Id 83814.

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