

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society
Editor: Shirley Sturts - R4615 Fernan Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 -
664-5318

OCTOBER 1995

VOLUME 5 No. 2

PAGE 1



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)

OCTOBER 17 TUESDAY REGULAR MEETING

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Iron Horse

Program: Wayne Wakkinen, a wildlife biologist with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, will present a program on his research with the grizzlies and caribou of the Selkirk Mountains. Wayne has been conducting research on these two important species for the past five years. Along with the 30 minute slide presentation, Wayne will share with us the hides and skulls of these animals, providing a hands-on experience few of us have ever had with a threatened or endangered species.

OCTOBER 24 TUESDAY BIRDING WITH A BROWN-BAG

2nd in a series of noon time birding trips

Time: 12 Noon - 1 p.m.

Place: Tubbs Hill - meet at the 3rd Street Boat Ramp

Leader: Roger Young 664-4179

Activity: Roger has been counting birds on Tubbs Hill Christmas Bird Count day for the last 4 years. He will tell about his CBC experiences as the group looks for chickadees, woodpeckers and sparrows along the trails. Come and find out what feathered treasures are hidden in the trees and bushes of Tubbs Hill.

October 15 Sunday BIRDING IN THE PURCELL MOUNTAINS

Time: 8:a.m.

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Meet: Ron's Supermarket on Hwy 95

Activity: We will drive a 40 mile loop through the scenic Purcell Mountains just north of Bonners Ferry. Our drive will take us by four mountain lakes, past a prairie marsh, along the Moyie River and up to an alpine Lake.

Special bird species to look for: Boreal Chickadee, White-winged Crossbill, Pine Grosbeak and Clark's Nutcracker. A sighting of a Boreal Owl is also possible - will it be our lucky day? Come join us and find out. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather.

OCTOBER 28 SATURDAY MICA BAY TOUR

Time: 8 a.m.

Meet: Idaho Fish and Game Office
1750 Kathleen Ave.

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Activity: The Idaho Fish and Game has approved our application to adopt the wetland at Mica Bay. Brian Helmich will give us a tour of Mica Bay and discuss possible adoption activities we could do. We plan to be through before 12 but you may want to bring a lunch and do some additional birding on your own.

RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER

Show our Chapter Newsletter to friends and encourage them to become part of one of the most effective environmental organization in the world. See the membership flyer on page 7. Our Chapter will receive \$15 in dues share for each new member recruited through the ad.

Adopt a Wetland

(from Adopt a Wetland brochure by Idaho Fish and Game)

Acre for acre no other type of habitat in Idaho supports a greater diversity of plant and animal life than our wetlands. Wetlands also provide direct benefits to our communities and society as a whole. Idaho's marshes, lakes,



streams and wet meadows filter pollutants from our drinking water, recharge aquifers we depend upon, water crops/livestock which support our economy and provide countless hours of recreation. As if that weren't enough wetlands often are just enjoyable to look at! Yet with all the benefits that wetlands provide, they are disappearing at an alarming rate. Over half the wetlands that early settlers enjoyed have been lost. Those that remain are precious and deserve special protection. To lose our remaining wetlands would be to lose a valuable resource and heritage that makes Idaho a special place to live.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is working to conserve Idaho's wetlands for present and future generations. No one group however, can adequately care for our wetlands. The job requires a cooperative effort between government agencies, landowners, sportsmen, and the public at large. The newly implemented Adopt A Wetland program seeks to solicit and coordinate help from all of these sources to enhance and protect wetlands. The program was developed with the belief that volunteers, working cooperatively with land management agencies, can make a difference.

The Adopt a Wetland program is patterned after the very successful Adopt a Highway program. Groups,

organizations, and private citizens are given the opportunity to "adopt" sections of Idaho rivers, streams, marshes, and other wetlands. In return for adopting a wetland participants are publicly acknowledged by the placement of a sign identifying the adoption and the adopting group.

Mechanics of the program are designed to be simple. Upon selecting a wetland to adopt, groups submit an application to regional Adopt a Wetland board for review. In the northern five counties of Idaho the board is composed of four individuals with representatives from the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, Emerald Empire Resources Area, Idaho Department of Fish and Game and one citizen at large. The board then approves or denies the application and provides guidance for adoption activities.

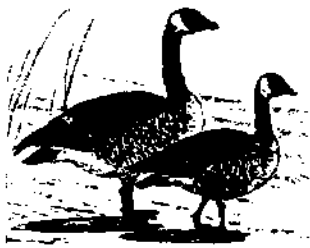
Certain responsibilities are always assigned to adopting groups. A three-year adoption agreement must be signed. Adopting groups must also agree to remove litter at least two times each year and service all existing goose nesting platforms and wood duck houses annually.



Under the guidance of the regional Adopt a Wetland Board, volunteer groups are encouraged to help with additional projects on their adopted wetland. Some might want to improve stream habitat by planting willows, installing new goose nesting platforms and wood duck houses or by constructing drop structures for fish. the sky's the limit!

Continued on page 3

Adopt a Wetland continued from page 2



Volunteer groups will need to provide trash bags, tools, ladders, boats, and other equipment. The Idaho

Department of Fish and Game will provide the materials to maintain artificial nest structures. Cost-sharing for special projects is also available on a case by case basis.

To date, the Adopt a Wetland program has been very successful. Volunteers have contributed valuable time and effort towards removing litter and servicing nesting structures in Eastern Idaho where a pilot Adopt A Wetland program has been operating since 1993. It is hoped that as the program expands, it will meet the same success statewide.

Coeur d'Alene Chapter Involvement in Adopt a Wetland

At a meeting last spring members voted to join the Idaho Fish and Game Adopt a Wetland program. A list was made of possible areas we could adopt and the list was discussed with Brian Helmich of the Idaho Fish and Game. Mica Bay seemed a good choice because it is close to town and part of it is owned by the Idaho Fish and Game Department. We applied and our application has been accepted.

The Fish and Game will construct a sign indicating that the wetland in Mica Bay has been adopted by the Cd'A Chapter of the Audubon Society. On Saturday Oct. 28 our Chapter will take a tour of Mica Bay with Brian Helmich from the Idaho Fish and Game Department. (see

time and place to meet in the Calendar on page 1) He will show us around the bay and discuss adoption activities we may want to consider doing. All members interested taking part in Adopt a Wetland activities are urged to attend. Members who want to participate in Adopt a Wetland Activities must attend at least one safety meeting prior to participating. Our chapter is required to hold at least two wetland safety meetings per year. If you are interested in participating a sign up sheet will be available at the October meeting and on the Mica Bay Tour Oct. 28. Call Shirley Sturts 664-5318 if you have any questions.

BIRD & WHALE WATCHING BY SEA KAYAK IN BAJA

Jan. 27-Feb. 2

Feb. 3-Feb. 9

\$600 plus air fare

Audubon members Terry Prichard and Nancy Mertz are long time naturalists and guides who spend summers leading river rafting trips in Idaho, and their winters leading sea kayak trips in Baja.



Join us for an incredible week kayaking with whales in Baja's Magdalena Bay, a protected lagoon which is the calving grounds of the California Gray Whale. Bordering the lagoon and accessible only by boat, are extensive shallows & mangrove thickets teeming with bird life. We camp on the uninhabited sand barrier island protecting the lagoon from the surf of the Pacific Ocean.

Write or call for complete information: (208) 765-5254
1315 Indiana St.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

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 6

- send quotes to the editor for future newsletters)

"I am but mad north-north-west. When the wind is southerly I know a hawk from a handsaw."

"Whenever a man hears (the song of a Wood Thrush) he is young, and Nature is in her spring; whenever he hears it, it is a new world and a free country and the gates of heaven are not shut against him."

"The bird in on the wing
My word
That's absurd
Everyone knows
The wing is on the bird."

"Look here you birds
These signs cost money
You can rest awhile
But don't get funny."

"You're as serious as a tree full owls."

"If you want to live with the owls,
don't crap in their nest."

"We never miss the music till the sweet
bird has flown."

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Century Count Correction

In the report on the Century Count by Wallace Keck (Sept. 1995 newsletter) bird number 70 was left out. It was an American Wigeon.

THE PRICE OF A SONGBIRD

by Susan Weller

Many of us appreciate birds and other wildlife for their intrinsic, or aesthetic value. We value songbirds for the joy and beauty they add to our lives, for their songs and colors, for the miracles of flight and migration. It's very difficult to put a price tag on these things, as people in industry are always trying to do--a Spotted Owl carries a price tag of so many jobs, a squirrel a price tag of so many observatories, a snail-darter a price tag of so many dams.

How many of us have ever wondered about the price tag for rearing a Spotted Owl--in human terms, in terms of dollars and cents? We might find that a Spotted Owl is worth a lot more than we realize--in economic terms, that is. Recently, I reared and fledged a Violet-Green Swallow, and was amazed at the number of hours of intensive care required to be successful. The twenty seven days it took to raise the swallow to be independent breaks down like this: fourteen days at sixteen hours per day; tens days at eight hours per day; three days at four hours per day. That works out to almost 350 hours. If I had been earning only ten dollars an hour, that would make one Violet-green Swallow worth about \$3,500 in terms of human labor. To some, that might make a songbird appear to have more value. To other, songbirds are already priceless.

(see "To Raise a Swallow" part 2
on page 5)

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Audubon Facts

550,000 members
516 chapters in the Americas
20,000 members of the Activist Network
300 scientists, educators, sanctuary managers, regional and state directors, gov't affairs specialists, & other staff
20,000 teachers 600,000 elementary students in Audubon Adventures



Located at 6005 N. Division
Hours: M-F 10-6 Sat. 9-5 Sun. 12-5

Wild Birds Unlimited will donate 5% of your purchases back to our Audubon Society Chapter. Be sure to mention that you are a member and present your membership card or a copy of the Fish Hawk Herald with your name on it

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TO RAISE A SWALLOW

Part 2 of a series
by Susan Weller



July 9 I am learning a healthy respect for mother birds. It literally takes me twelve hours a day to collect enough of the right kinds of food for the swallow. He has a voracious appetite! I am up until midnight every evening because the moths don't get thick around the porch lights until eleven. I have to catch moths for his early morning meals until I can get back with his mosquitoes from Fern Creek. He keeps me very busy from his first feeding at 5:30 a.m., until his last feeding around 10:00 pm. Today he is perching well, keeping his balance. He can even keep his balance while stretching his wings with his legs. He is very clean, backing away from his sleeping area to deposit his fecal sacks. He is starting to follow insect movement when I hold them in the palm of my hand. Today I saw him preen for the first time.

10 July Today I moved the swallow out of his basket and into a bluebird box graciously donated by the Fish & Game Department. I want him to know what his

life should be like in the wild, that he is a cavity nester. I modeled the nest material and structure after the tree swallow nest on my pump house--pine needle base topped off with generous amounts of white chicken feathers. I held him up to the hole and he climbed right through. I could hear him making little contented chirping noises. I opened up the front and he was all snuggled down in the feathers, already fast asleep.

13 July Oh dear, his appetite is not good today. He is accepting only a few mouthfuls every hour--down from 10-15 mouthfuls per hour. He is still very active though. Hope he is okay.

14 July. Much preening and stretching today. His wing feathers are almost totally unfurled. He now spends his entire day either in the hole, or on top of the box, with much wing flapping and exercising. When I came into feed him this morning he was on the floor of the bathroom--his first flight. Shirley Sturts came by and banded him today, and he did not like being man-handled. After she left, he stayed in his box the rest of the day.

15 July. The swallow is beginning to sleep in a little bit, he won't come out of his box to be fed until about 9:00 am. Any earlier, he will accept an insect or two if you hold them in the opening where he can reach them. I believe he gets cold if taken out of his box to be fed too early. The other day at 5:30 am he was shivering so hard even his beak was chattering! He is just beginning to be able to thermoregulate, so I'll let him be the judge of when he is warm enough to come out of his box to be fed. I am trying to not handle him too much, but strangely, about once a day, he flies over to my shirt and crawls up the front to snuggle between my shoulder and my neck, just under my hair. It is so heartbreakingly sweet I hate to discourage it. Probably nothing sweet about it--he's just trying to get warm! I think we both enjoy the close contact, as long as he remembers he's a bird.

Look for part 3 in November

OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Kris Buchler (KB) Ed Buchler (EB) Earl Chapin (EC) Jan and Marty Hirth (JMH) David Mann (DM) Shirley Sturts (SHS) Dan Svingen (DS) Judy Waring (JW) Jennifer Welch (JEW) Susan Weller (SW) Roger and Donna Young (RDY)

RBR Rare Bird Report for Northern Idaho - Eastern Washington - Northeastern Oregon Phone (208) 882-6195
or Internet-Web Site:

<http://pimacc.pima.edu/~cwilliamson/index.html>

1. Pacific Loon 1 Pend Oreille lake (Green Monarch area) Sept.1 and 8 (JEW)
2. Common Loon 30 Pend Oreille Lake (Green Monarch area) Sept.1 and 8 (JEW).
2 Beauty Bay, Cd'A Lake Sept. 18 (SHS). 2 Turner Bay and 2 Camp Easton Cd'A Lake (KB,SHS)
3. American Bittern 1 Cataldo Slough Sept. 14 (RY)
4. Turkey Vulture 10 east of Coeur d'Alene I-90 and Mullan Road Aug. 12 (SW).
1 Cataldo area Aug. 14 (SW). 17 Gamblin Lake Sept. 6 (SHS,JW)
5. Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 Potlatch Hill - Cd'A Sept. 24 (KB)
6. Osprey 1 Wolf Lodge Bay, Cd'A Lake Sept. 12 (SHS) This is the last one I've seen.
Does anyone have a later date?
7. Killdeer 7+ feeding in field Rathdrum Prairie Sept. 21 (SHS). 4+ Cd'A Lake along Harlow Pt. Road south of Harrison Sept. 20 and 22 (KB,SHS)
8. Pectoral Sandpiper 3 Cd'A Lake along Harlow Pt. Road south of Harrison Sept. 2 (KB,SHS)
9. Dowitcher (Long-billed?) 4-5 CdA lake along Harlow Pt. Road south of Harrison Sept. 20 and 22 (KB,SHS)
10. Wilson's and Red-Necked Phalaropes several Sewage ponds Genesee Aug.20 (JMH-RBR)
11. Downy Woodpecker 1 Thompson Lake Sept. 22 (KB,SHS)
12. Pileated Woodpecker 1 Potlatch Hill - Cd'A Sept. 23 (EB)
13. Anna's Hummingbird 1 male immature Sept. 10 Viola (JMH-RBR)
14. Rufous hummingbird 1 Fernan Hill Aug. 27 (RY) (last seen)
15. Barn Swallow 2+ Wolf Lodge Bay, CdA lake Sept. 20 (last seen) (KB,SHS)
16. Western Bluebird 1 pr Potlatch Hill - Cd'A Sept. 25 (KB)
17. American Pipit 40 approx. Cd'A River Road Sept. 3 (SHS) ~ 6 Medimont Sept. 18 (SW,SHS) ~ 7+ Rathdrum Prairie Sept. 21 (SHS)
18. Cedar Waxwing 20 Medimont Sept.18 (SW,SHS). 6+ Thompson Lake Sept. 22 (KB,SHS)
19. Orange-Crowned Warbler 1 Rose Creek Road Sept. 3 (SHS)
20. Townsend's Warbler 1 Rose Creek Road Sept. 3 (SHS)
21. MacGillivray's Warbler 1 Harlow Pt. Road south of Harrison Sept. 22 (KB,SHS)
22. Rufous-Sided Towhee 1 Potlatch Hill - Cd'A Sept. 6 (KB)
23. Savannah Sparrow ~3 Medimont Sept.18 (SW,SHS). 30+ Rathdrum Prairie Sept. 21 (SHS)
24. Lincoln Sparrow 1 Medimont Sept. 18 (SW,SHS)
25. White-Crowned Sparrow 1 Harlow Pt. Road south of Harrison Sept. 22 (KB,SHS)
26. White-Throated Sparrow 1 Mann Lake, Lewiston Sept. 11 (DS)
27. White-winged Crossbill 1+ Mount Spokane (DM-RBR) Sept. 14. flocks of 20 and 30 birds up Smith and Trout Creeks north of Sandpoint (EC)

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Answers to Quotes Quiz from page 4

William Shakespeare-Hamlet, Henry David Thoreau, Anonymous, Burma Shave, Spike Van Cleeve, Van Sutherland, O.Henry

Are you reading this newsletter but STILL not a member of the National Audubon Society?



When you join the National Audubon Society, you become an important part of the most effective environmental organization in the world. An organization for nature and wildlife that reflects your concerns and rewards you with an impressive range of benefits.

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\$10 of dues is for AUDUBON magazine. Canadian and foreign members, please add \$10. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of your first issue of AUDUBON.



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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Introductory National Membership \$20

Newsletter Subscription Only \$5

A membership with the National Audubon Society entitles you to chapter membership with the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society and the receipt of the bimonthly Audubon magazine and the chapter newsletter, The Fish Hawk Herald. New Members should send their name and mailing address along with their check made payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY and mail to:

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P.O. Box 361
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

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