



OCTOBER 1997

VOLUME 7

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)

October Dates to Celebrate

October 12-18: National Wildlife Refuge Week

October 18: 25th Anniversary of the Cleanwater Act.

October 26: Global Population Awareness Week

MEETINGS

OCTOBER 6, MONDAY.

BOARD MEETING

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Home of Herb and Jan Severtson

OCTOBER 20 MONDAY

REGULAR MEETING: FERNAN LAKE CONSERVATION ISSUES

Time: 6:30 p.m. Social time

7:00 p.m. Meeting starts

Place: First Presbyterian Church, 521 Lakeside Ave. (Annex building)

Program Bill and Dana Miller, representing the Fernan Lake and Valley Association, will discuss the proposed Fernan Lake road project and the major changes it will effect. They have many concerns about this project, including the environmental impact. Representing the Fernan Lakeside Conservation Task Force, Debbie Verbillis will talk about a development proposed for the hillside on the south side of Fernan Lake. Her group is concerned also about the

environmental impact of this project and are formulating plans to try to buy the property and maintain it as a preserve.

OCTOBER 17-19 FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY - IDAHO AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING

Arrival Time: Friday Evening

Place: N-SID-SEN Camp

Coeur d'Alene Lake near Harrison

Program: See the Sept. Newsletter for details or call Susan Weller at 682-3413

FIELD TRIPS

OCTOBER 16 & NOV. 6 THURSDAY MICA BAY SURVEY

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop Road/Highway 95

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Activity: We will bird the area until 11:00 a.m. so you can plan on being back to Fairmont Loop by 11:30.

OCTOBER 21 TUESDAY

BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

Time: 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Meet: 3rd street entrance to Tubbs Hill

Leader: Roger Young 664-4179

Activity: We will look for migrating waterfowl on the lake and woodpeckers, nuthatches and other familiar woodland residents along Tubbs Hill trail. Roger, a long time resident of Coeur d'Alene, knows a lot about Tubbs History as well as the birds that have been seen there.

OCTOBER 26 SUNDAY

TURNBULL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Time: 8 a.m.

Meet: Rosauers Parking lot - east side

Leaders: Judy Waring 765-5378

Nancy Cergl 773-0991

Activity: This refuge, located just south of Cheney, WA is of prime importance to migrating waterfowl. In past years up to 50,000 birds have been seen in the fall. We will walk some of the many trails and explore this natural haven for wildlife. Bring your spotting scope if you have one, and don't forget your lunch.

CONSERVATION REPORT

From: Susan Weller

OVER 1 MILLION ACRES OF WETLANDS LOST

On September 17th, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released their latest "Status and Trends Report." The report shows that over 1 million acres of wetlands have been lost nationwide over the last ten years. The rate of wetlands loss has slowed since the 1980's when it was estimated that about half a million acres of wetlands were lost per year. However, the rate of wetlands loss still averages about 117,000 acres per year.

The F&W Service report identifies farming as the cause for nearly 80% of all wetlands destruction. However, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to issue permits carte blanche to just about anyone wanting to fill in up to one acre of wetlands. This practice continues despite tough new restrictions and a national goal of "no net loss" regarding wetlands.

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS INITIATIVE

The American Heritage Rivers Initiative faces a severe threat on September 24th when the House Resources Committee considers HR 1842, a bill introduced by Representative Helen Chenoweth which would terminate funding for the Initiative. The AHRI is a newly created voluntary cooperative program designed to support local conservation and historical preservation projects in river communities. Please call Mrs. Chenoweth at her Coeur d'Alene office and tell her you support funding for the American Heritage Rivers Initiative. Her number is 667-0127.

FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

On October 18th, the Federal Clean Water Act will be celebrating twenty-five years of protecting our nation's waters. When the act was first implemented back in the 1970's, it stopped mines in the Silver Valley from dumping mining wastes directly into the Coeur d'Alene River. It will take thousands of years—if not longer—for the

Coeur d'Alene watershed to recover from nearly a century of dumping, dumping that was perfectly legal until the implementation of the Clean Water Act. Put another candle on the birthday cake for the CWA, and toast to another quarter century of protection!



Birdwatching Program Coming to PBS in
October

"BIRDWATCH WITH DON AND LILLIAN STOKES"

This 13-part PBS weekly series on all aspects of watching birds, from the backyard to the wilderness, is available on PBS in October.

In a varied and lively magazine-format, the Stokeses will present entertaining segments on attracting backyard birds, birdwatching trips, bird identification, bird behavior, birding hotspots all across the country (such as Corkscrew Swamp, Santa Ana NWR, Madera Canyon, AZ), and bird conservation. In addition, viewers will be treated to special segments on bird photography, bird artists, bird banding, birding competitions, youth birding, and bird festivals.

At this time, Seattle PBS station KCTS is interested but has not yet set a time or date for airing and other Washington PBS stations have no plans for airing. If you are interested in having this birdwatching series on TV, call your local PBS station to request the series or find out the time and date it will air.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

BIRD SEED/HOUSES/CRAFTS FOR SALE

Orders are being taken for 50 pound bags of black-oil sunflower seed. The price is \$16.00, including tax. Please call Janet 664-1085 to place your order for an early fall delivery. Thistle seed can also be purchased for \$1.50 at the meetings or by calling Janet. Other fund raising items (available at the meetings) include bird houses (call George at 664-2787) and wreaths and nature crafts (good Christmas items) (call Kris 664-4739).

EDUCATION REPORT

Kris Buchler

Our chapter was invited for the third year to participate in teacher Lori Frank's Advanced Biology/Forestry class at Coeur d'Alene High School. Nancy Cergl and Kris Buchler introduced the 21 advanced students to birds and their environmental requirements that might be encountered on the tract of land the students are studying. They will develop a timber management plan incorporating all they learn from various environmental and timber industry professionals.

After a ninety minute program of visual identification, some recognition of birds by ear and bird monitoring techniques, the students were able to examine nests of some of the species their tract will support. They were also able to observe a live Saw-whet Owl, a species often orphaned by logging when the young have not yet fledged.

The following day, five chapter members were undaunted by pouring rain as they accompanied Mrs. Frank and her students on a survey trip of the property. George Saylor, Shirley Sturts, Pam Comrie, Nancy Cergl and Kris Buchler split up with small groups of the students to examine the different habitats and discuss species use, food, shelter and nesting requirements. The land was diverse with two important riparian areas, a clearcut and deep forest. Many of the students asked pertinent questions as well as exhibited a growing knowledge of plants and animals. We encountered a Coeur d'Alene Salamander and numerous deer tracks. Birds were not

active in the heavy rain but the students now have a knowledge of resident and migratory birds they would expect to encounter year round on their property.

They say the third time's a charm, so we expect perfect weather next year if we are invited back to CDA High School!

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Cynthia Langlitz

The last day of summer it was a golden, glorious one - perfect for our 3 mile hike into a beautiful alpine lake, named no doubt for someone's loved one sometime in years past.

Thirteen of us shared the day bird-watching, enjoying scenery, collecting natural "stuff", picking huckleberries, involuntarily "rubbing elbows" with local bear hunters and experiencing a little thing called moose drool. I'm not sure but I think the huckleberries along the trail may have been more popular than the birds we were searching for, because by the time we reached our destination, no one seemed overly hungry for their picnic lunch!

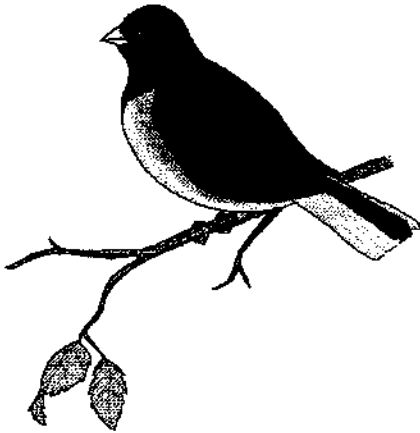
Birds seen, including those seen on the way to and from Lake Estelle trailhead: Rock Dove, Common Ravens, Canada Goose (100+, Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, American Wigeon, Mallard, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Song Sparrow, Barn and Rough-winged Swallow, Double-crested Cormorant, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin (lots!), Clark's Nutcracker (3), Townsend's Solitaire (2), Golden-crowned Kinglet, Steller's Jay (4), White-winged Crossbill (sev.), Winter Wren (3), Mountain Chickadee, Yellow-rumped Warbler (6), Hermit Thrush (2), Varied Thrush (3), Black-billed Magpie, Ruffed Grouse, Hairy Woodpecker, Sharp-shinned Hawk (2), Northern Goshawk (1), Gray Jay (2). Mammals included: Chipmunks, Pikas, men dressed in camouflage with painted faces.

The perfect end to a perfect day was a stop in Sandpoint on the way home at Second Avenue Pizza. We had a great dinner - good food, good companionship, and the fore mentioned little thing called moose drool!

See what you miss out on when you can't get away to join a field trip! Remember - everyone is welcome.

IS YOUR BIRD FEEDER SAFE?

(From Bird Conservation: Summer Nesting 1997 published by the American Bird Conservancy)



Dark-eyed Junco

The most widespread feeder species

feeding stations may contribute to the occurrence of infectious disease and mortality. In recent years there have been unprecedented reports of songbird mortality events and the occurrence of a previously unreported disease in songbirds. The National Wildlife Health Center of the U.S. Geological Survey conducts research on diseases in wildlife, their causes, and means of preventing or reducing disease outbreaks.

Five diseases commonly affect bird species that typically use feeders.

1. Salmonellosis is the most common bird-feeder disease. It is a general term for any disease in animals and people caused by *Salmonella* bacteria. Birds get sick when they eat food contaminated by infected droppings.

2. Trichomoniasis is caused by protozoan parasites and is spread when birds consume contaminated food or water.

3. Aspergillosis is caused by a fungus that grows on damp feed and in the debris beneath feeders. Birds inhale the fungal spores and fungus spreads through their lungs and air sacs, causing bronchitis and pneumonia.

Bird feeding is a popular activity for millions of Americans. Some of our favorite bird species commonly visit bird feeders and these stations may be an important factor in their well-being during some segments of their life cycle.

However, poorly maintained

feeding stations may contribute to the occurrence of

infectious disease and mortality.

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4. Avian Pox is more noticeable than the other diseases. This viral infection causes wartlike growth on featherless surfaces of a bird's face, legs, and feet. It is usually spread by infected mosquitos but is also commonly spread by direct contact with virus-contaminated surfaces.

5. Mycoplasmosis is the most recently discovered disease in songbirds. It is transmitted by direct contact, airborne droplets or dust, and causes conjunctivitis (infection of membranes of the eye). It has spread rapidly through the eastern populations of House finches and has more recently been identified in American Goldfinches. A survey conducted by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has documented the spread of this disease from sightings in suburban Washington, D.C. in 1994 to the entire eastern half of the United States and Canada by the end of 1996.

All of these diseases can lead to death either directly, or indirectly by making birds more vulnerable to the stresses of inclement weather, nutritional deficiencies, and concurrent infections. You can spot sick birds in a crowd. They are less alert, less active, feed less, their feathers look unkempt, and they are often reluctant to fly away.

The pleasures associated with bird feeding should not be jeopardized by disease. By taking the following eight relatively easy steps you can prevent or minimize disease problems of your feeders.

***Give them space:** Avoid crowding by providing ample feeder space.

***Clean up wastes:** Keep the feeder area clean of waste food and droppings. A broom and shovel is good, but a vacuum such as you might use in your workshop will help even more.

***Make feeders safe:** Use feeders without sharp points or edges. Even small scratches allow bacteria and viruses to infect otherwise healthy birds.

Continued on Page 5

MICA BAY SURVEY

Participants: Kris Buchler, Corinne Cameron, Nancy Cergl, Pam Comrie, Nancy Cergl, Alice Gundlach, Bill Gundlach, Shirley Sturts, Vera Wenigor

Species	Sept. 5	Sept. 18
Red-necked Grebe	5	3
Pied-billed Grebe	2	5
Great Blue Heron	1	-
Canada Goose	1	1
Wood Duck	1	9
Mallard	34+	5
American Wigeon	11	11
Blue-winged Teal	-	6
Osprey	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	3	1
American Kestrel	-	1
American Coot	22	7
Ring-billed Gull	2	-
Mourning Dove	3	-
Belted Kingfisher	1	-
Hairy Woodpecker	1	-
Northern Flicker	3	7
Leucis Woodpecker	1	-
Swallows	100+	50+
includes: Tree, Violet-green, Cliff, and Barn		
Steller's Jay	-	1
Black-billed Magpie	-	1
Common Raven	1	11
Chickadee sp.	1	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	-
Swainson's Thrush	3	-
American Robin	3	24+
Gray Catbird	6	-
Cedar Waxwings	9	24+
Chipping Sparrow	6	-
Song Sparrow	5	2
Red-winged Blackbird	12	20+
House Finch	3	-
Pine Siskin	4	1

Of Interest on the Survey

On the Sept. 18th the Robins and Waxwings were gathered in large flocks feeding on the Hawthorne Berries which grow along Mica Creek.

On the Sept. 5th we were treated to two special observations. First of all we saw an otter swimming around in the marsh. Then as the group birded along all Pines Road they heard something crashing through

the marsh coming their way. Much to everyone's surprise a bear cub came out of the bushes a few feet in front of us, ran across the road and disappeared up the wooded hillside.

IS YOUR BIRD FEEDER SAFE?

Continued from page 4

***Keep feeders clean** and disinfect feeders regularly. Use one part of liquid chlorine household bleach in nine parts of tepid water to disinfect. Make enough solution to immerse an empty, cleaned feeder completely for two to three minutes. Allow to air dry. Once or twice a month should do, but weekly cleaning could help more if you notice sick birds at your feeders.

***Use good food** Discard food that smells musty, is wet, looks moldy or has fungus growing on it. Disinfect any storage container that holds spoiled food and the scoop used to fill feeders.

***Prevent contamination** Keep rodents out of stored food. Mice can carry and spread some bird diseases without being affected themselves.

***Act early** Don't wait to act until you see sick or dead birds. With good prevention you'll seldom find sick or dead birds at your feeders.

***Spread the word** Encourage your neighbors who feed birds to follow the same precautions. Birds normally move among feeders and can spread diseases as they go.

Follow these precautions and we can all continue to enjoy feeding and observing healthy wild birds.

For more information contact. National Wildlife Health Center, USGS, Biological Resources Division, 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison, WI 53711-6223 phone (608) 264-5411

- Jane M. Ruth and Milton Friend

KOOTENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE REVIEW "LET'S GET DOWN & DIRTY"

Dan Pennington, manager



It has been a very busy year at Kootenai Refuge. The assistant manager transferred to Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey in early July. His replacement will not be on board until early September.

I have been involved for most of the year planning and trying to obtain challenge grant funding for the Greenhead Marsh Development project on the refuge. If all of the project can be completed, approximately 40 acres of new marsh and 4.5 acres of new riparian habitat would be created, and about 300 acres of existing marsh would be enhanced.

To date, all of the financial commitments have been made and all the agreements are being finalized. The financial partners in this challenge grant project are: Burlington Northern - Santa Fe Railroad, Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Briefly, the Greenhead Marsh project would include: lowering the Kootenai River pump intake in the Kootenai River so water can be pumped on the refuge to maintain wetland habitat when river flows are low (primarily in the fall); a low level dike would be constructed south of Dave's Pond to back water into the greenhead Marsh with an underground pipe to carry water to the marsh; and an additional 4.5 acres of riparian habitat would be planted (2.8 acres of forest and 1.7 acres of shrub-scrub plantings). The estimated cost of the total project is \$315,000. Total funds committed for the project is \$290,000. since we were unable to obtain enough funds to contract out the entire project, the refuge and staff are going to plant the riparian plantings. This is over 6,000 trees and shrubs. Most will be purchased from nurseries.

Here is where the "Let's Get Down & Dirty" comes into play. Planting 6,000 trees and shrubs is a monumental task, especially for the refuge's small staff. I am requesting the help of any and all volunteers to give us a hand with the plantings. So, if you like to make things grow and at the same time help in the survival of our wild friends, this is the opportunity to make a long-lasting contribution and the refuge can really use the help.

We will be planting about 2,000 plants this fall and about 4,000 next spring. If you would be interested in volunteering, please give me a call at (208) 267-3888 or drop me a line at: Dan Pennington, Kootenai NWR, HCR 60 Box 283, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805, Or send me FAX at (208) 267-5570 Or an E:mail at: dan_pennington@fws.gov. Please indicate when you might be available (this fall, next spring or both). Please include your name and phone number so that I can give you a call when I have all the logistics worked out.

Please get the word out to all your friends about the upcoming planting parties, especially those that may not receive the Fish Hawk Herald. (October 12-18 is National Wildlife Refuge Week)

"Your first observation of birds and their behavior can be done by simply learning to drift gently through a wood: a naturalist in a hurry never learns anything of value"

- Gerald Durrell -

"Between now and 2050 the only major outdoor pastime that will grow faster than the national population is bird watching."

- Newsweek June 7, 1997

"A bird came down the walk:
He did not know I saw;
He bit an angle-worm in halves
And ate the fellow, raw"

- Emily Dickinson -

OBSERVATION POST

in comk

Observers: Kris Buchler (KBUC), CDA Chapter members (CAS), Gordon and Pam Comrie (GCOM,PCOM), Rich del Carlo (RDEL), Jean Dodge (JDOD), Marguerite Hernandez (a visitor from Tennessee) (MHER), Rick and Cynthia Langlitz (RLAN,CLAN), Helen and George Oatman (HOAT, GOAT), Zolton Porga (ZPOR), Lynn Sheridan, Shirley Sturts (SSTU), Susan Weller (SWEL), Dr. Robert West (RWES), Roger and Donna Young (RYOU,DYON), 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. Common Loon 32 Carlin Bay, CDA Lake Sept. 18 (HOAT,GOAT); 2 Long Bridge, Sandpoint Sept. 28 GCOM,PCOM, 1 Mica Bay Sept. 22 (MHER) and Oct. 2 (Mica Bay Survey)
2. Western Grebe 20 McArthur Lake Sept. 28 (GCOM,PCOM)
3. Eared Grebe 1 McArthur lake Sept. 28 (GCOM,PCOM); 1 Hauser Lake Sept. 25 (SSTU)
4. American Wigeon 1000+ McArthur lake Sept. 28 (GCOM,PCOM)
5. Osprey 1 McArthur lake Sept. 28 (GCOM,PCOM)
6. Bald Eagle 1 imm. dueling with 2 Osprey that were trying to chase the eagle out of their territory Casco Bay, CDA Lake Sept. 17 (RWES); 1 McArthur Lake Sept. 28 (PCON,GCOM)
7. Northern Harrier 1 Thompson Lake Sept. 28 (RYOU,DYOU,JDOD)
8. Merlin 1 Fernan Lake (East End) Sept. 28 (KBUC,SSTU)
9. Wild Turkey 1 f 4 young Twin Lakes (CLAN)
10. American Coot 1000+ McArthur lake Sept. 28 (GCOM,PCOM)
11. Semipalmated Plover 3+ Thompson Lake Sept. 28 (RYOU,DYOU,JDOD)
12. Spotted Sandpiper 1 Thompson Lake Sept. 28 (RYOU,DYOU,JDOD)
13. Short-billed Dowitcher 2+ Thompson Lake Sept. 28 (RYOU,DYOU,JDOD)
14. Bonaparte's Gull 1 Kootenai River Sept. 30 (RDEL)
15. Herring Gull 1 imm. NIC Beach Sept. 23 (SWEL,CAS)
16. Common Tern 2 imm. Mica Bay Survey Oct. 2 (SSTU,KBUC,LSHE,PCOM)
17. Red-naped Sapsucker 1 Fernan Hill (home) Sept. 30 (RYOU)
18. Hairy Woodpecker 1 Twin Lakes Sept. 14 (CLAN)
19. Pileated Woodpecker 1 Sept. 24 Hayden Lake Country Club Golf Course (RLAN) 5 (a family group) in Potlatch (ZPOR)
20. Empidonax (sp) Flycatcher 1 Coeur d'Alene (2nd street home) Oct.3 (PCOM)
21. N. Rough-winged Swallow 2 Coeur D'Alene City Sept. 25 (CLAN)
22. Barn Swallow 3 Coeur d'Alene City Sept. 25 (CLAN)
23. Pygmy Nuthatch several NIC Beach Sept. 23 (SWEL,CAS)
24. Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 Coeur d'Alene city (2nd street home) Oct.2-4 (PCOM,GCOM)
25. Steller's Jay 4 Casco Bay, CDA Lake mid Sept. (RWES); 1 seen throughout Sept. at the feeders of SSTU,KBUC
26. Clark's Nutcracker 7 flying over his house in Potlatch Sept.30 (ZPOR)
27. Bluebird (Western and Mountain) several flocking Twin Lakes Sept. 14 (CLAN)
28. American Robin 40-50 moving through the Cataldo area Sept. 27 (SWEL) More than usual numbers feeding around his home on Fernan Lake Sept. 30 (RYOU) Around 50 feeding on Hawthorne Berries at Mica Bay (Mica Bay Survey)
29. Solitary Vireo 1 Twin Lakes Sept. 14 (CLAN)
30. Yellow-Rumped Warbler 5+ Twin Lakes Sept. 14 (CLAN), 2 CDA city home Oct. 4 (PCOM,GCOM)
31. Chipping Sparrow 3 Twin Lakes Sept. 14 (CLAN)
32. Savannah Sparrow 6+ Rathdrum Prairie Sept. 14 (CLAN)
33. Western Meadowlark 3 Mica Flats Oct. 2 (PCOM,KBUC,LSHE,SSTU)

"Birding..... is not just a hobby to fill in the empty hours. It is a way of life, in tune with the total natural scene. Call it an addiction if you like; but it is a benign addiction from which great blessings flow.

- Lola Oberman -

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member in the National Audubon Society and my local chapter, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter (Chapter Code GO67XCH8).

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

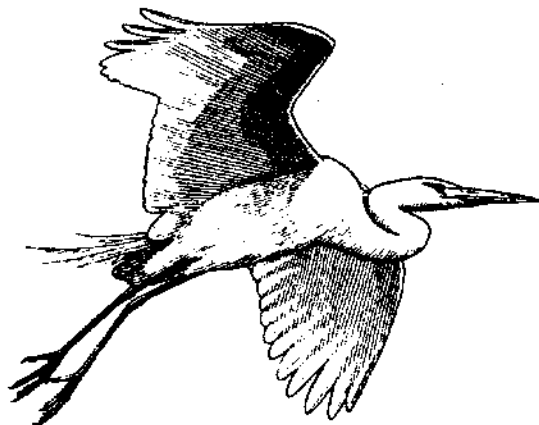
Introductory membership is \$20.00 for individual or family.

Members receive 6 issues of Audubon magazine and the chapter's local newsletter. Please make check payable to the National Audubon Society and mail to Jan Severtson,

Membership Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter, P.O. Box 361, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Subscription to the The Fish Hawk Herald newsletter only is \$10.00. Please make checks payable to the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter and mail to Jan Severtson, Membership Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter, P.O. Box 361, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

**National Audubon Society
Coeur d'Alene Chapter
P.O. Box 361
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816**



GREAT EGRET

Ardea alba

