

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

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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)

SEPTEMBER 19 TUESDAY REGULAR MEETING: BEACH, BIRDS, AND STARS

Time: 6:30

Place: NIC Beach

Program: As summer comes to a close and the kids head back to school, the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society resumes monthly meetings. Come out and meet your newly elected officers and enjoy a full evening of activities beginning with a hot dog roast. Hot dogs and buns will be provided, but participants are asked to bring their own drinks, dishes, utensils, and sticks to hold hot dogs for roasting.

After dinner, join us for an hour of birding along the Spokane River and Lake Coeur d'Alene. Bring your binoculars and spotting scopes for birding and for another purpose as well - star-gazing. As darkness falls, NIC Astronomy professor Curt Nelson will join us on the beach to guide us among the planets and constellations. The fall sky reveals Sagittarius, Scorpius, Cassiopeia, the Big Dipper and other heavenly bodies. Not only can Mr. Nelson read the night sky like the rest of us read a road map, he's also quite knowledgeable about the myths and legends many cultures associate with stars and planets.

Participants will want to dress in layers, as September days are often warm, but the evenings are chilly. Be sure to bring a blanket or lawn chairs, as picnic tables are limited.

SEPTEMBER 26 TUESDAY BIRDING WITH A BROWN-BAG

A series of lunch-time birding trips have been planned in response to requests by beginning birders who may not have the time, or the inclination, to participate in one of Audubon's all-day weekend field trips. The series is meant to target anyone who has one hour for lunch, likes to walk, and who may be located in the downtown area of Coeur d'Alene, but everyone is invited to attend! First in the series will be:
Time: 12 Noon-1:00 p.m.

Place: NIC Campus - meet in front of the gymnasium

Leader: Susan Weller - 682-3413

Activity: Susan will point out the bird species that winter on the NIC campus, including Pygmy Nuthatch, Townsend's Solitaire and Pileated Woodpecker.

SEPTEMBER 30, SATURDAY BIRDING BY BOAT GAMBLIN LAKE

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Judy Waring, 765-5378

Meet: Ron's Supermarket on Hwy 95

Activity: Plan on joining in on a return field trip to Gamlin Lake.

Last springs' visit there was such a success that a repeat trip has been scheduled. We will tour the lake in canoes, and by foot, enjoying a nice fall day (hopefully). Our bird sightings will be given to the Nature Conservancy who will use the data in compiling a pamphlet. Seats in canoes will possibly be available and there is a trail along the lake for those who would like to walk. Bring a lunch and binoculars. For more info call Judy.

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Audubon Facts

The mission of the National Audubon Society is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In early 1987 I acquired vision. I didn't get ethereal or intelligent. What I did was grab binoculars and go to a birding class offered through a community education class. There I discovered the world of birds. Birds and other small creatures share the universe with us, yet until we learn how to use binoculars or sit down and quietly listen and watch, we are barely aware. The excitement of birding is much like that of hunting. I've done my share of hunting, but I find that I like the ending better when I identify than when I kill. In fact I come away from a birding trip with a strong desire to ensure that the birds I have seen will continue to live.

It becomes apparent to me that if I want to keep going back to visit the wildlife, that I have to become an advocate and a caretaker of wildlife habitat. The National Audubon Society provides many opportunities for us to achieve these goals.

On the local level the Coeur d'Alene Chapter provides regular monthly meetings to meet other people with similar interests in nature, share wildlife sightings and stories, and listen to programs about the world around us. We have regular field trips to share good nature viewingsites and to help the less skilled, like me, learn how to see and hear. Chapter education and conservation committees go into our community to share what we know and urge the preservation and improvement of wildlife habitat. Two new projects we hope to do this year are: (1) to "adopt" a wetland, and (2) to provide a scholarship for an educator to attend an Audubon Ecology Camp.

We are looking forward to a great year. Please come out and join in.

Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Grant for Ecology Workshops

Our Executive Board has voted to make available in 1996, a grant to help

meet the cost of a week of field ecology studies at the Audubon Camp in the West, located at the Whiskey Mountain Wildlife Conservation Camp in Wyoming.

Mountain ecology is the main theme of this week-long workshop. Audubon instructors present lessons on topics such as interaction between western plants and animal and the physical environment, geology, unique birds, mammals, insects and flowers.

To qualify the applicant must be 18 years or older, have a commitment to environmental studies and a plan to use knowledge gained from the workshop for community education. This grant is especially applicable to professional educators, but we also welcome adults in positions of community service (scout leaders, youth directors, etc.) and 18-year old students who have demonstrated an interest in environmental studies.

Look for more information as to dates, costs, and how to apply in the October Newsletter.

Anyone wishing to help our Chapter fund this grant can send a check to:

The Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society Grant Fund
 P.O. Box 361
 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Blackwell Island Decision

After much soul searching the Executive Board of the Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society voted to proceed with an appeal on the decision by the BLM to construct a five-lane boat ramp including parking for 140 vehicles with trailers and 54 vehicles without trailers.

Open spaces for wildlife and wildlife viewing with public access continue to diminish in and around Coeur d'Alene. Members felt that taking close to 20% of the island for a parking and boat ramp activities was not in the best interests of wildlife or the people of Coeur d'Alene.

The board wants the BLM to take a second look at lower impact alternatives such as their proposed 2 lane boat ramp with a much smaller parking area. It is primarily the magnitude of the project that the board objects to.

THE 1995 NATIONAL PARTNERS IN FLIGHT WORKSHOP

Susan Weller and Shirley Sturts will be heading to Cape May, New Jersey for the Partners in Flight Workshop Oct. 1-5 as part of the Idaho delegation. The purpose of the workshop is to develop the blueprint for the Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan. The PIF management committee hopes to build consensus for the plan by involving all states and regions in developing one coordinated effort to maintain bird populations nationwide.

The following bird story will be in serial
this being Part 1



TO RAISE A SWALLOW

by Susan Weller

Anyone who has ever tried to rear and abandoned song bird knows what a

heartbreaking task it can be. You can put in hours--even days--trying to give a nestling every opportunity to survive, and they often die anyway. Birds are fragile creatures with complicated system, and it is often better to leave a young bird where you have found it, unless you know the nest, or the parents, have been destroyed. In fact, it is one of my personal rules to never interfere with nature as regards young songbirds. Lately, I broke my own rule, by accepting a violet-green swallow nestling that had become homeless because of a neighbor's logging operation. The following story has been excerpted from a diary I kept for the month this swallow was part of my life.

6 July. I have taken in a young bird today, I believe it is a Tree-Swallow. Judging by the development of his feathers, he appears to be about ten

days old. His feathers are still furled inside their sheaths and bits of scanty down are still visible here and there. He is extremely top-heavy--all head and beak, and has scrawny, vulture-like wings. He is very lethargic and his eyes are squinty and sleepy. I force fed him 2 worms, a few mosquitoes, and a slug. He rewarded me with 3 little fecal sacks that were easy to remove from his bedding

7 July I can't believe he made it overnight! I had to force feed him most of the day, but at 2:30 p.m. he gaped for me and willingly swallowed the gnats and skeeters I offered. According to the literature, he must be a tree-swallow because his gape is yellow. Now he is uttering a single note peep when I offer him food on the end of a bamboo skewer. His eyes are open and he is alert and ambulatory. This evening, his appetite is enormous. So far, he's still passing good, solid, self-contained fecal sacks--a good sign.

8 July. My little swallow took his first exercise today with much wing flapping. He perks up considerably when I play tapes of violet-green and tree swallows, and even eats with more gusto while listening to this swallow-music. Now he voices two peeps when I am feeding him, or when he wants attention. I perched him on a stick today, which is probably much sooner than he would be doing so on his own, but he needs to be strong. I spend the first two hours of my day on Fern Creek with a fly-swatter. I can collect about one-hundred mosquitoes, twenty-five flies, three yellow jackets, and the occasional May or caddis fly. He consumes this mixture in a couple of hours, and then I supplement his diet with house flies I have hatched from maggots. He also likes crickets from Duncan's Pet Store, but I have to cut them up into pieces for him. According to what I've been able to learn from research, the insect order Diptera should make up about 46% of his diet. I am careful to model his diet accordingly, trying to match the mixture taken from the crops of swallows collected by scientists in the wild. He likes to be fed about once an hour.

Look for part 2 in the Oct. issue

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 7

- send quotes to the editor for future newsletters)

"With heigh! with heigh! the thrush and the jay..."

"Birdwatching is a bloodless expression of man's primitive hunting instincts. We have substituted binoculars and cameras for the gun, but we still seek a trophy - A new species on a life list, or photographs of one of earth's rarest and most exquisite creatures. Our search may take us no farther than a nearby meadow - Or it can lead to the cloud forests of tropical mountains."

"A wonderful bird is the pelican
Whose beak holds more than his belican;
He can take in his beak
Food enough for a week,
But I'm darned if I know how the
helican."

"Many count their chickens before they are hatched."

"If it's not colorful and easily identifiable - Who Cares!"

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"Technology is dominated by two types of people: those who understand what they do not manage, and those who manage what they do not understand"
-Archibald Putt-

AVIANTICS

by Marge Probert

(Marge is a member of the Audubon Society who recently moved from Post Falls to Sandpoint)

Birds are nature's motion gems
Adorning tree and home
The breadth and girth of continents
No matter where they roam.

Creation's little wonders
Entertain us all
Performing feats and belting songs
Springtime into fall.

Varied color plumage
Stunning to behold
Little feathered rainbows
Never became old.

Work night and day to feed their young
And rarely they complain
When old enough they push the young
To seek their own terrain

I wish we had their pleasant ways
And we could get along
To work and work and not complain
And do it with a song

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Hours: M-F 10-6 Sat. 9-5
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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

CENTURY COUNT

by Wallace F. Keck

Back in April, Shirley Sturts suggested to me the idea of conducting a century count. Generally, such counts are held as competitions, but since it would be a first for North Idaho, we decided to try it as a marathon field trip just to see if it was possible.

On Monday, May 22, at 5 a.m., seven hardy birders met at the Fernan Ranger Station to meet the challenge--100 bird in a day. In the lead vehicle, I controlled the wheel and the general route with Steve Lindsey and Corrine Cameron. In car number two, eating most of the lead car's dust was Judy Waring at the wheel with Kris Buchler, Nancy Mertz, and Cynthia Langlitz.

Prior to leaving, the group had already accounted the following birds either by observation on the way to Fernan or from the parking lot: (1) American Robin (2) European Starling (3) House Sparrow (4) Red Crossbill (5) Osprey (6) House Finch (7) Red-breasted Nuthatch (8) Violet-green Swallow (9) Canada Goose (10) Brewer's Blackbird (11) Cassin's Finch (12) Dark-eyed Junco (13) Rufous-sided Towhee (14) Cedar Waxwing (15) Ring-necked Pheasant (16) Common Crow (17) Ring-billed Gull (18) Great Blue Heron (19) Song Sparrow (20) Rufous Hummingbird (21) Common Raven (22) Rock Dove.

The first stop was Wolf Lodge Bay, where we observed (23) Western Grebe (24) American Goldfinch (25) Barn Swallow (26) Killdeer (27) Cliff Swallow (28) Red-winged Blackbird (29) Yellow Warbler (30) Vaux's Swift (31) Tree Swallow (32) Wood Duck (33) Common Loon (34) Northern Rough-winged Swallow (35) Mallard. By 6 a.m., we had already seen over a third of the birds for the count.

Continuing on I-90 over Fourth of July Pass, we picked up (36) Yellow-rumped Warbler. Descending Highway 3, we stopped frequently between Purdee and Kilarney Lake to pick up (37) Belted Kingfisher (38) American Coot (39) Northern Shoveler (40) Ring-necked Duck (41) Cinnamon Teal (42) Brown-headed Cowbird (43) Red-head Duck (44) Green-winged Teal.

Nearing the campground at Kilarney, we observed (45) Black Tern (46) Bald Eagle (47) Downy Woodpecker (48) MacGillivray's Warbler (49) Western Wood Pewee (50) Red-necked Grebe (1/2 way at 7:22 a.m.) (51) Common Merganser (52) Chipping Sparrow (53) California Gull (54) Bonaparte's Gull.

On the way to Rainy Hill near Medimont we observed (55) Red-tailed Hawk (56) Yellow-headed Blackbird (57) Black-billed Magpie. Near Black Lake we saw (58) Mourning Dove, a huge Heronry, (59) Turkey Vulture (60) Black-capped Chickadee. On Highway 97 over Harrison Flats we saw (61) American Kestrel (62) Western Meadowlark (63) Northern Flicker (64) Savannah Sparrow.

In the Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management Area we observed (65) Pied-billed Grebe (66) Eastern Kingbird (67) Gadwall (68) Blue-winged Teal (69) Swainson's Hawk (70) Bufflehead. A badly needed break was taken in town. It was 11 a.m., and we had observed only three new birds in the past hour and a half.

We stopped at Cottonwood picnic area at Heyburn State Park for lunch and observed (72) Red-naped Sapsucker. On the Plummer Creek Trail we observed (73) Common Yellowthroat (74) Black-headed Grosbeak (75) Pileated Woodpecker (76) Pygmy Nuthatch (77) Chestnut-backed Chickadee (78) Townsend's Warbler (79) House Wren. A quick stop at the Fighting Creek landfill produced no new sightings.

On the way to Mica Bay we picked up (80) Western Bluebird. At the bay: (81) Spotted Sandpiper. At NIC (Ft. Sherman Park) we took another badly needed rest and waited for Shirley Sturts and Gertie Hanson to arrive with additional sightings. Shirley reported (82) Ruffed Grouse, while Gertie contributed (83) Solitary Vireo (84) Hammond's Flycatcher (85) Cordilleran Flycatcher (86) Western Tanager (87) Swainson's Thrush (88) Wilson's Warbler (89) Calliope Hummingbird.

A quick drive out to the field behind the outlet mall in Post Falls produced (90) Horned Lark. Another long dry spell was broken around 6 p.m. with (91) Mountain Bluebird (92) Red-eyed Vireo. We decided to split up and cover

continued on page 6

Century Count - Continued from page

two crucial areas: Car #1 went up the Bunco Road to Chilco Mountain and #2 took Farragut State Park. On the mountain, nothing new was seen, just visual confirmations of Mtn. Bluebird and Townsend's Warbler. Farragut produced (93) Ruby-crowned Kinglet (94) Golden-crowned Kinglet (95) Pine Siskin (96) Western Kingbird.

Granite and Kelso Lakes produced nothing new, but in the marshes of Hoodoo Valley we heard (97) American Bittern, and saw (98) Northern Harrier (99) Marsh Wren. At 8:15 p.m. we reached the goal with (100) Common Snipe over a field in Hoodoo Valley. Later in the evening, Gertie reported (101) Cooper's Hawk and Susan Weller contributed (102) Sora (103) Mountain Chickadee from her post on Gamlin Lake.

BIRD FESTIVALS AND ECONOMICS

Birding as a hobby is becoming more popular year by year. A study by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service showed Americans spending \$18.1 billion a year to watch wildlife with at least \$5.2 billion of that going to watch birds.

An example of the economic impact the hobby of birdwatching is having in some areas of our country is the 1st Annual Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival, "Tropical birds of the Border" held Nov. 3-6, 1994. It was hosted by the Harlingen Chamber of Commerce and had an estimated economic impact of \$266,000. The July/Aug. 1995 Bird Watcher's Digest lists 22 Birding Festivals that are held annually in the United States. It would be interesting to know how much money is spent in our area by people coming to watch Bald Eagles every winter.

There are two Birding Festivals scheduled in November.

(1) Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival "Tropical Birds of the Border" Nov. 8-12, 1995 Write to:
R.G.V. Birding Festival
P.O. Box 3162
Harlingen, TX 78551-3162

(2) Festival of the Cranes in New Mexico Nov. 16-19, 1995 Write to:
Festival of the Cranes
P.O. Box 743 BD,
Socorro, New Mexico 87801
call (505) 835-0424

ARMCHAIR ACTIVIST



Audubon's Armchair activist is an exciting chapter development program that builds both membership and leadership. As one of the cornerstones of Audubon's grassroots efforts, chapters across the country work together under the banner of the Audubon Armchair Activist program and are truly making a big impact in our collective efforts to protect the environment

Armchair Activist is directed toward Audubon chapter members who- for whatever reason - don't participate in mainstream chapter meetings, but want to make a difference. Individuals in the Armchair network have committed a small amount of time each month to the Audubon Cause in ways that can really make a difference while accommodating a busy lifestyle. Through activities such as the letter of the Month, chapter members can respond to national, state, local and regional issues with the stroke of a pen, without leaving their home. The Telephone Rapid Response Team is another successful effort to mobilize and generate phone calls on urgent issues when needed. When Auduboners across the country unite in action, we are able to move critical legislation and affect policy in a new and powerful way.

We hope you will join Audubon's Armchair Activist program and become part of the growing network of individuals working together to protect our natural world.

For more information on joining an existing program in your area, or starting an Armchair activist program for your chapter, contact Armchair /Activist, 800-659-2622

OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Dave Anthony (DA) Kris Buchler (KRB) Gordan Comrie (GC) Pat Cole (PC) Tammy Croghan (TC) Lindy Garner (LG) John Gatchet (JG) Sharon Gould (SG) Gertie Hanson (GH), Don Johnson (DJ) Ron Jurcevich (RJ) Wallace Keck (WFK) Steve Lindsay (SL) Wayne Melquist (WM) John W. Nigh (JWN), Beth Paragamian (BP) Theresa Potts (TP) Shirley Sturts (SHS), Lee Strelz (LS) Dan Svingen (DNS) Susan Weller (SW) Phil and Judy Waring (PJW) Roger Young (RY).

1. Common Loon 1 Cleland Bay, CDA Lake June 21 (DJ)
2. Eared Grebe 4 McArthur Lake WMA July 31 (PC)
3. Double-Crested Cormorant 2 Clark Fork Delta June 14 (PC) and up to 9 on Morten Slough, Pend Oreille Lake July 24-31 (PC)
4. Canada Goose 37 nests on the lower St. Joe and 60 nests on the CDA River basin (JWN)
5. White-winged Scoter 3 McArthur Lake WMA July 31 (PC)
6. Osprey 111 banded in the CDA System (DJ,WM), 29 nests on the Lower St. Joe and 60 nests on the Lower CDA River (JWN)
7. Northern Harrier 1 Fernan Hill July 20 (RY)
8. Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 Farragut State Park July 15 (KRB)
9. Cooper's Hawk 1 Blackwell Hill June 11 (GH): 1 in Potlatch (ZP)
10. Northern Goshawk 1 Rathdrum Prairie mid July (RJ)
11. California Quail 1 male with 12 chicks Fernan Hill (RY)
12. Sandhill Crane 2 McArthur Lake WMA June 2 (PC)
13. Long-billed Curlew 1 Farragut State Park May 31 (DA fide KRB)
14. Caspian Tern 2 Cougar Bay, CDA Lake June 4 (GC)
15. Great Horned Owl 1 young one picked up at a farm near Plummer in starving condition (KRB,SHS) and is currently being rehabilitated at the home of (KRB)
16. Common Nighthawk First ones seen 6/4 Crane Point (ZP and 6/9 Blackwell Hill (GH) also reported by (RY,SL)
17. Broad-tailed Hummingbird 1 comes to feeder 1-2 times a week Emerald Estates n. of Hayden lake (LS)
18. Williamson's Sapsucker 1 pr Bear Basin north of McCall (SHS,KRB,BP,LG)
19. Cordilleran Flycatcher 1 nest Hayden Lake on beam that supports her porch (SG)
20. Western Kingbird 2 all summer Rathdrum Prairie (TC fide SHS)
21. Clark's Nutcracker 2 Steven's Peak trail June 30 (SHS)
22. Rock Wren 1 gravel pit on Blackwell Hill 6/13 assumed it nested there (GH)
23. Marsh Wren 1 Thompson Lake 6/10 (JWN)
24. American Dipper 2-3 fledged young being fed by adult at the Cedar Creek Campground north of Clarkia (ZP)
25. Townsend's Solitaire 1 Blackwell Hill 7/20 (GH) Arrowhead Road 5/26 (TP)
26. Hermit Thrush 3-4 heard Bear Basin n. of McCall (SHS,KRB,BP,LG); 1 Steven's Peak trail 6/30 (SHS)
27. American Pipit 1 pr w/dependent young Selkirk Mts. Chimney Rock 7/22 (DNS,JG) A first breeding record for North Idaho
28. Chestnut-Sided Warbler 1 City of Rocks National Reserve (WFK) This is a 6th record for Idaho and a first for latilong 26 Good Birding Wallace!!!
29. Common Yellowthroat 1 Cataldo area 6/10 (SW,SHS) 6+ Clark Fork Delta 7/18 (SHS,KRB,PJW)

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 Answers to Quotes Quiz from page 4

The Winter Tale - James A Kern - Dixon Lanier Merritt - Miguel de Cervantes, Don Quixote - Phil Waring

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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:

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

National Audubon Chapter
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