



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)

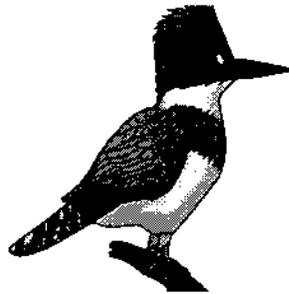
MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 17 TUESDAY REGULAR MEETING: BEACH, BIRDS AND STARS

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: NIC Beach

Program: Come join us on the beach for a hot dog roast, a bird walk along the beach and as darkness falls stargazing with NIC Astronomy professor Curt Nelson. Mr. Nelson will guide us among the planets and constellations as he relates myths and legends that many cultures associate with stars and planets.



Belted Kingfisher Chloroceryle americana

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. Bring binoculars and spotting scopes for birding and star-gazing. 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.

FIELD TRIPS

SEPTEMBER 21 SATURDAY THOMPSON LAKE

Time: 8 a.m.

Meet: Fernan Ranger Station on East Sherman

Leaders: Gordon and Pam Comrie 664-1050

Activity: It's time to look for fall migrants and Thompson Lake near Harrison is one of the best locations for finding a variety of waterfowl and other feathered friends. There are some good areas to bird coming and going as well. Bring a lunch. This is an all day field trip.

SEPTEMBER 17 and OCTOBER 1 TUESDAY OCTOBER 20 SATURDAY MICA BAY SURVEY

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop Road Turn Off, just south of the Spokane River Bridge on Highway 95

Leaders: 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.

SEPTEMBER 26 THURSDAY BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

1st in a series of noon time birding

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

Meet: East end of Fernan Lake by the boat ramp

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Activity: We will look for birds on the lake as well as in the riparian growth along Fernan Creek. Take a break from your daily routine for some fun birdwatching with fellow birders.

CALENDAR CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



CALENDAR CHECK

Continued from page 1

OCTOBER 5-6 SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

MANN LAKE - LEWISTON AREA

Leader: Gordon Comrie 664-1050

Activity We will leave Saturday morning and return Sunday night. Check with Gordon or Pam for time and place to meet and for information on overnight accommodations.

Mann Lake is a 35-acre reservoir operated by the Lewiston Orchards Irrigation District. Management of the area consists of removing water-side vegetation and rapid water removal in July through September. This results in 1-5 meters of fresh mud being exposed each week. This has made the area one of Idaho's birding hot spots for shorebird migration. A variety of shorebirds are possible including Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Baird's Sandpiper, American Avocet, Stilt Sandpiper, and Semipalmated Plover. Dowitchers, peeps and plovers are commonly seen there.

IDAHO AUDUBON COUNCIL (IAC)

WHAT IS THE IAC??

The IAC is a non-profit conservation organization serving the 2500 members belonging to one of 7 local Audubon chapters in the state.

SERVING:

North Idaho Audubon Society
Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society
Palouse Audubon Society
Snake River Audubon Society
Golden Eagle Audubon Society
Prairie Falcon Audubon Society
Portneuf Valley Audubon Society

OFFICERS:

President: Susan Weller (Cataldo)
Secretary: Chuck Trost (Pocatello)
Treasurer: Carol Mabe (Boise)

WHAT IAC DOES

- * Promotes and encourages the conservation, preservation and protection of our natural resources, wildlife and their habitats
- * alerts the public through education
- * communicates with public officials on environmental issues
- * sponsors programs to help children and adults to become aware of their relationship with the environment.

IAC FALL MEETING

The fall meeting of IAC was held in Boise on August 16 and 17. Susan Weller (President of IAC) and Mike Mihelich (CDA Chapter conservation chair) were among those attending. One of the highlights of the meeting was an address by Frank Gill, Senior Vice President for the National Audubon's Science Division. The following is an excerpt from the minutes of this meeting submitted for Chuck Trost, secretary by Susan Weller. Frank began by asserting that Audubon should "move the psychology of Audubon and conservation from 'doom and gloom', to one of restoration." He said by "linking advocacy and volunteerism to Science, NAS will lead America's conservation agenda by building grassroots passion and ability to save birds, wildlife, and their habitat."

Frank said he believed that "citizens have not been rallied and fully used," and that we had to build a "Culture of Conservation." He used the success of the recycling movement as an analogy for what might be achieved in conservation. To do that, Frank thinks Audubon must "act as an interface between science and the public," and must:

1. Put Birds Back in Audubon
Big Time, Front and Center
Bird Habitats, Bird Populations
2. Build Strong Partnerships
Internal Excellence
Audubon Associations
3. Realize Citizen Science.

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WILD GOBBLERS IN IDAHO

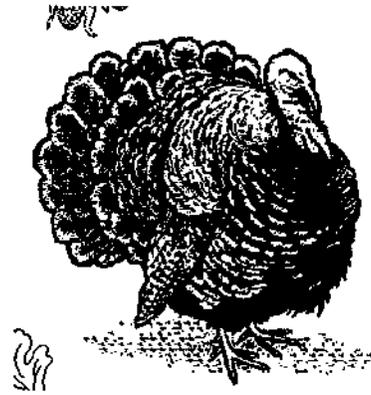
by Susan Weller

When I first moved to Idaho, wild turkeys frequented my property until a neighbor's dogs discovered they could come over and chase them when I was gone. Last summer the neighbors moved--lock, stock, and trailer--to another location, and the turkeys have returned.

They've been here for two months now, hunting and pecking among the locust tree pods, the debris under the bird feeders, and the occasional coffee can full of cracked corn. They even peck at the peanut butter and cornmeal I smear on the windbreak trees for the juncos. Turkeys eat seeds, fruits, nuts, and insects, but also nip at tender buds and grass blades. Frogs, toads, salamanders, lizards, snakes--even fiddler crabs--have to be on the look-out when turkeys are in the vicinity.

Wild turkeys, indigenous to North America, were taken to Europe via the Turkish Empire in the 1500's by Conquistadors from Mexico, thus the name "turkey." The wild turkey was scientifically dubbed *Meleagris gallopavo* by Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus in the mid-1700's. Mythology buffs will note that Meleager was a Greek hero known as one of Jason's Argonauts, and for slaying the Calydonian boar. I recall few clues in the story that would indicate why Linnaeus felt the name appropriate. Maybe it's because the story ends with the Goddess Diana turning Meleager's sisters into birds.

Wild turkeys were said to be numerous in the U.S., and widely distributed. Native Americans found the birds easily domesticated, and turkeys were an important food source for Indians in the Southwest and Mexico. In Europe, America's wild turkey was also domesticated, then brought back to the Americas with English settlers. Our own John James Audubon made the wild turkey Plate No. 1 in his series of paintings Birds of North America. We all know the story about Ben Franklin, who extolled their virtues and lobbied



to make the turkey our national symbol.

I believe our founding fathers had it right when they chose the bald eagle, but one has to observe turkeys for only

a little while before the heart grows fond. They indeed have many attributes, including an interesting social structure that allows flocks of over sixty birds to live in relative peace and harmony.

A lot of posturing and sparring goes on between breeding males, but this behavior is mostly ignored by the females. Even the spurs on the male's legs seldom inflict injury. Young males strut and fan at the periphery, tucking and running if they see an older male coming to investigate.

A definite pecking order may be observed, with the breeding males and females getting the best feeding, watering, and roosting areas. Last year's young are at the bottom of the totem pole. It's easy to identify the young turkey that answers to the number 50 slot in the flock at my house. I wonder if she is mentally inferior to the rest, as she runs from corn dumped right in front of her--even if she's the only turkey who sees it. She is constantly dodging pecks and kicks as she attempts to glean a morsel or two from the grass. Maybe like Pavlov's Dog, she associates food with getting a communal drubbing, or perhaps she simply knows her place.

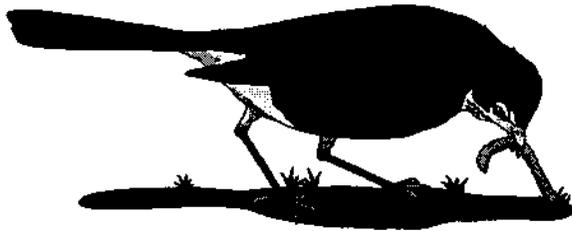
I am most impressed by the sentinels. These are the birds that stand guard while the rest of the flock hunts and scratches for food. The sentinels stand at the edges of the group, alert and standing erect, stretching for every inch of their 3-4 foot height as if on tip-toe. They appear to take their duties seriously, protecting the flock by watching for predators, or other intruders.

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BIRD QUOTES

There are many memorable quotes and quips about birds.
How many can you recognize?

(send quotes to the editor for future newsletters)



"If life was fair, the robin wouldn't be able to eat the worm." - Anonymous

INSULTS

"What a birdbrain."

"What a turkey."

"You silly old coot."

"You don't have the sense God gave Geese."

"You silly goose."

"That old quack!"

"Dumb as a dodo"

"Totally cuckoo"

"Dumb cluck"

"Crazy as a loon"

WILD GOBBLERS....CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Sentinels are comprised of both sexes and do not feed until replaced by another sentinel. They seem to communicate with body posture and a variety of basic calls.

A sentinel will utter an abrupt "putt," when alarmed, bringing the heads of the flock snapping to attention. A sharp "cluck," known as assembly, brings them scurrying from various locations to form a dense group. Sometimes,

when the males are strutting in one place, and the females foraging or loafing in another, a bird will utter a loud "keouk-keouk-keouk-keouk." This call seems to mean "Hey, where are you guys?" It appears to be a means of keeping in touch with the other members of the flock.

Gobbling has got to be the most hilarious call. The sound isn't exactly dignified to begin with, but the young male's hoarse, shrill gobble reminds me of a boy's voice changing in puberty. It's a riot when the male turkeys gobble in unison in response to a car door being slammed, or some other loud noise. They lean forward, stretch out their red and blue necks, and caruncles wattling, gobble like a demented band of barber shop quartets.

The sound of turkeys gobbling in Idaho is the result of re-introduction of the species by the Department of Fish and Game. In the mid-1960's a former Fish and Game Officer re-introduced the wild turkey near Bonner's Ferry. When the birds flourished, and hunters began to request that the Department get involved, a program to re-introduce turkeys state-wide was implemented. Indeed, the habitat in northern Idaho is perfect for wild turkeys, and the program has been a resounding success for nearly thirty years.

Eight years ago, nearly all the turkeys that visited my property were banded. Now, not one of a flock of 50 is sporting a metal ring around a leg, leading me to believe that turkey turnover is fairly high. Turkeys may live to be 9-14 years of age in the wild, but that would be rare. The flock seems to have stabilized at about 50 birds. In the summer, up to 60 chicks may be counted among the adults, but fledgling mortality is high.

I enjoy observing turkeys of any age. I like having them around even if they do leave behind a lot of turkey poop--heck, it will be good fertilizer for the lawn. Soon, the turkeys will disappear into the woods for a month to build nests and incubate eggs. Returning warblers and other neotropical songbirds will keep me enthralled during this time, but I'll be watching for the turkeys to come strutting back into my life. (SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION SPRING 1996 ed.)

MICA BAY SURVEY

Survey Participants: Kris Buchler, Corrine Cameron, Cliff Cameron, Pam Comrie, Nancy Cergl, Pam Comrie, Bill Gundlach, Jerry and Sharon Hanson, Theresa Potts, Shirley Sturts, Roger Young

Survey days: June 6, June 20, July 3, July 16, Aug. 6, Aug. 20

Common Loon: 1 July 2 in basic plumage

Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Aug. 6

Red-necked Grebe: 6 pair all summer no young observed

Great Blue Heron: 12+ nests counted - 1-7 feeding during summer

Canada Goose: 4 pr with 20 goslings - highest number seen during summer 44

Wood Duck: 4 pair seen over summer with 5,6,6 and 9 young

Mallard: 5 pair seen over summer with 2,3,8,8,11 young - high number 20

Green-winged Teal: 1 on June 6

American Wigeon: 1 June 6 and 20

Common Merganser: 1 June 6 and 20

Turkey Vulture: 4 June 20, 1 Aug. 20

Osprey: 1 pair on nest fledged 2 young

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Aug. 20

Red-tailed Hawk: 1-3 over summer

Sora: 1 June 6

American Coot: 1 Aug. 6

Killdeer: 3 June 6, 1 on nest with nest 4 eggs July 2

Spotted Sandpiper: 1 June 6

Common Snipe: 1 June 6 and 20

Ring-billed Gull: 1-61 during all survey dates

Mourning Dove: 1-4 seen during all survey dates

Black-c Hummingbird: 1-2 June and July

Calliope Hummingbird: 1-2 June and July

Rufous Hummingbird: 1 July 16

Belted Kingfisher: 1 June 6 and Aug. 20

Northern Flicker: 1-10 during five of the survey days - 1 at nest hole

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 June 6 and Aug. 20

Western Wood-Pewee: 1 Aug. 6

Willow Flycatcher: 1-4 during five of the survey days

Eastern Kingbird: 2-8 during all survey days + 1 nest with 2 young Aug. 20

Tree Swallow: 1-20 during all survey days

Violet-g Swallow: 1-100 during all survey days

Cliff Swallow: 1-20 during all survey days nesting under barn eaves

Barn Swallow: 1-15 during all survey days nesting under bridge

swallow sp.: 100+ June 20 and Aug. 6 500+ Aug. 20

Steller's Jay: 2 July 3 and Aug. 20

Common Raven: 2-4 during 5 survey days

Black-billed Magpie: 1 July 3

Black-capped Chickadee: 1-3 during 5 survey days

Mountain Chickadee: 1-2 June 6 and 20, 1 pr at nest hole

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MICA BAY SURVEY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Chestnut-b Chickadee: 2 June 20
 Red-b Nuthatch: 1-3 all survey days
 Brown Creeper: 1 June 20
 House Wren: 1 pr nesting in snag and 2 pair in bird houses
 Western Bluebird: 1 pr nesting in bird house, 7 (a family) counted on Aug. 6
 American Robin: 4-20 on all survey days 1 sitting on nest
 Swainson's Thrush: 1 heard June 20
 Gray Catbird: 1-3 during 5 survey days
 Cedar Waxwing: 4-25+ on all survey days
 E.Starling: 1 June 6
 Solitary Vireo: 2 Aug. 6
 Red-eyed Vireo: 1-4 on 5 survey days
 Yellow Warbler: 3-15 on all survey days
 Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 Aug. 20
 MacGillivray's Warbler: 1 on 3 survey days
 Common Yellowthroat: 1-4 on 4 survey days
 Black-headed Grosbeak: 2-7 on 3 survey days (June and July)
 Lazuli Bunting: 1 Aug. 20
 Chipping Sparrow: 1-3+ on 4 survey days
 Dark-eyed Junco: 1-4 in August survey
 Song Sparrow: 1-13 on all survey days
 R-winged Blackbird: 6-30 on all survey days
 Brewer's Blackbird: 2 July 3
 Brown-headed Cowbird: 2 June surveys
 Cassin's Finch: 1 July 16
 House Finch: 1-8 on 3 survey days
 Pine Siskin: 3-12 on 2 survey days
 American Goldfinch: 1-3 on 5 survey days
 Evening Grosbeak: 8-12 on 2 survey days

Idaho Audubon Council News Continued From Page 2

He said the public needs to know house cats kill about one billion birds a year, and that chipmunks are also very detrimental to nesting birds. Frank said "science foundations provide the credibility and authority that Audubon requires to achieve its conservation priorities." Frank shared some goals he thinks are necessary to make this happen:



1. Informed conservation management on a large scale

2. To stabilize bird populations as indicators of healthy ecosystems
 3. Enhance public literacy

Frank said he believed we have to emphasize the "synergy between gardens and birds". If we do, people will go from the backyard to the bigger picture of public land policy, and the management of private lands. Audubon needs to "hook the interest" of the non-traditional birder, "activate private ownership, engage the family, and build community forces."

OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Kris Buchler (KSB), Janet Callen (JC) Corrine Cameron (CC), Cliff Cameron (CLC), Pat Cole (PC), Gordon Comrie (GC), Pam Comrie (PAC), Barbara Durrell (BD), Sharon Gould (SG), Bill Gundlach (BG), Joan Gundlach (JG), Gertie Hanson (GH), Don Johnson (DNJ), Ron Jurcevich (RJ) Herb and Jan Severtson (HJS), John Shipley (JNS) Shirley Sturts (SHS), Susan Weller (SDW)

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 9 Pend Oreille Lake, 2 Upper Priest Lake, 1 Robinson Lake 1 Coeur d'Alene Lake July 20 (Loon Survey - several observers)
2. Red-necked Grebe 5 pair with 1-2 young each Chatcolet and Benewah lake July 20 (JC,SHS)
3. Western Grebe 34 nests Denton Slough, Pend Oreille Lake July 17 (PC)
4. American White Pelican 1+ Thompson Lake July 20 (JWN,CC,CLC)
5. Double-crested Cormorant 1 Cougar Bay, CDA Lake July 20 (HJS); 8 Chatcolet Lake June 12 (DNJ); 19 nests produced about 50 young near Usk, WA on Pend Oreille River (DNJ); 2 Clark Fork Delta July 17 (PC)
6. Prairie Falcon 1 Rathdrum Prairie July 12 (RJ)
7. Blue Grouse 1 male 1 female Bloom Peak area, Shoshone Co. on ID/MT boarder June 16 (BG,JG)
8. Sora 1 Thompson Lake July 20 (CC,CLC)
9. Caspian Tern 3 Cougar Bay, CDA Lake July 19 (SHS,DNJ,WM); 1 Chatcolet Lake July 20 (JC,SHS); 4 Sanders Beach in July (BG)
10. Flamulated Owl 2 Carder Farm July 5 (GH)
11. Northern Pygmy Owl 1 Fernan Saddle Road July 16 (GC,PAC)
12. Northern Saw-whet Owl 1 Carder Farm July 21 (GH)
13. Common Nighthawk 1st arrived Carder Farm June 3 (GH)
14. Rufous Hummingbird 1 nest 3 fledglings in Service Berry Bush Cataldo Home (SDW)
15. Anna's X Costa's Hummingbird(Hybrid??) 1 Squaw Bay, CDA Lake June and July(BD+many observers)
16. Pileated Woodpecker 1 Chatcolet Lake July 20 (JC,SHS)
17. Olive-sided Flycatcher 1 Potlatch Hill June/July (KSB); 1 Windy Bay, CDA lake July 20 (BG)
18. Cordilleran Flycatcher 1 nest 3 fledglings Hayden Lake (SG)
1 nest 3 fledglings Cataldo Home (SDW)
19. White-breasted Nuthatch 1 Fernan Lake July 10 and 11 (SHS); 2 Post Falls Aug. 25 (JNS)
20. Cedar Waxwing 1 nest w/5 fledglings Cataldo Home (SDW)
21. Solitary Vireo 1 pr nesting top of Cottonwood Pine Creek (SDW)
22. Yellow-Rumped Warbler 1 parasitized by Cowbird Farragut State Park (KSB)
23. Northern Waterthrush 3 Chatcolet Lake July 20 (JC,SHS)
24. Lazuli Bunting 1 pr nested in a Hawthorne Bush 3 fledglings Cataldo Home (SDW);
1 Marie Creek Trail (GC,PAC,SHS)
25. Spotted Towhee nest with 4 fledglings Potlatch (ZP)
26. Chipping Sparrow nest with 3 fledglings in Raspberry Bush Cataldo home (SDW)
27. Bullock's Oriole 1+ Thompson Lake June (JWN)

"A people's poet,
Provincial and birder,
I've wandered the world in search of life:
Bird by bird I've come to know the earth..." - Pablo Neruda

Board of Directors

President - Ronn Rich 772-4512, **Vice President** - Susan Weller 682-3413,
Secretary - Janet Callen 664-1085, **Treasurer** - Corinne Cameron 664-0344,
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667-6209, **Hospitality** - Nancy Mertz 765-5254, **Newsletter** - Shirley Sturts
664-5318, **Board Member** - George Sayler 664-2787

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member in the National Audubon Society and my local chapter, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter (Chapter Code G067XCH8).

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

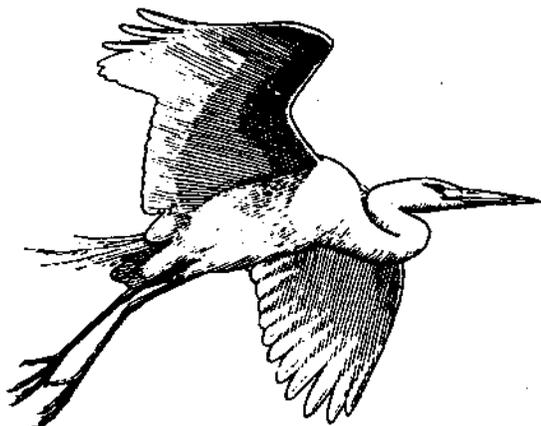
Introductory membership is \$20.00 for individual or family. Members receive 6 issues of Audubon magazine and the chapter's local newsletter. Please make check payable to the National Audubon Society and mail to Jan Severtson, Membership Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter, P.O. Box 361, Coeur d'Aene, 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

The Fish Hawk Herald

September 1996

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



GREAT EGRET
Ardea alba