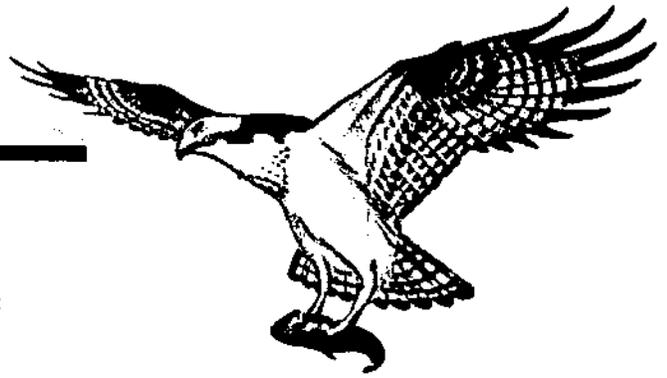


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society

Pam Gontz, Editor
4301 N. Ramsey Rd., #A2-14
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
765-1115-h 773-4516-w

April 1992

Volume 2, No. 3

CALENDAR CHECK! --

**APR 21,
1992
5:30 PM**

CONSERVATION MEETING - The Conservation Committee will meet 5:30 p.m. at Santiago's La Casa Restaurant located at Government Way and Honeysuckle in Hayden Lake.

**APR 21,
1992
7 PM**

APRIL MEETING - location: basement of the Security Pacific Bank in Hayden Lake. Susan Weller will conduct a two hour course on Bird Identification. This session will teach the skills necessary for bird identification in the field. Topics covered will range from the most basic techniques of identification, to the more complex. The novice and experienced birder may gain something from the April program. Afterward, Pam Gontz will present a slide program featuring some of the bird species we may see during April's field trip to Moses Lake, Washington.

**APR 25,
1992**

APRIL FIELD TRIP - This field trip will be a day trip to the Potholes Reservoir Area near Moses Lake, Washington which is approx. 130 miles west of Cd'A. This area offers many birding opportunities such as waterfowl, terns, burrowing owls, shorebirds, hawks, as well as various small bird species. We will take one short side trip on the way over near Sprague Lake and see if we can spot a Prairie Falcon, Horned Larks and other waterfowl on the lake. We will meet at the southwest corner of the Rosauer's parking lot in Cd'A at 7:00 a.m., and leave promptly at 7:10 a.m. Have breakfast before you come, but bring a sack lunch and the necessary in-between snacks, something to drink (water/coffee?), and the essential birding gear. We will have access to rest areas but food stations (feeders?) are few and far between. We should try and carpool as much as possible so check with other Auduboners or call the Field Trip Leader: Pam Gontz - 765-1115(h) / 773-4516(w).

**APR 25,
1992**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for submitting articles, etc.



CHECK FOR NONGAME WILDLIFE ON YOUR IDAHO INCOME TAX FORM--

Don't forget that you can help support the state's watchable wildlife by donating part or all of your tax refund to the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife program. As program manager, Wayne Melquist, has said this is "a change for wildlife lovers, especially those who don't hunt or fish, to help support the research and management necessary to protect Idaho's quality of life." Revenues have declined from about \$90,000 in 1982 to as low as \$55,000. The program receives less than 2% of the annual budget of the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game. In 1990 IDFG conducted or helped to support the following nongame projects: a study of woodland caribou; one of Selkirk grizzly bears; a Rocky Mountain trumpeter swan study; peregrine falcon reintroductions; bald eagle ecology study; Coeur d'Alene salamander study; boreal owl surveys; osprey banding and nesting study; flammulated owl survey; Harlequin duck study; great gray owl nest enhancement; wolverine survey; Idaho ground squirrel study, western burrowing owl study; kestrel nest box management; whooping crane study; urban wildlife nature centers; northern shrike study; rock squirrel study; ferruginous hawk study; statewide reptile and amphibian mail survey; Idaho State University latilong bird booklet; GAP analysis project at U of I; merlin survey; and numerous rare plant surveys. In the Audubon programs we have had a chance to learn about some of these important projects and know their value.

[Ellen Scriven]

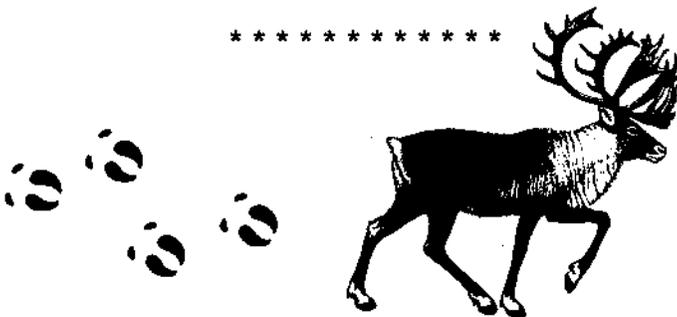
FROM THE CONSERVATION CHAIR -

Other funding options for Idaho's watchable wildlife are being explored by the IDFG. Among these is the sale of a special license plate featuring the mountain bluebird. The House Transportation committee passed HB 698 and it is now before the House of Representatives. Please call or write your state legislators now and ask them to support HB 698.

1(800)626-0471
(Name)
Idaho State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Boise, ID 83720

Another house bill which merits their support is HB 725 which would establish guidelines for off-road vehicle operation (ORV) to protect wildlife and natural resources. The bill would discourage the use of motor vehicles for molesting, pursuing or otherwise disturbing wildlife. It would set criteria for preventing unreasonable soil erosion and damage to vegetation from the use of ORV's. Written permission from the owner would be required for their operation on private property. The bill would also establish guidelines for safe ORV operation and set noise restrictions on ORVs. In addition, fines or infractions of the restrictions would be authorized. A quick expedition up the Nettleton Gulch Road in the vicinity of Carfield Butte will give you some idea of why such a bill is so important (if you haven't seen examples enough).

The number of wildlife species officially listed as endangered increased by 49 during the fiscal year 1990, bringing the total to 392, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 1970, the list name 123 species of animals and plants. [From Nongame Newsletter, Vol. 8, No. 2/3]



Strong Wetlands Bill Introduced in House -

On February 19, Rep. Don Edwards (D-CA) introduced H.R. 4255, titled the **Wetlands Reform Act of 1992**. Audubon played a key role in drafting this bill, which is designed to strengthen federal protections for wetlands while addressing complaints of regulatory uncertainty and delays which have been levelled against current wetlands regulations. H.R. 4255 would also delay the implementation of the Administration's politically motivated "delineation manual," which would remove a minimum of 50% of the nation's wetlands from federal protection, pending completion of a study by the National Academy of Sciences.

H.R. 4255 is the first wetlands bill to present a viable and comprehensive alternative to the environmentally disastrous policies proposed in the Bush administration's delineation manual and Rep. Hayes' anti-wetlands bill, H.R. 1330. Now is the time to write to your House member and urge him or her to support wetlands protection by cosponsoring H.R. 4255. For more information you may contact Clark Williams, Audubon's wetlands lobbyist, 202-547-9009.

Write: Representative Larry LaRocco
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515



and urge his support of H.R. 4255.

I don't know how many Audubon members who make or buy birdhouses believe that perches are necessary but apparently the general public does. At best the little sticks jutting out just below the entrance hole on so many birdhouses are decorative. At worst they are convenient perches for potential predators such as starlings and jays or footholds for cats or raccoons. Contrary to popular opinion, there is no evidence that the birds for whom the house is intended have need of perches, either by attending adults or fledging juveniles. So please leave them off or remove them and pass the word on to all the well-meaning misinformed bird house builders.

[-Ellen Scriven]

SPECIAL
THANKS
TO:



The Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society would like to thank ALPINE PRINTING for their donation to our newsletter. Please support ALPINE PRINTING, 205-F East Seftice Way, Post Falls, with your patronage.

ANCIENT FOREST ACTION IN CONGRESS --

The stage is set for the U.S. Congress to protect the Northwest's Ancient forest ecosystems, and Idaho's congressional delegations has a key role to play.

House Interior Committee Chairman George Miller is now finishing up legislation that will protect the ancient forest ecosystem based on scientific criteria. Idaho's first district representative Larry LaRocco will be a key vote in the Interior Committee. Please write LaRocco and ask him to support Miller's package.

This legislation will also be referred to the House Agriculture Committee where Idaho's second district Congressman Richard Stallings will be a key vote. Please write Stallings and ask him to support strong ancient forest protection.

We are closer than ever to congressional action. You can make it happen by writing a letter now. For more information or to sign up on an activist list please contact Susan Wood-McKean at the Wilderness Society Office in Boise at 343-8153 or FAX # 343-8184, or write to:

TWS

Attention: Susan - Amer. for the Ancient Forests
413 W. Idaho #102
Boise, ID 83702-6064

[-Susan Weller]



WOLF SCOPING SESSION SCHEDULED --

The last wild wolves were killed in Yellowstone National Park in 1926. Now, we can play a key role in the recovery of the wolf in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). We must take action now if we are to make a difference between a recovered wolf population and more years of struggle and waiting.

What can we do to support the wolf recovery process? There will be a wolf scoping session in Coeur d'Alene on April 14, 1992. Please attend this scoping meeting and encourage others to do so. A major conservation turnout is crucial at this point. Keep an eye on the local papers for the time and location.

A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will emerge from these scoping meetings which have been scheduled not only in Idaho, but also in Wyoming, Montana, and nationally. One of the most important steps is to get as many people as possible on the mailing list for the Yellowstone EIS documents. To do this you may write: Yellowstone Wolf EIS, Box 8017, Helena, MT 59601.

**"Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend;
you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left.
That is to say, you cannot love game and hate predators . . .
The land is one organism."**

- Aldo Leopold



BIRD NOTES -

- Anna's Hummingbird - 2/12/92 & 2/14/92, seen by Carole Vande Vorde and other Canyon Birders at Lewiston Orchards - Rare Report Filed
- Bald Eagle [2] - 3/2/92, (pair possibly engaged in courtship activities) seen by Ellen Scriven over Killarney Farm
- Wood Ducks [2] - 3/5/92, seen by Rev. Richard Hermstad at Independence Point on Cd'A Lake
- Violet-green Swallow [1] - 3/9/92, seen by Pam Gontz - checking out bird house in her yard (first observed this spring)
- Mtn. Bluebirds [11] - 3/14/92, seen by Pam Gontz at Farragut State Park
- Pileated Woodpeckers [2] - 3/14/92, pair seen by Pam Gontz at Farragut State Park
- Western Bluebirds [2] - 3/19/92, (pair feeding in vicinity of feeder and checking out wren house - first pair ever sighted in spring) seen by Ellen Scriven at Killarney Farm
- Purple Finch [1] - 3/22/92, seen by Ellen Scriven at Killarney Farm feeder
- Ospreys [5] - 3/29/92, seen by Pam Gontz - a pair at Medicine Lake and three at Thompson Lake
- European Wigeon [3] - 3/29/92, seen by Pam Gontz in flooded field on Rose Lake road
- Cinnamon Teal [1] - 3/29/92, seen by Pam Gontz in flooded field on Rose Lake road (first seen this spring)
- Rufous-sided Towhee [3] - 3/29/92, seen by Pam Gontz near Harrison
- Northern Shrike [1] - 3/29/92, seen by Pam Gontz south of Harrison on Gem Road
- Tundra Swans [600] - seen by Susan Weller at Cataldo slough
- Barred Owls and young - heard by Ellen Scriven at Killarney Farm
- California Quail - seen by Badraun Family at their residence on Boekel Rd. in Rathdrum

**FIELD TRIP REPORT TO CD'A MANAGEMENT AREA -**

We had a small but enthusiastic group of birders on this trip. Participants included: Pam Gontz, Phil and Judy Waring, Gertie Hanson; Chuck and Bee Finne, Dick Hermstad and Shirley Sturts. After breakfast we drove to our first stop at Beauty Bay where we counted 8 Bufflehead, 1 f. Common Merganser and 1 Tree Swallow. Proceeding toward Harrison we counted 8 Mallards, 3 American Wigeon, 1 Wood Duck, 2 Bufflehead, 2 Ring-billed Gulls, and 1 Robin. We spent most of our time viewing birds at Harlow Point across the bay from Harrison and at Thompson Lake. We counted a variety of species including 1 Pied-Billed Grebe, 4 Eared Grebe, 3 Great-Blue Heron, 19 Tundra Swans, 1 pr. Canada Geese at nest site + 7 others, 4 Wood Ducks, 1 Green-winged Teal, several Mallards, 2 Northern Pintail, 12 Northern Shoveler, 100+ American Wigeon, 100+ Ring-necked Duck, 47 C. Merganser, 2 Red-tailed Hawk, 1 Rough-legged Hawk, 1 Imm. Bald Eagle, 5 Killdeer, 2 Gulls [probably Ring-billed], 2 Belted Kingfisher, 2 m. & 2 f. Downy Woodpecker, 1 Hairy Woodpecker, 5 N. Flicker, 3 Tree Swallow, 2 Black-billed Magpies, 1 Common Raven, several Mountain and Black-capped Chickadees, 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 6 Pygmy Nuthatch, 1 Rufous-sided Towhee, 5 Song Sparrow, 2 Dark-eyed Juncos, several Red-winged Blackbirds and 8 Red Crossbill. Our big find was what we decided were 2 Trumpeter Swans. We spent a lot of time looking at these most beautiful birds and checking every field guide and book we had among us to decide if these were Tundra or Trumpeter and we voted 7 to 1 in favor of the Trumpeter. Later we counted 30 Tundra Swan on Cave Lake which made us even more convinced that these were Trumpeter. Field marks noted were as follows: Larger size, no yellow spot in front of eye, the black facial skin seemed to form a V on the forehead rather than cutting straight across as in the Tundra, the forehead looked like it sloped evenly to a straight bill rather than being slightly concave as in the Tundra. We thought the neck was held kinked back at base at one point in our observation but the birds were moving around a lot. One of the birds had the gray-brown plumage of an immature. The young retain this plumage through the first spring. They did call but from the book description it sounded more like the description of the Tundra. The Trumpeter is lower pitched than the Tundra and more sonorous. We wished someone had a tape of their voices along so we could have listened to them on the spot for comparison. On our way to Cave Lake we added another Rough-legged Hawk and 7 Western Meadowlark. At Cave and Medicine Lake we had 7 Great Blue Herons, 30 Tundra Swans, 1 pr Wood Ducks, several more mallards, 12 Redheads, 16 Buffleheads, 30 Commonn Mergansers, 3 Gulls sp., 1 pr Ring-necked Pheasants, 2 N. Flickers, 1 Belted Kingfisher and a Song Sparrow. We stopped briefly in the Wolfledge area to count 50+ Mallards, 1 Belted Kingfisher, 6 Robins and 24 Red-Winged-Blackbirds.

[-Shirley Sturts]

ELECTION TIME --

A nominating committee consisting of Ronn Rich, Phil Waring and Ellen Scriven was put together at the last meeting. Anyone interested in an officer position -- President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or serving on a committee, call Ronn Rich before the April 21st meeting. His phone numbers are: 667-2566(w) or 772-4512(h). This is your Audubon Society, let's show support by offering to fill one of these positions. If more people would take on just one position, donating a small portion of their time, then we won't burn out those key people who have been keeping the society going in the past.

"FEATHER" YOUR KNOWLEDGE --

Want to learn more about birds, plants, or other interesting topics? Here are two places you can take classes this summer and fall --

The **Clark Fork Field Campus** in Clark Fork, Idaho, offers many classes this summer and fall such as:

Apr 26, 92	History of North Idaho	Sep 19, 92 or	Fossil Collecting & Geologic Tour
May 09, 92 or	For Bird Lover's Only	Sep 20, 92	Fossil Collecting [repeat]
May 10, 92	For Bird Lover's Only [repeat]	Oct 03, 92 &	Getting Published
Jun 06, 92	Mushrooms	Oct 04, 92	[writing non-fiction (2-day class)]
Jun 27, 92	The Wonderful World of Weeds	Oct 17, 92	North Idaho Folklore
Jun 28, 92	Ethnobotany (uses of plants for food, medicine and fiber)	Oct 18, 92	Native American Culture and Myths
Aug 01, 92 &	Water Color Painting from Nature	Nov 08, 92	Fascinating World of Rock and Minerals
Aug 02, 92	(2-day class)		

For more information on these classes and to be put on their mailing list write to:

Clark Fork Series, College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Range Sciences,
University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83843

The **Yellowstone Institute** in Yellowstone National Park offers 75 courses on a wide range of topics. A few of interest are:

June 05-07, 92	Ecological Relationships of Birds	June 22-26, 92	Birds of Yellowstone
June 12-14, 92	Bears: Folklore and Biology	July 03-05, 92	Yellowstone Birds of Prey
June 13-14, 92	Indian Use of Yellowstone	July 06-08, 92	Eagles of Yellowstone
June 19-21, 92	Wild Edible Plants and Medicinal Herbs	July 11-12, 92	Wolves of Yellowstone: The Missing Link
June 19-21, 92	Birding Yellowstone	July 11-12, 92	Alpine Wildflowers
June 22-24, 92	Beetles, Bugs & Butterflies	Oct 30-Nov 1, 92	Swan Identification and Ecology

For the 1992 catalog of all 75 classes write to:

The Yellowstone Association, P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

The other day I was driving along and spotted two hawks soaring over a field. I stopped and began to watch what was a beautiful display -- spring courting. The two Red-tailed hawks were high soaring. They would soar in high circles and then one hawk would approach the other with dangling legs. The other hawk would then flip over, appearing to touch the approaching hawk, and then both would go back to high soaring. The one hawk also displayed the basic form of sky dancing giving the overall effect of a roller coaster. This hawk would, after reaching a certain height, fold its wings back, stall, then drop, only to rise up again. Some call this a series of capital U's. The term now used for this maneuver is tumbling. This experience has heightened my need for patience in observing bird behavior. Rather than just jotting down another hawk seen and leaving, taking the time to truly observe the behavior rewarded me in a first, and hopefully not last, encounter of what nature's "spring is in the air" is all about.

[Pam Gontz]



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YES, I'd like to join. Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send the Audubon magazine and my membership card to the address below. My check for \$20 payable to the National Audubon Society is enclosed.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Send this application and your check to
National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

Local Chapter
Coeur d'Alene G08

Local Chapter Code
7XCH8

COEUR D'ALENE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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