

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society

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April 1993

Volume 3, No. 1

CALENDAR CHECK! --

- APR. 18, 1993** **APRIL FIELD TRIP to be led by Shirley Sturts.** For this field trip we will head for Sandpoint and check out the Sandpoint beach for spring arrivals. On our way back home we will wander through the Hoodoo area for other spring arrivals. We will meet at the southwest corner of the Montgomery Wards 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, something to drink (water/coffee?) and essential birding gear. Dress in layers as it still might be chilly around the lake. Call Shirley Sturts at 664-5318 to register.
- APR. 20, 1993**
5:30 PM **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING!** Members of the Conservation Committee will meet on April 20th at 5:30 pm at the Takara Restaurant, 309 Lakeside Ave., Cd'A.
- APR. 20, 1993**
7 PM **APRIL MEETING!** The Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society will meet on Tuesday, April 20th at 7 P.M. at the Lake City Senior Center, 1916 Lakewood Drive, Coeur d'Alene. Dan Svingen will present a program on birds.
- APR. 24 & 25, 1993** **APRIL FIELD TRIP to be led by Pam Gontz.** As requested by some people who attended the Moses Lake field trip last April, this year we have planned a weekend trip to the area. This is such a rich birding area that many of the people who visited there last year wanted more time to explore the area and those who had canoes wanted a chance to bring them and explore the Potholes. We will probably have a canoe party and a land party so anyone can partake in this weekend trip. On page 2 I have listed the campgrounds and motels in the Moses Lake area from the triple AAA books. We are likely to see a wide variety of birds such as shorebirds, terns, waterfowl, hawks, smaller birds, and a possible prairie falcon or burrowing owl. I also hope to have information about the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge which is adjacent to the Potholes area. Please call Pam Gontz at home - 765-1115 or work - 773-4516 and let her know if you plan on coming and whether you'll be camping or moteling it so that she can count heads when we gather at specific meeting places. More details on this trip on page 2 of this newsletter.
- APR. 26, 1993** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** for submitting articles, etc., for the May newsletter.

HELP SUPPORT NONGAME WILDLIFE BY DONATING ON YOUR IDAHO INCOME TAX FORM!

HELP ESTABLISH AN IDAHO AUDUBON LOBBYIST FUND --

David Siebanthaler, President of the Idaho Audubon Council, invites you to take part in moving the Idaho Audubon Council toward a leadership role in the statewide conservation effort. The goal is to speak more effectively for nature, and the council has agreed on a way to do just that. They are establishing a legislative lobbyist fund and are in need of your financial help. The fund will provide the means to research and acquire necessary materials to support a lobbyist. Your support will help establish a collective voice in the Idaho legislature. This project is a way for all of us to work collectively to protect the vitality and diversity of wild places and wild creatures of Idaho. If you would like to help with this Idaho Audubon Lobbyist Fund, enclose a check for \$5, \$10, \$25, or any amount you wish, make the check payable to the Idaho Audubon Council, and mail it to: Carol Mabe, Treasurer, Idaho Audubon Council, 735 Kirby St., Boise, ID 83705.

APRIL WEEKEND FIELD TRIP INFO -

We will meet at the southwest corner of the Montgomery Wards 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?), the essential birding gear, and camping/motel gear you'll need. Be prepared for possible cold weather as many of the areas will be around water. We will have access to rest areas but food stations (feeders?) are few and far between so keep food and water in your car. Also, it might be a good idea to bring some kind of bug repellent -- there is a possibility of mosquitoes and ticks!

For those folks who wish to camp out, below are the campgrounds listed in the triple AAA book in the Moses Lake area. The Potholes State Park campground would be the most accessible. I plan on staying at the Potholes State Park, camping out in my car. Camping is on a first come, first serve basis, but I believe at this time of year there won't be a problem.

MOSES LAKE 98837 (D-7)			
Big Sun Mobile Resort (r)	82 sites	Open all year	Rates Subject to Change
A/V	\$8.00-13.00 For 2	Exp/Per \$1.00 F	EWS-52
I-90 exit 176, 1/2 mi on Broadway, then left on Burreas, 2300 W Marina Dr. (98837) 5 acres, T-10; RV-52. On shaded, lakefront grounds. PH & CATV. Wkly rates avail. Coin laundry & propane. Rental boats & canoes; boat ramp; fishing; water skiing; recreation rm. MC, VI. (509) 765-8294			
Potholes State Park	126 sites	Open all year	Rates Subject to Change
5/1-9/3	\$7.50	E-60 \$1.50	W-60 \$ 75 S-60 \$ 75
25 mi sw on Hwy 170 (Vantage 98950) T-66, RV-50 Hospital in town, 99 852 acres. On Potholes Reservoir. Disposal station. Flush & pit toilets. Groceries. Swimming. rental boats; boat ramp; fishing; water skiing; nature trails. 10 day stay limit 5:30-9:7 (509) 765-7271			

For the people who wish to motel it, below are the list of motels listed in the triple AAA book for the Moses Lake area. I know nothing about any of the motels, but would suggest that maybe the Shilo Inn may be the most accessible as it is located on the exit ramp to the Potholes State Park area and has a restaurant and deli nearby.

MOSES LAKE — 11,200			
Best Western Hallmark Inn	Rates Subject to Change		Motor Inn
3/16-9/14	1P 60.00	2P/1B 68.00	2P/2B 72.00 XP 5
9/15-5/13	1P 54.00	2P/1B 60.00	2P/2B 66.00 XP 5
Senior discount. 131 units. I-90 exit 176, 3000 Marina Dr. (98837) Enjoyable view; on shores of Moses Lake. 90 refrigerators; A/C; C/CATV; movies; radios; phones. Coin laundry. Htd pool; sauna; whirlpool; dock; water skiing; tennis-2 courts; exercise rm. Airport transp. Suites avail. AE, CB, DI, MC, VI. Dining rm; 7 am-10 pm; \$7.95-\$13.95; cocktails; entertainment. (509) 765-9211			
Moses Lake Travelodge	AAA Special Value Rates		Motel
All year	1P 34.00	2P/1B 41.00	2P/2B 46.00 XP 3 F
39 units. Downtown on Business Loop 90, 316 S Pioneer Way. (98837) 3 refrigerators; A/C; C/CATV; radios; phones; shower or comb baths. 4 2-bedrm units. Htd pool; whirlpool. AE, DI, DS, MC, VI. (509) 765-9631			
Mendel's Inn	Rates Subject to Change		Motel
8/1-9/30	1P 38.50	2P/1B 44.50	2P/2B 50.50 XP 6
30 units. I-90 exit 176, westbound 1 blk n then 1 blk w, eastbound 2 blks n, 2801 W Broadway. (98837) OPEN ALL YEAR. 4 refrigerators; A/C; C/CATV; movies; phones. Htd indoor pool; sauna; whirlpool. Pets. Microwaves. \$3 extra charge. AE, DI, DS, MC, VI. Restaurant adjacent. FAX (509) 765-9452 (509) 765-1777			
Shilo Inn	Rates Subject to Change		Motel
5/25-9/15	2P/1B 72.00-	77.00	2P/2B 72.00- 77.00 XP 10 F
9/16-5/24	2P/1B 62.00-	67.00	2P/2B 62.00- 67.00 XP 10 F
Senior discount. 100 units. I-90 exit 179, 1819 E Kibbeon. (98837) Refrigerators. A/C; C/CATV; movies; rental VCPs. Radios; phones. 6 efficiencies. Coin laundry. Htd indoor pool; sauna; whirlpool; exercise rm. Airport transp. Pets. \$6 extra charge. Kitchen units. \$82-\$87. Microwaves avail. AE, DI, DS, MC, VI. Restaurant adjacent. FAX (509) 765-5058 (509) 765-8317			
RESTAURANT			
The 4 B's Pantry	American		\$
I-90 exit 176; eastbound 1/4 mi n, westbound n to Interlake w to Broadway, 3001 W Broadway. Low key family dining from low priced varied menu. A/C. Children's menu. Open 24 hours; closed 11/25 & 12/25. Cocktails. AE, DI, DS, MC, VI. (509) 765-8386			

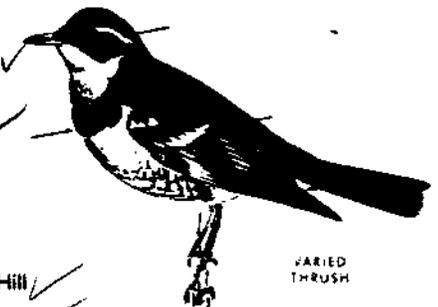
Everyone is responsible for their own accommodations. As stated in the blurb on the front page, it would be good to register with me so that I'll know how many to expect and from what directions I can expect you from. When we meet the morning of April 24th at the Montgomery Wards parking lot I will have copies of maps of areas we'll be checking out for each car.

[- Pam Gontz]

"The charm of birding is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive, but attainable; a perpetual series of occasions for hope."

BIRD NOTES --

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| White-headed Woodpecker | - | 02/28/93, 1 seen by Ellen Scriven in the Curley Creek area near Moyie Springs ✓ |
| Varied Thrush | - | 03/10/93, 4 seen by Jane Badraun at her home ✓ |
| Rufous-sided Towhee | - | 03/10/93, 3 seen by Jane Badraun at her home ✓ |
| Western Bluebirds | - | 03/13/93, 4 seen by Jane Badraun at her home ✓ |
| Wild Turkeys | - | 03/13/93, 51 seen by Susan Weller at her home ✓ |
| Violet-green Swallows | - | 03/13/93, seen at Cataldo Slough by Susan Weller ✓ |
| Wood Ducks | - | 03/13/93, 5 seen at Cataldo Slough by Susan Weller ✓ |
| Common Mergansers | - | 03/13/93, 30 seen at Cataldo Slough by Susan Weller ✓ |
| Hooded Mergansers | - | 03/13/93, 10 seen at Cataldo Slough by Susan Weller ✓ |
| Varied Thrush | - | 03/13/93, 1 seen at Fernan Lake by Shirley Sturts ✓ |
| Western Bluebirds | - | 03/14/93, (2 m/1 f) seen at the Cataldo Slough by Pam Gontz ✓ |
| Western Meadowlark | - | 03/14/93, 1 seen in the Cataldo Slough area by Pam Gontz ✓ |
| Great-horned Owl | - | 03/15/93, 2 seen by Jane Bradraum at her home ✓ |
| Barred Owl | - | 03/16/93, pair heard by Ellen Scriven near her home ✓ |
| Pileated Woodpecker | - | 03/16/93 & past week, 1 seen by Gertie Hanson on Blackwell Hill ✓ |
| Downy Woodpecker | - | 03/16/93, 1 f. seen on Blackwell Hill by Herb & Jan Severtson ✓ |
| Tundra Swans | - | 03/17/93, approx. 225 seen in fields east of Meyer Rd. between Poleline Rd. and Prairie Rd. by Pam Gontz ✓ |



Herb and Jan Severtson saw three Western Meadowlarks on March 10, 1993, near Missoula, MT. Pam Gontz took an excursion near Reardon and Davenport - a few of the exceptional sightings were: 7 Snowy Owls, 2 Great-horned Owls, 3 Prairie Falcons, many Horned Larks, and a flock of Snow Buntings.

MEET THE NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS --

These are the people who see that you get your "Fish Hawk" Herald. First, there is Pam Gontz - the brilliant Editor who gathers information from all of you about sightings, field trips, current issues of interest, etc. She even sketches some of the birds that you see in our paper. Then after she compiles it into a three page (2 sides are printed) master, she delivers it to Chuck and Bee Finne. They have it printed, at Insty Prints, and they pick up the sheets which are collated and stapled. Now comes the tedious work which consists of a four-part operation. The newsletters must be folded, stapled shut, the address label attached, and finally a five-cent stamp licked and put firmly in the corner. Now they are ready to take to the post office . . . not quite. First they must be sorted according to Zip Codes, a complicated pink form filled out, then taken to the post office. We go in the back door, pay the extra postage, and get a special stamp from a teller -- now it is ready to go. As an example, in March we mailed out 218 letters and the cost breakdown reads like this: Printing \$54.78; \$.05 stamp on each = \$10.90; extra postage is \$10.67; for a total of \$76.35.

Chuck and Bee don't do this big job alone, a number of friends and relatives help. Our grandchildren Haley Couser, a fourth grader, age 10, and Noah Couser, a second grader, age 8, both help a great deal. Even Lindley Couser, age 4, likes to lick the stamps -- on the March issue she consumed the glue from 40 stamps. We also have a neighbor, Linda Adams, who, besides being an expert golfer, can fold 218 newsletters in record time. Lastly the bulk mailing process has been made a lot easier by Luane Huellemann of the Coeur d'Alene Post Office staff.

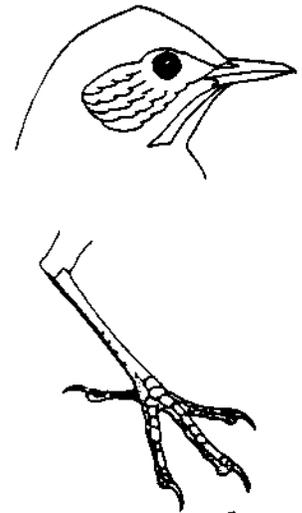
KUDOS TO ALL WHO THOSE WHO VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME!

[Bee Finne]

IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY --

Ever heard someone say, "it looks kind of like a robin" or "it looks like it may be a Thrush". Many birders use general characteristics of a family to narrow down the identification of a new bird they are confronted with. That person is looking at the features of the bird, individually and collectively as a family, as a place to start looking in the field guide.

Since spring is fast approaching and some of the birds in this family are considered "signs of spring", let's look at the Thrushes. Overall characteristics of a thrush -- they are large-eyed, slender-billed, and usually strong-legged songbirds. Thrushes have 10 primary feathers (flight feathers) in each wing, an unscaled tarsus (the straight part of the bird's foot immediately above its toes), and a perching foot. Most species that bear the name "thrush" are brown-backed with spotted breasts. Robins, bluebirds, and some others that do not fit this description of "spotted breasts" are linked by their speckle-breasted young.



THRUSH FAMILY

Thrushes are found almost worldwide with the exception that none are found in the Antarctica or on some oceanic islands. There are 316 species of thrush in the world with 14 of those species reported in the West. Thrush sizes range from 6½ - 11 in. long. The thrushes, with their slender-bill, feed insects, worms, snails, berries, and fruits. This family includes some of the finest singers of all birds, for example, the hermit thrush of North America and the nightingale and song thrush of Europe. We can see or hear many birds from this family in our area.

In North America, bluebirds are among the best-known and most beloved birds. In our area here, we may see either the Mountain Bluebird or the Western Bluebird. Bluebirds are the only members of this family to nest regularly in cavities or in birdhouses.

The American Robin, probably the most recognized species of this family, is noted for its dawn singing in April and May and has quite a repertoire of choruses. The Robin is generally seen running over lawns, golf courses, and meadows in search of earthworms. Many people, including myself, who have observed the Robin hunt for their meals believed that the Robin was actually finding the earthworm by sound. After a series of experiments conducted in 1965 (Heppner), it was concluded that the Robin does not find worms in their burrows by sound, but by sight. The Robin actually sees the worm in its burrow and then pulls it from the ground.

We have four species of the North American "thrushes" in our vicinity -- Varied Thrush, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, and Hermit Thrush. Some of these thrushes are similar in appearance and similar in that they nest in the same woodlands together but do not interbreed. These thrushes are good examples of reproductive isolation and maintenance of species distinction.

The Townsend Solitaire is the only solitaire in North America. Most of the solitaires are tropical and range from Mexico and West Indies south into South America.

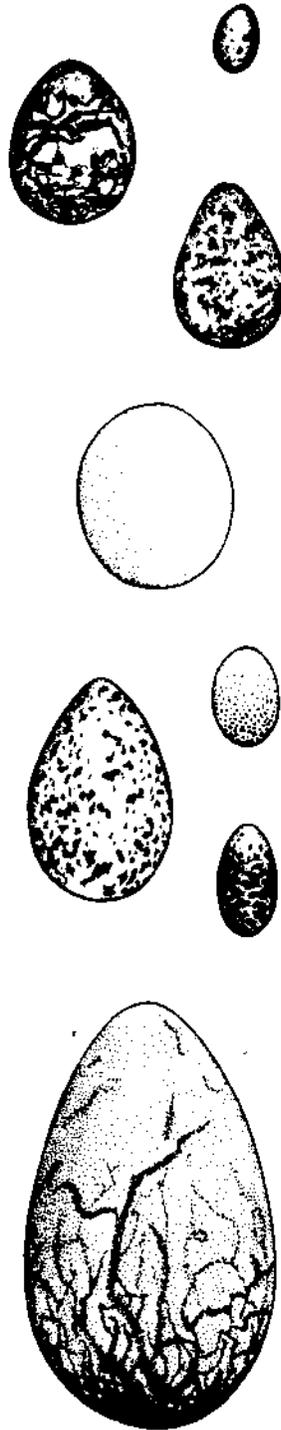
The Color Of Eggs –

As Easter rolls around, we are confronted with eggs in a great variety of colors and sizes. Some of us take great pains to come up with beautiful colors and designs for these eggs, but Nature has a class act, one which is hard to duplicate.

Bird eggs display an enormous diversity of colors and markings, and for all this diversity there is a reason. For instance, it is found that among many cavity-nesting species where there is no need for eggs to be camouflaged, those species' eggs remain white and unmarked. There are, however, other cavity-nesters which have spotted eggs and it is presumed that these species once nested in the open. Pale and relatively unmarked eggs are also common among duck species that cover them with nesting materials when they take a break from brooding, and for some species like doves, owls and herons, who start incubating as soon as the first egg is laid and the eggs are never exposed.

Seabird species that nest in gigantic colonies will tend to have eggs that are extremely variable in both color and markings. All egg colors are produced from pigments made by glands in the female's oviduct. As the egg moves down that tube the colors are squeezed out onto the shell.

As an ecologist once put it, "... the motion of the egg affects the color patterns. It is as if innumerable brushes hold still while the canvas moves. If the egg remains still there are spots, and if it moves while the glands continue secreting, then lines and scrawls result." Some



experiments have shown that certain bird species learn the pattern of their own egg and will reject others; that they are not genetically programmed to recognize their own egg pattern, but instead learn the pattern of the egg they've laid.

In most birds, though, the color of the egg, in one way or another, helps to camouflage the egg from potential predators. If you've ever seen Killdeer eggs against their pebbly background you can attest to this.



Many birds lay white or nearly white eggs, as do reptiles, and it is thought that originally all birds' eggshells were white -- the primitive condition -- and that these factors changed as each bird species went through their natural evolution.

We may not be able to clone Nature in our feeble attempts to come up with the perfect egg, but we can learn great things if we question -- "why is it so?"

[--Pam Gontz, Sources: Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds, Terree; and The Birder's Handbook, Ehrlich, Dobkin, & Wheye]

RATZ by BEN SMITH



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 G06

Local Chapter Code
 7XCH8

COEUR d'ALENE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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COEUR D'ALENE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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