**PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

**BOARD MEETING**

Date: April 2, Monday
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: Mountain West Bank
  125 Ironwood Dr.

**APRIL PROGRAM**

Date: April 16, Monday
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: First Presbyterian Church, 521 Lakeside
Program: Boundary Creek WMA
SPEAKERS: Pat Cole.
He will give a brief overview of geology and drainage history in the Kootenai Valley followed by a description of conservation efforts there. Currently, plans for expansion of the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge are meeting with stiff local opposition. Part of the expansion involves 756 acres located just south of the Boundary Creek WMA. Pat will update us on how we are restoring wetlands on the Boundary Creek WMA. This will be the first spring for the floodplain wetlands to be re-flooded. So far they have been delayed due to very little local run-off and extremely low flows in Boundary Creek. They will have just begun to fill wetlands when our Audubon group visits on April 21.

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**Dollars and Cents and Our Newsletter**

Dear Member;

As part of your membership in the National Audubon Society, you are automatically a member of the Coeur d’Alene Chapter and a recipient of our newsletter, the "Fish Hawk Herald". At the present time, National Audubon returns $5.50 of your membership dues to our chapter. We have relied on this reimbursement to fund 70 percent of the cost of printing and mailing the Fish Hawk Herald to you. The newsletter is the chapter’s communication link with you.

Starting July 1, 2001, the National office will phase in a three-year reduction of the amount of reimbursement until the Coeur d’Alene Chapter will be receiving approximately one-half or less of what we receive now. National Audubon cites recruiting and operating costs at the national level, which necessitate the decreased reimbursement to all chapters.

Because the $5.50 we were receiving did not fully cover the cost of the newsletter, it is very obvious this deficit will only increase if we do not find ways to reduce our costs.

Printing is the significant monetary cost of the newsletter, plus there is also an environmental cost. In the coming months, we are going to try several cost-saving measures including reducing the number of pages per newsletter. Also we are going to explore the use of e-mail and our website for delivery. As we investigate these options you will be contacted and asked if you want to continue receiving the newsletter by mail or if you would be comfortable with an e-mail notice of its arrival on our website.

Continued on Page 6
30 July
Jay jumped out of his enclosure today and I lifted him to the nearby woodpile. He hopped up the stack and then flew into the rafters of the protective roof. He explored the Douglas fir along the perimeter of the woodpile, and hopped up the branches of the ponderosa pine. I wish he weren’t so vocal. He attracted a sharp-shinned hawk that flew in and landed in a tree this morning.

There will be no more bird feeding to attract birds to keep him company. Jay is safer without the Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak around that also bring in predatory birds. I pirated a wasp’s nest and found lots of maturing grubs to feed Jay. He likes to pluck them out of the chambers himself. He is ready to fully fledge any day now.

1 August
Jay injured his leg again! Well, now he’s caged and grounded for two days. One of the feathers in his crest is longer than the others, it sticks up and makes him look very punk.

4 August
Jay surprised me by catching an errant moth this morning. He executed a deft back spin and caught it mid-air. Well done, Jay.

He still chortles and preens my hair when he is done with dining. He folds down his crest, shakes his tail feathers and gazes at me most adoringly. “Chirrr, chirrr.”

5 August
Jay is now using his feet to hold his food so he may tap at it with his bill. I gave him a large pine beetle I caught and he tore off the head, knocked off the hard, outer wings, and gulped it down.

Two young Chestnut-backed Chickadee have begun to keep him company. When I opened his cage door he seemed reluctant to fly out. Then a chickadee flew over to check out the inside of the cage and Jay flew out with him. They play tag in an upward spiral along the branches in the ponderosa. The chickadees always stay ahead—playful, but somehow aware he will be a predator upon their future progeny.

Jay foraged on the ground today for about 45 minutes. He appears to find things to eat. He’s also eating moss again, some dirt, and very small rocks. He has learned a new way to harvest berries. He grabs a berry with his bill and twists his head from side to side. Or if that won’t work, he grabs a berry and flies off a few feet, snapping it off mid-air.

7 August
Jay is molting but his back and rump are sleek. His sides and chest are still fuzzy with baby feathers. Outside of his enclosure he’s getting very acrobatic. He bounces like a spring from object to object, perch to perch. He is taking short, exploratory flights. His daily meal varies but generally consists of: 75 moths, 25-50 crickets, 25-50 mealworms, and five huckleberries.

Yesterday I saw an older gentleman running along the Canyon Road with a butterfly net and a glass jar. He was catching grasshoppers for fish bait. Some of the hoppers were huge! My dog Nessa and I went hopper hunting with my baseball cap, but were not very successful. I only caught two. One big one jumped into my hat and another was in the car when I got back. I'll have to find a net if I’m going to make this worth my while. The hoppers are good killing practice for Jay. Now in the morning I let the moths go inside his cage and he has to recapture them himself. He is becoming better at feeding himself with food he has captured.

Later
Jay is so sweet and affectionate during his last feeding of the evening. Tonight he stuffed himself full of crickets and we sat “chirring,” and chortling to one another. He taps around my glasses, exploring my nose and mouth with his bill. If I part my lips, he chews on my lower lip and explores my teeth. All of these behaviors seem to be important social interactions for him. He is very docile and stands sort of stooped.

I’m afraid I was taken quite aback tonight during our nightly affection session. Jay chortled with his crest folded back, tapped on my lower lip, and when I opened my mouth for him he coughed up a cricket and fed it to me! Needless to say here, but YUCK! I tried not to appear disgusted or ungrateful as I turned away and spat it out. Nice gesture, kid but I’d prefer you not do that again.

To be Continued in May Newsletter
ATTENTION: AUDUBON $S RUMMAGE SALE $$

Our 2nd annual Rummage Sale is coming in June!! Doing Christmas and early Spring-Cleaning?? Save your "collectibles" for us!!

Contact: Theresa Potts 765-0229 or Jan Severtson 667-6209

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our chapter and hope to see you at the field trips and meetings! Laura Bayless, Murray Danzig, William L. Jones, Stephen L. Lindsay, DVM, Len Mattei, Reggie Means, Tricia Ohashi, Sylvia Wheeler, Joyce Whitmore, Gary Barton, Philip & Marian Bruno, Peggy Felton, Kathleen M Flerchinger, Eileen C. Gray, Betty Harper, Debra Herman, Carl Keller, Marc Nee, Sharon L. Whitney.

A BIG WELCOME!!!

The Global Birding Pal Club is where birders find each other.  www.birdingpal.com

The next time you travel, you can find a local birder who will show you around. You can also meet traveling birders who are interested in your area.

Going on a business trip, to a conference or on vacation? Have a bit of extra time? Don't waste it, connect with a local birder who knows the local hot spots and have a great time birding. Locate the best places to find a bird for your list and meet nice people with the same favorite pastime as yourself.

A Birding Pal is not a paid guide, but someone who likes to help out of town visitors. You can become a Birding Pal today! Help someone to enjoy your local birding spots and find a pal to help you when you travel.

INLAND-NW-BIRDERS

Sign up for Inland-NW-Birders to find out what birds are being seen in our area and share your own bird sightings with others. This is a list server. To sign up send an email message to: majordomo@uidaho.edu - in the body of the email say: subscribe to inland-nw-birders.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

APRIL FIELD TRIPS

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES: April 9 and 23, Mondays
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95
LEADER: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318
ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours twice a month counting birds in the Mica Bay area. Beginner birders are welcome to join us.

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE: April 17, Tuesday
TIME: 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
MEET: home of Janet Callen, 1392 Ocean Ave. To get to Ocean Ave. go to Dalton Ave. between Ramsy and Highway 95 and turn south on Isabella.
LEADER: Janet Callen 664-1085
ACTIVITY: Janet will take us on a favorite walk of hers, visiting an adjacent neighborhood with Ponderosa Pine habitat.

BALL CREEK RANCH/ BOUNDARY CREEK WMA

DATE: April 21, Saturday
TIME: 7:00 a.m.
MEET: (Old) Rosauer’s parking lot, Highway 95 and Appleway, east side
LEADER: Kris Buchler, 664-4739
ACTIVITY: In the morning, we will bird The Nature Conservancy’s Ball Creek Ranch. In the afternoon, we will meet Pat Cole, state wildlife biologist, to view wetland areas reclaimed from farmland along the Kootenai River. When we visited the WMA in November, the fields were dry, but on this, our follow-up visit, we expect to see flooded fields and lots of waterfowl. This will be a long day, so bring lunch, water, and (optional) money for dinner in Sandpoint on the way home.

COUGAR BAY CANOE TRIP

DATE: April 28, Saturday
TIME: 8:00 a.m.
MEET: (Old) Rosauer’s parking lot, Highway 95 and Appleway, east side
LEADER: Lisa Hardy, 682-4808
email: basalt@earthlink.net
ACTIVITY: We will bird Cougar Bay from canoes. You must register with Lisa for this trip so that we have enough canoes on hand for everyone that wants to participate. Register early to reserve your space in a canoe. This will be a half-day trip, bring water and whatever you want to snack on.

LOVERS AND FEEDERS

Kris Buchler
Our chapter has received many inquiries this year concerning sick and dying songbirds. My last call came from Montana from a woman referred by our local Department of Fish and Game. Locally, the primary species exhibiting disease are Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak. We decided it was time to educate our readers with the following publication that outlines common diseases of songbirds, symptoms of these illnesses and steps to follow in keeping feeders and surrounding areas free of disease. Many calls go to Fish and Game and they now have this information also.

If you do see birds showing signs of illness, you can do your part, however small, to help stop the spread of contagions.

The following article is reprinted from Bird Conservation: Summer Nesting, 1997. The authors: Janet Ruth is the PIF Staff Coordinator for the USGS, Biological Resources Division. Milton Friend is the Center Director for the National Wildlife Health Center.

FOR THE BIRDS: WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: IS YOUR BIRDFEEDER SAFE?

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. 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 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 the fungus spreads through their lungs and air sacs, causing branchitis and pneumonia.

4. Avian pox is more noticeable than the other diseases. This viral infection causes wartlike growths on featherless surfaces of a bird's face, legs, and feet. It is usually spread by infected mosquitoes, 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 population 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 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 unkept, 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 at 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 with out sharp points or edges. Even small scratches allow bacteria and viruses to infect otherwise healthy birds.

♦ Keep feeders clean. 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. Continued on Page 5
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
Call: 608-264-5411

BROWN BAG BIRDING
COUGAR BAY - ON ICE AND WATER
Kris Buchler

Despite brisk weather, twelve people braved the ice surrounding the southern end of Cougar Bay to greet spring arrivals at The Nature Conservancy Preserve. The purpose of the trip was to familiarize members with the protocols of doing transect bird counts for The Nature Conservancy as well as observing early spring migrants.

The shady west side of the hill produced mainly Mallards with a lone Northern Pintail on the south pond. The frozen wetlands and forest edge hosted Red-winged Blackbird and a Northern Shrike. Several Song Sparrow and American Robin were in evidence as well as Killdeer, a Pileated Woodpecker and Winter Wren. There was a nice sighting of a Red-tailed Hawk that flew in and perched nearby.

From the BLM access we observed many waterfowl on the open water as well as ice and shore. Thirteen Great Blue Heron had gathered on the mudflats and in the shallows. Waterfowl included Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, American Wigeon, Common Merganser, 16 Tundra Swan, over 200 Canada Goose and especially beautiful, one Green-winged Teal and one Eurasian Wigeon. One adult Bald Eagle perched on the pilings observing the observers.

Participants Shirley Sturts, Cynthia Langlitz, Carolyn and Glenn Nyberg, Lisa Hardy, Pat and Roland Craft, Lynn Sheridan, Dick Cripe, Judy Waring and Kris Buchler agreed it turned out to be a fairly good day for the birds.

DOLLARS AND CENTS AND OUR NEWSLETTER

THE FISH HAWK HERALD
Continued from Page 1

In the meantime, if you have access to the Internet, check out our website, at www.cdaaudubon.org. It contains the complete newsletter, plus more.

Please contact us. Let us know your preference. Telephone any board member and tell us your name, mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address if you would like to receive your newsletter electronically. By doing so, you will help reduce the cost to the chapter, as well as reducing paper consumption. Thanks in advance for your help.

Sincerely,
Board of Directors,
Coeur d’ Alene Chapter of Audubon

Look out for loons

This year we are putting extra effort into finding loons in North Idaho. If you’re lucky, we might even find a loon nest. Most years loons don’t successfully raise any chicks in Idaho. If you want to help with loon surveys one or more days between May 15 and June 17, or if you can help post loon educational signs at public boat ramps in April, please call Jenny Taylor at 765-7206 as soon as possible. She’d also like to know about loons you’ve seen on local lakes. We especially need people who own powerboats for loon surveys on Lake Pend Oreille and Priest Lake. Thanks!

Signs of spring at Heyburn

Lisa Hardy

Fifteen birders traveled to Heyburn State Park on Sunday, March 18, for a day of early spring migrants. Our first sign of spring was a singing Western Meadowlark in the farm fields between Plummer and the park. We then scoped out waterfowl from the observation platform, and saw a few distant swallows swooping over the marsh.

We hiked part of the Indian Cliffs trail through the forest, and had excellent views of Brown Creeper and Varied Thrush, while Shirley Sturts whistled up a Northern Pygmy Owl. Shirley was using her owl whistles to call up the chickadees, kinglets and nuthatches, but we were thrilled when a real owl responded.

On the water, the usual spring migrants were in evidence, including Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Canvasback and Wood Duck. We also saw yet another Eurasian Wigeon – single birds have been turning up all over the Inland Empire recently, making us wonder whether this species still qualifies as a “rare” bird. And though we diligently scoped the swans for Trumpeters, we were forced to conclude that all our birds were of the Tundra variety.

The Canada Geese on Chatcolet Lake showed an obvious range of neck lengths. The birds with very short necks are presumably one of the races breeding in the far north.

On the way back to Coeur d’Alene, driving through the much-needed rain, we made a pit stop at the Worley casino, where the more adventurous participants rode the only escalators in north Idaho. Happily, no one succumbed to the lure of the electronic slot machines!

Participants: Janet Allen, Janet Callen, Patricia & Roland Craft, Ken Eppler, Bill Gundlach, Lisa Hardy, Carolyn Nyberg, Jan & Herb Severtson, Shirley Sturts, Jake Troutman, Phil & Judy Waring, Warren Williams.

See www.cdaaudubon.org for list of species observed

Bird seed for sale

Black Oil Sunflower
50LB $14.00
25LB $7.50

Niger (Thistle) $1.25 LB

Available at Regular Meetings
Or call Janet Callen at 664-1085

Price includes sales tax
All proceeds benefit Coeur d’ Alene Audubon

THE FISH HAWK HERALD
OBSERVERS:
Kris Buchler (KBUC), Corinne Cameron (CCAM), Del Cameron (DCAM), Roland Craft (RCRA), Dick Cripe (DCRI), Caroline Eppler (CEPP), Ken Eppler (KEPP), Bill Gundlach (BGUN), Ed Haglund (EHAG) Lisa Hardy (LHAR), Jann and Earl Kendle (JEKE) Steve Lindsay (SLIN), George Sayler (GSAY), Jan Severtson (JSEV), Lynn Sheridan (LSHE), Shirley Sturts (SSTU), MICA Bay Survey observers: (SSTU, BGUN, KBUC,KEPP, CEPP, RCRA,JSEV,JHAN)

Trumpeter Swan 1 with a flock of Tundra Swan Hardy Loop Rd. Cataldo, March 18 (SLIN)

Wood Duck 1st 1 Mica Bay, CDA Lake, March 10 (GSAY); 2 Mica Bay Survey March 12 (JHAN)

Eurasian Wigeon 1 Cougar Bay CDA Lake, March 11 (Audubon Chapter Field Trip) and March 12 (SLIN); 1 Hardy Loop Rd. Cataldo, March 18 (SLIN); 1 pond near bridge south of Harrison, March 20 (DCAM)

Lesser Scaup 1 Mica Bay Survey, March 26 (MICA); 1 Mica Bay, March 27 (SLIN)

Greater Scaup 2 River Rd. near Cataldo, March 18 (SLIN)

Barrow's Goldeneye 1 River Rd.Cataldo, March 18 (SLIN)

Osprey 1st arrival 2 Cougar Bay, CDA Lake (EHAG) and 1 Mica Bay Survey (CEPP), March 26

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 Stanley Hill CDA Feb. 24 (SLIN)

Cooper's Hawk 1-90 at Atlas Rd., March 4 and 1 Harlow Point Road near Harrison, March 18 (SLIN)

Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk 1 Rathdrum Prairie, March 6 and 11 (SLIN)

Rough-legged Hawk 1-2 all winter Clagstone/Highway 41 - last seen so far March 22 (a winter visitor) (KEPP,CEPP)

Prairie Falcon 1 Rathdrum Prairie, March 5 (CCAM)

Ruffed Grouse 1 Mica Bay, Coeur d'Alene Lake (GSAY)

Killdeer 1st 1 Kingston, March 6 (LHAR), 1 Rathdrum Prairie, March 8 (SLIN); 1 Rathdrum Prairie, March 9 (CCAM); 1 Cougar Bay, CDA Lake, March 12 (Audubon Field Trip); 1-3 Mica Bay Survey, March 12&26.

Pileated Woodpecker 1 Mica Bay Survey, March 26

Downy Woodpecker 1 at her suet feeder Fairmont Loop Rd. CDA, March 16 (JSEV); 1 (1st this year at my feeder) Fernan Lake, March 23 (SSTU); Mica Bay Survey March 26

Hairy Woodpecker 1 at her suet feeder Fairmont Loop Rd. CDA March 16 (JSEV)

Northern Shrike 1 CDA Airport, March 5, Cougar Bay, March 11, and Mica Bay, CDA Lake, March 27 (SLIN); 1 Stanley Hill CDA, March 17 (DCRI);

Steller's Jay 1 at feeder eating peanuts north 16th Street CDA, March 12 (LSHE); 2 Mica Bay Survey, March 26

Blue Jay 1 at feeder N.16th Street CDA, March 5 (LSHE); 1 heard off and on in March south 16th (BGUN)

Violet-Green Swallow 1ST 1 Kingston, March 7 (LHAR); 6 Cougar Bay, CDA Lake March 12 (EHAG); 1+ Armstrong Hill, March 20 (KBUC)

Tree Swallow 1ST 1+ Cougar Bay CDA Lake, March 22 (SLIN), 4+ Mica Bay Survey March 26

Western Bluebird 1st 1 Rathdrum Prairie, March 18 (SLIN); 1 pr. Mica Bay Survey March 26

Mountain Bluebird 1st 1 Farragut State Park, March 11 (SLIN); 1 his neighbor's yard near Silverwood, March 21 (KEPP)

Townsend's Solitaire 4 Farragut State Park, March 11 (SLIN); 1 11th and Ash CDA, March 18 (GSAY); 1 Mica Bay Survey, March 26;

Varied Thrush 1 Stanley Hill CDA, March 1 (SLIN); 1 Fernan Creek, March 13 (KBUC,JWAR)

Spotted Towhee 1st 1 Hayden Lake, City, March 4 (CCAM), 1 Cougar Bay, CDA Lake and Thompson Lake, March 18 (SLIN); 1 Armstrong Hill CDA, March 20 (KBUC); 1 at my feeder Fernan Lake March 22 (SSTU)

White-throated Sparrow 1 Harrison, March 18 (SLIN)

Snow Bunting 50+ Rathdrum Prairie, Feb. 25 (SLIN)

Pine Grosbeak 1 Mokins Bay, Hayden L. Mar.15 (SLIN)

Red Crossbill 1 pr near Harrison March 12 (JEKE)

Cassin's Finch 1 pr. Pine Ridge Drive Harrison, March 14 (JEKE); 1 Stanley Hill CDA, Feb. 26 (SLIN); 1 pr. Fernan Lake, March 23,27 (SSTU)

Evening Grosbeak 1pr (1st this year at my feeder) Fernan Lake, March 27 (SSTU)