

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society  
Editor: Shirley Sturts - 84615 Fernan Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 -664-5318

DECEMBER 1997

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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)

## MEETINGS

### DECEMBER 11 MONDAY

#### REGULAR MEETING: CHRISTMAS COOKIES AND CHRISTMAS BIRDS

Time: 6:30 p.m. Social time

7:00 p.m. Meeting starts

Place: First Presbyterian Church, 521  
Lakeside Ave. (Annex building)

Program Susan Weller will discuss plans for the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts. Learn about the why, where, when and who of the Christmas Bird Count. A slide show of the birds which might be seen, will also be shown. This is an opportunity to brush up on bird identification, sample a variety of Cookies and consider participating in one of the counts.

## FIELD TRIPS

### DECEMBER 16 TUESDAY

#### BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

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

Meet: French Gulch Rd. between 23rd and  
24th Street

Leader: Roger Young 664-4179

Activity: Roger will take us by his bird  
feeders on Fernan Hill and we will look for  
birds around Ponderosa Golf Course

### DECEMBER 18 THURSDAY

#### JANUARY 8 THURSDAY

#### MICA BAY SURVEY

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop Road turn off

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.

### THREE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Teams and areas will be organized at the regular meeting on Dec. 15. These are all-day affairs, but you can attend for what ever time you can spare. Also, you don't have to be an expert to help out, this is a great chance to learn the local birds. Another way to participate is to count birds at your feeder. Call Shirley Sturts 664-5318 if you are interested in counting at your feeder and she will put you in contact with the team leader for your area. If you cannot attend the Dec. 15th meeting sign up for a CBC by calling the leaders listed below.

### DECEMBER 20 SATURDAY

#### COEUR D'ALENE CBC

Leader: Susan Weller 682-3413

Potluck: RSVP Jan and Herb Severtson  
667-6209. Everyone is welcome - come and  
share the days birding activities with  
others while sharing good food and hot  
drinks. Herb and Jan have graciously  
volunteered to host our potluck again this  
year. They live at 1460 Fairmont Loop -  
call for directions.

### DECEMBER 27 SATURDAY

#### INDIAN MOUNTAIN CBC

Leaders: Don Heikkila 689-3349

Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Potluck: Bring a dish to share at the  
home of Don Heikkila following the count.

### JANUARY 3 SATURDAY

#### SPIRIT LAKE CBC

Leader: John Shipley 773-9591

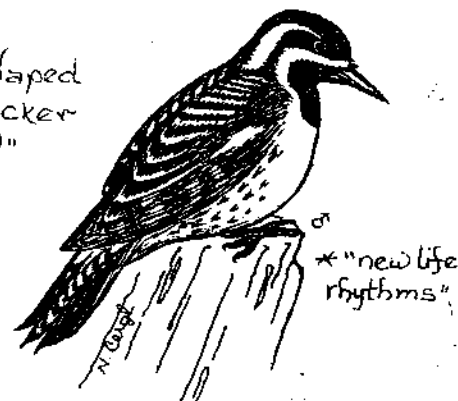
The illustrations in this newsletter are drawings from Nancy Cergl's Journal. We thank her for sharing them with us.

## MICA BAY SURVEY

Participants: K.Buchler, P.Comrie,  
B.Gundlach, J&S.Hanson, L.Johnson, C.  
Langlitz, T.Potts, L.Sheridan, S. Sturts,  
A.White, R.Young, D&B.Zimmer,

Species	Oct 2	Oct 16	Nov 6	Nov 18
Pacific Loon	-	-	-	1
Common Loon	1	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	1	6	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	4	8
Red-necked Grebe	6	3	2	2
Great Blue Heron	2	1	1	-
Canada Goose	36	47	66	-
Mallard	1+	-	2	-
American Wigeon	150+	20	100+	35
Canvasback	-	-	1	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	1
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	6
Bufflehead	-	-	10	8
Common Merganser	-	5	5	-
Hooded Merganser	-	-	5	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	-	2	1	1
Wild Turkey	-	-	2	-
American Coot	8	175	100+	75+
Killdeer	-	-	3	-
Common Snipe	-	-	1	-
Ring-billed Gull	2	25+	6	-
California Gull	-	15+	5	-
Common Tern	2	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	1	1
Hairy Woodpecker	-	-	-	1
Downy Woodpecker	-	1	-	1
Northern Flicker	7	10	2	2
Yellow-shafted	1	-	-	-
Pileated Woodpecker	1	-	-	-
Steller's Jay	1	1	-	1
Black-billed Magpie	4	1	-	-
Common Raven	1	2	2	1
Red-b Nuthatch	-	7	3	1
Black-C Chickadee	-	11	1+	6+
Mountain Chickadee	-	-	1+	-
Winter Wren	-	1	-	-
Golden-cr. Kinglet	2	1	8+	-
American Robin	55	50+	1	3
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	1
Cedar Waxwings	20+	-	-	-
Y-Rumped Warbler	-	6	-	-
Spotted Towhee	1	-	-	-
White-Cr. Sparrow	1	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	7	9	1	4
Dark-eyed Junco	-	2	-	-
Red-w Blackbird	5+	30	-	-
Red Crossbill	4+	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	2	-	-	1

Red-Naped  
Sapsucker  
8-9"



## WINTER BIRD FEEDING

Reprinted from Bird Notes, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

If you feed birds, you're in good company. Birding as a hobby currently stands second only to gardening as America's favorite pastime. A 1997 report from the Kaytee Avian Foundation estimates that 43 percent of U.S. households or about 65 million people provide food for wild birds. And, as a nation, we spend at least 2.5 billion dollars annually on bird-related products, including birdseed and bird feeders.

### WINTERTIME - AND THE LIVING'S NOT EASY

In much of North America, winter is a difficult time for birds. Days are often windy and cold; nights are long and even colder. The lush, berry-laden vegetation of summer and fall has withered and been consumed, and most insects are dead or dormant. Birds may have difficulty finding enough food during the short winter days to fuel their internal furnaces. Setting up a backyard bird feeder makes their lives easier and ours more enjoyable. To observe birds at your backyard feeder, you don't need to brave the elements - you can simply watch the show from your own home. One study, being done at Purdue University is focusing on how a home based, wild-bird feeding program can increase knowledge of birds and conservation issues among children. In addition participants in the Cornell lab of Ornithology's Project Feeder Watch have indicated that the project has changed the way they think about science and conservation. In other words, feeding birds can benefit both birds and humans.

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**WINTER BIRD FEEDING**

Continued from page 2

**TYPES OF BIRD FOOD**

During the spring and summer months, the diet of most songbirds is composed mainly of insects and spiders. These tiny creatures are highly nutritious, abundant, and for the most part, easily captured. During fall and winter, however nonmigratory songbirds must shift their diets to fruits and seeds to survive. This is the time of year when winter bird-feeding enthusiasts should roll out the welcome mat and set the table. The question is, what to serve for dinner? The shelves of many supermarkets and specialty bird-feeding stores are stocked with bags, buckets, and cakes of many food types. You may find the task of selecting the best foods to purchase a bit confusing. One key to attracting a diversity of bird species is to provide a variety of food types, but that doesn't mean you need to purchase one of everything on the shelf.

**WHICH SEED TYPES SHOULD I PROVIDE?**

Different birds prefer different types of seeds, but the seeds that attract the greatest number of species are black-oil sunflower. These seeds have a high meat-to-shell ratio, they are nutritious and high in fat, and their small size and thin shells make them easy for small birds to handle and crack. (Striped sunflower seeds are larger and have a thicker seed coat.) Several studies show that this high-energy food is the flock-pleasing favorite of the majority of birds that visit feeders. In fact, if you fill a feeder with a standard mix - a blend of sunflower, milo, millet, oats, wheat, flax, and buckwheat seeds - you'll see many birds actually kicking out the smaller seeds to get to the prized sunflower seeds.

While sunflower seeds are favored by most feeder birds, some birds do prefer other seeds. For example blackbirds like corn, and doves prefer corn, milo, and millet. A study at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, called the Seed Preference Test, found that most ground feeding bird species prefer white millet or red milo to black-oil sunflower seed, but many tree-feeding species prefer sunflower seed.

Experiment to see what your birds like best!

As an alternative to commercial mixtures, which may have a high percentage of less appealing "filler seeds" such as red milo, you can create an attractive, low-cost mixture yourself. Pour one 25 pound bag of black-oil sunflower seed, one 10 pound bag of white proso millet, and one 10 pound bag of cracked corn into a clean trash barrel. Mix it up with a broomstick, and be sure to replace the lid tightly. In fact, always store whatever seed you decide to provide in a tight, waterproof container. Metal containers work best to prevent rodents from gnawing their way into your food supply.

This article will be continued in the January issue where it discusses suet, leftovers, fruit, water and feeder maintenance.

**Editors note**

**FEEDER MAINTENANCE IS IMPORTANT IN PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF INFECTION AND DISEASES AMONG BIRDS.**

1. Keep feeding areas and feeders clean
2. Provide fresh suet - throw away old suet that is still hanging in your trees from last year. Suet should only be used as a winter food as it turns rancid in warm weather.
3. Keep food and food-storage containers clean, dry and free of mold and fungus.
4. Place feeders several feet apart to avoid overcrowding.

**AUDUBON NATURALS - BIRD SEED**

**WREATHS - DECORATIVE BIRD HOUSES**  
call Kris Buehler 664-4739

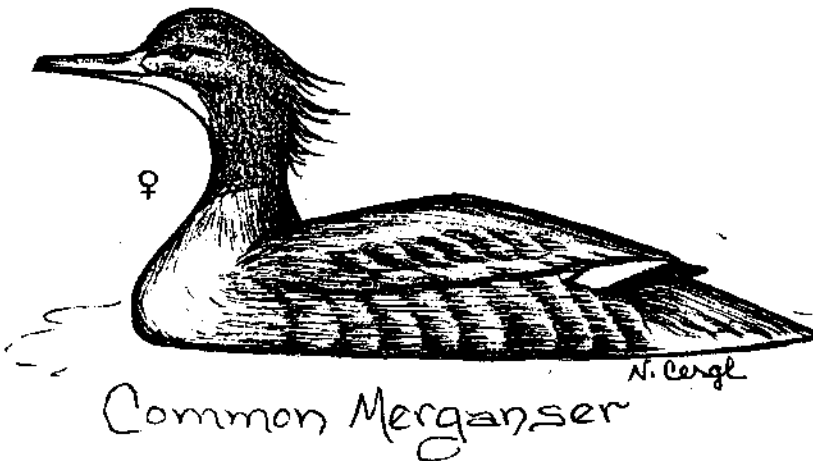
**50 LB BAGS OF BLACK/OILED SUNFLOWER SEED**  
\$16.00 / ask about Thistle seed  
Call Janet Callen 664-1085

**BIRD AND BAT HOUSES** call George Saylor 664-2787

## A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO IDAHO

edited by Dan  
Svingen and Kas Dumroese

This new book on where to go birding in Idaho will be on sale at our December meeting. We are selling them for \$18.00 inc/tax. Don't miss out - bring money or your check book to the meeting. A good item to put under the Christmas tree. If you can't make the meeting call Shirley at 664-5318.



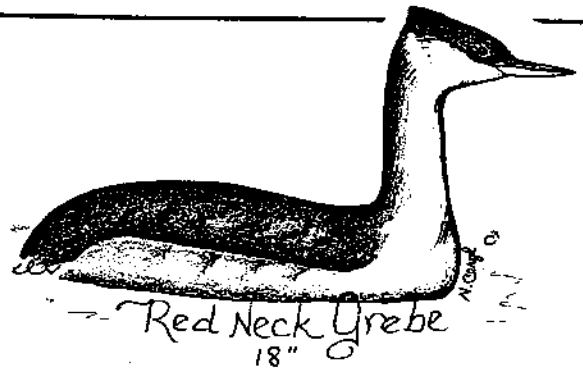
## BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

Tuesday, November 25

Kris Buchler, leader

Barbara Zimmer joined Kris Buchler this crisp damp day for a survey along the Centennial Trail and lakeshore of Lake Coeur d'Alene. Brisk winds forced 7 Common Goldeneye near the shore of Silver Beach. Near Bennett Bay we counted 27 more Common Goldeneye, 3 Bufflehead, 2 Common Merganser and 1 Red-necked Grebe.

Seeking shelter near the boatramp at Higgins Point were another 55 Goldeneye. From there we also spotted 3 California Gulls, 1 Common Loon and 2 Bald Eagles, one on Higgins Point and one across Wolfledge Bay on Mineral Ridge. As we walked the trail on the point, Barbara and I managed to collect pieces of fallen lichens and dead branches for further Audubon craft projects.



## EDUCATION REPORT

Kris Buchler, Education Chair

For the first time Lake City High School is offering an Advance Biology/Forestry Class which is taught by Pam Gomes who has been a volunteer on many worthwhile wildlife projects. I presented a two hour program that introduced students to birds they might encounter on their forest plot at this time of year (fall), then made them aware of the migratory species they could expect spring and summer. They actually recognized some of the bird calls I subjected them to and one student was definitely "bird wise". I discussed bird monitoring techniques, the importance of "Partners in Flight" and the plight of the Neotropical Migrants, examined nests of some local species and discussed cavity nesters and ground nesters. The students especially enjoyed seeing Widget, a Saw-whet Owl belonging to Watchable Wildlife, and a species commonly effected by logging.

The following day I accompanied the class to their property at the end of Cougar Gulch Road where their assignment was to survey plots of land for numbers of snags of various dimensions, tree type and cavities. While there we heard or saw Winter Wren, Stellar's Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee and a Hairy Woodpecker.

These students have to develop a management plan and our role has been to educate them as to species present, needs of those species, threats to those species and ways to manage their property to preserve its integrity as wild life habitat. Susan Weller will be speaking both high school classes on conservation issues and Audubon's role in such issues.

## OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Kris Buchler (KBUC) Corinne/Cliff Cammeron (CCAM,CLCA), Comrie PCOM), Rich DelCarlo (RDEL), Mike Denny (MDEN), Bill Gundlach (BGUN); Gertie Hanson (GHAN), Dave Holick (DHOL), Lisa Kirckhoffer (LKIR), Stan Kvern (SKVE), Rick/Cynthia Langlitz (RLAN) CLAN), Kristen Philbrook (KPHI), Cliff and Lee Strelz (CSTR,LSTR) Shirley Sturts (SSTU), Dan/Ila Svingen (DSVI,ISVI), Jennifer Welch (JWEL), Susan Weller (SWEL), Roger Young (RYOU): 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 1 Medicine Lake Nov. 9 (PCOM,SSTU); 2 Lake Pend Oreille Nov. 11 (LKIR)
2. Western Grebe 20-30 Denton Slough Oct. 11 (RDEL,JWEL); 1 Medicine Lake and 1 Cave Lake Nov. 9 (PCOM,SSTU)
3. Pied-billed Grebe 2 Porter Lake, 2 Medicine Lake and 1 Cave Lake Nov. 9 (PCOM,SSTU)
4. Eurasian Wigeon 1 Beauty Bay Nov. 25 (CCAM,CLCA)
5. Red-necked Grebe 3 Porter Lake (PCOM,SSTU)
6. Cattle Egret 1 west of Cataldo Nov. 15 (SWEL)
7. Northern Pintail 2 Silver Beach Dec. 2 (BGUN)
8. Barrow's Goldeneye 1 with flock of about 40 Common Silver Beach Dec. 2 (BGUN)
9. Surf Scoter 1 Kootenai River below Bonners Ferry Oct. 15 (RDEL)
10. Red-breasted Merganser 1 Lake Chatcolet (DSVI,ISVI,MDEN,DHOL)
11. Northern Harrier 2 Hell's Gulch Road south of St. Maries Nov.9 (SSTU,PCOM)
12. Rough-Legged Hawk 2 Huetter Nov. 3 (RLAN)
13. Bald Eagle Winter BLM Bald Eagle Count (CCAM CLCA) Nov. 18 1, Nov. 25 3, Dec. 2 6 imm and 15 adults
14. Merlin 1 Hope Oct. 11 (RDEL,JWEL)
15. California Quail large flock coming to feeder all fall Fernan Hill (RYOU)
16. Ruffed Grouse 2 West Eagle Creek CDA Nat. Forest Nov. 16 (CLAN), 4 CDA Nat. Forest Fernan District Nov. 4 (KPHI)
17. Long-bill Dowitcher 2 Coeur d'Alene River Delta Nov. 8 (DSVI,ISVI,MDEN,DHOL)
18. Bonaparte's Gull 60-70 Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Oct. 13 (RDEL)
19. Forester's Tern 2 Denton Slough Oct. 11 (RDEL,JWEL)
20. Barred Owl 1 River Road (west of Cataldo) Nov. 22 (SWEL)
21. Hairy Woodpecker 1 Fernan Hill all fall (RYOU)
22. Downy Woodpecker 1 Emerald Estates, Hayden Lake all fall (CSTR,LSTR)
23. Pileated Woodpecker 1 coming to feeder all fall Emerald Estates, Hayden Lake (LSTR,CSTR)
24. Chestnut-backed Chickadee 1+ at feeder mid Nov.-present Potlatch Hill (KBUC)
25. Blue Jay 2 at feeder Emerald Estates, Hayden Lake 1st week in Nov. to present (LSTR,CSTR). The four at the Harrison Feeder left mid November (SKVE), 1+ in the south/east part of Coeur d'Alene City were last seen mid November although Bill thinks they may still be around (BGUN)
26. Winter Wren 1 Blackwell Hill seen off and on all fall (GHAN), 1 Squaw Bay, Coeur d'Alene Lake Nov. 18 (BDUR); 2 W.Eagle Creek CDA Nat. Forest Nov. 16 (CLAN), 2 CDA Nat. Forest Fernan District Nov. 12 (KPHI)
27. Bewick's Wren 1 south of Harrison Nov. 8 (DSVI,ISVI,MDEN,DHOL)
28. Common Yellowthroat 1 Plummer Marsh in Heyburn State Park Nov. 8 (DSVI,ISVI,MDEN,DHOL)
29. Lincoln's Sparrow 1 Plummer Marsh in Heyburn State Park Nov. 8 (DSVI,ISVI,MDEN,DHOL)

"I heard a bird sing  
In the dark of December  
A magical thing  
And sweet to remember  
'We are nearer to Spring

Than we were in  
September,  
I heard a bird sing  
In the dark of December."  
Oliver Herford

## Board of Directors

**President:** Janet Callen 664-1085 **Vice President:** Mike Mihelich 664-4741 **Secretary/Publicity:** Lynn Sheridan 765-1345(W) MTWF **Treasurer:** Corinne Cameron 664-0344 **Field Trips:** Cynthia Langlitz 664-0485 **Conservation:** Susan Weller 682-3413 **Education/Librarian:** Kris Buchler 664-4739 **Membership:** Jan Severtson 667-6209 **Hospitality:** George Saylor 664-2787 **Newsletter:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318 **Historian:** Nancy Cergl 773-0991 **Board Member:** Ronn Rich 772-4512

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member in the National Audubon Society and my local chapter, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter (Chapter Code GO67XCH8).

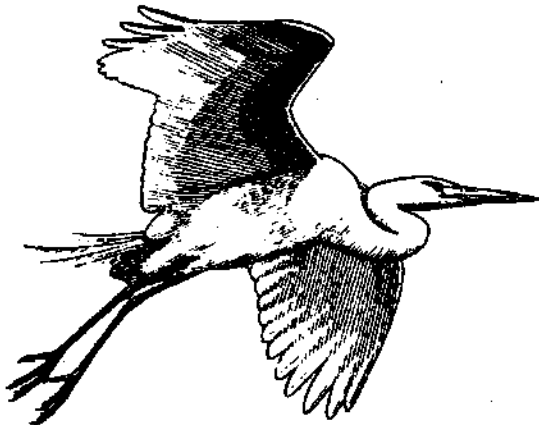
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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'Alene, ID 83816

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 83816

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



**GREAT EGRET**  
*Ardea alba*

