WE NEED YOU!!!

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Beginning bird watcher to seasoned ornithologist, all are welcome and needed to participate in our three local Christmas Bird Counts. Our Chapter is looking for a big turn out this year to help celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Christmas Bird Count.

LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION

➢ If you live in the count area (see count areas on page 2) you can spend as little or as much time as you want counting the birds coming to your feeder.

➢ If you enjoy feeding birds but have no idea what their individual names are you can invite a team in the field to drop by during the day and help you identify them.

➢ If you are a novice birder, don't be shy about signing up to go out in the field. Teams are made up of experienced birders, beginners and those of us who are somewhere in-between. The more eyes and ears we have out there the more fun we have and the more birds we end up with on our list at the end of the day.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
CBC PARTICIPATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

➤ You can spend the whole day counting birds with those of us who are obsessed with counting birds from dawn to dusk or you can join up for part of a day.

Take a break from the holiday rush. What better way is there to relax than to get outside with fellow birders and see how our feathered friends are spending their day?

One thing you do need to be aware of, there is a modest charge of $5.00 per person to participate as a field volunteer (for either part of day or all day). The fee of $5.00 must be paid for each count in which participate. There is no charge for feeder watchers. The money goes to the National Audubon Society to help pay for expenses involved in the organizing, compiling, analyzing and publishing the bird survey.

THREE LOCAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

(There are also CBC in Sandpoint, Bonners Ferry, Moscow and Lewiston)

Feeder Watchers: We would appreciate your participation in the CBC by either letting us count at your feeders or by you doing the counting and reporting into us at the end of the day. You should report only the highest number seen at one time during the day. For example if you see 12 Black-capped Chickadees at your feeder in the morning and 10 Black-capped Chickadees in the afternoon you would report only 12 (not 22). That keeps you from double counting the same birds. If you are not sure if you are in the circle call Shirley at 664-5318.

Field Watchers: Look over the following three CBC and let Shirley know if you are interested in participating in any or all of them. She will then assign you to a team. Some teams may be divided into smaller units for better coverage.
WHAT IS A CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

- It is the world's largest all-volunteer bird survey.

- More than 45,000 people participate each year in this all-day census of early-winter bird populations.

- The results of their efforts are compiled into the longest running database in ornithology representing close to one hundred years of unbroken data on trends of early-winter bird populations across the Americas.

- All observers must count birds within the designated 15-mile circle during a two-week period. This year it's between December 17-January 3.

- There are approximately 1700 CBC circles covering all 50 states, every Canadian province, Central and South America, the Caribbean and several Pacific Islands. Idaho had 20 CBC circles in 1997 + Lewiston 1998.

- Do you want to census birds at your feeder but you don't live within a Christmas Bird Count circle? Become involved in Project FeederWatch through Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Call (807) 254-2427 for details. Or/And - become involved in the local feeder watch organized by Shirley Sturts 664-5318.

- For the first time ever Compilers will enter their group's results on-line at BirdSource, http://birdsource.org, the source of bird information, run by Audubon and The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

- Technology, developed by BirdSource, enables the website to display CBC data utilizing clickable maps showing range expansions or contractions, graphs illustrating population trends, and changes of bird abundance within count circles over time.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

From the web page of the National Audubon Soc.

Up until the turn of the century, people commonly

known as the "Side Hunt": choose sides with their whoever the biggest feathered

Conservation was in its beginning stages at the turn of the century when many observers were becoming concerned about the indiscriminate slaughter of wildlife and concurrent declines in bird populations.

On Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the then budding Audubon Society, called for an end to the slaughter. He suggested that rather than shooting birds, people count them instead. So began the Christmas Bird Count.

Thanks to the inspiration of Frank M. Chapman and the perspiration of twenty-seven dedicated birders, twenty-five Christmas Bird Counts were held that day. The locations ranged from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California, with most Counts in or near the population centers of northeastern North America.

Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied a total of 90 species on all the counts combined. First CBC: December 25, 1900, counted about 18,500 individual birds.
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS
BREAKFASTS AND
POTLUCKS

December 18, Saturday
- Coeur d'Alene -

We will meet for Breakfast 6:00 a.m. at Michael D's Eatery on Lake CDA Drive south of Sherman.

A Potluck will be held after the count at the home of Herb and Jan Severtson (1460 Fairmont Loop Road, CDA). Please participate in our Potluck. It is a lot more fun when all the teams and feeder watchers are there to compile the day's results and talk over interesting sightings. Even if you couldn't make the count, you are welcome to join us for the potluck. RSVP and Get Directions by Calling Jan at 667-6209

December 28, Tuesday
- Indian Mountain -

Breakfast will be planned by each team.

A Potluck will be held after the count at the home of Compiler Don Heikkila on O'Gara Road east of Harrison. Call Don 689-3349 for directions. We always eat well at Don's and have a good time sharing the day's birding adventures.

Don started this CBC in 1966.

January 2, Sunday
- Spirit Lake -

We will meet for breakfast 6:00 a.m. at Ruster's Roost in Hayden Lake. We will be on our way by 7:00 a.m.

Pizza and Salad will be shared after the count at the home of Cindy Langlitz (call 762-0880 for directions). Each Team will bring a pizza of their choice, a salad and something to drink with them. Each team leader should make plans with their team. Feeder watchers are welcome to join us. Eat pizza and relax among fellow birders.

What better way to end a day of birding?

DECEMBER FIELD TRIPS

MICA BAY SURVEY
DATE: December 3 & 13 Friday/Monday
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95
LEADER: Shirley Squire 664-5318
ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours twice a month counting all the birds we can find in the Mica Bay area. Beginner birders are welcome to join us.

FARM VISIT - SPOKANE RIVER
DATE: December 11
TIME: 8:00 a.m.
MEET: East side of Rosauer's Parking Lot
LEADER: Shirley Squire 664-5318
ACTIVITY: Our main objective will be to count birds at the farm of Alice Harrison near State Line. She tells us she will have coffee and a treat for us when we come. We will drive there by way of East and West Riverview Drives, stopping at various locations to check out birds on the Spokane River. If time permits we will return along Northman Point. This will be a half-day trip, returning to Coeur d'Alene around 12 noon.

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP
DATE: December 15, Tuesday
TIME: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.
MEET: Independence Point, CDA City Beach
LEADER: Bill Gundlach 667-5339
ACTIVITY: This is a good time of year to look for different species of gulls. In past years we have found a single Mew Gull at City Beach. We will walk from City Beach to the NIC bike road.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD
BLACKWELL ISLAND
Brown Bag Birding November 9

Bill Gundlach

Lynn Sheridan and I spent part of the noon hour walking the trails of Blackwell Island looking for birds. There was not much bird activity, but we did see a small flock of Canada Goose in the Spokane River as well as some Mallard and a couple of gull species far off on some pilings. Other birds seen were Black-capped Chickadee, a Northern Flicker, a Common Raven, and a fairly large group of about 10 Red-breasted Nuthatch in some small Pine trees. These latter were very active as usual, including some aggressive behavior between a couple of them, for whatever reason I didn’t figure out. The Red-breasted Nuthatch is a favorite bird of mine. They are especially enjoyable to watch and listen to, even when it includes some squabbling. •

LOONS, LOONS, LOONS
Field Trip the Thompson Lake November 13

Bill Gundlach

The weather was mild, somewhat windy in the morning, but otherwise a good day for nine people to drive down the east side of Coeur d’Alene Lake to Thompson Lake near Harrison. Our first stop at Wolf Lodge Bay found 13 Common Loon and a Pacific Loon, plus one Western Grebe, four Horned Grebe, a Northern Pintail, a Bald Eagle, Mallard and Bufflehead. We found it pays to be thorough when looking for birds in wavy conditions because they are not that easily seen. In Beauty Bay there was another Common Loon.

At Squaw Bay turnoff there were flocks of about 20 Evening Grosbeak and about 20 Red Crossbill. Some Wild Turkey flew across the highway. On the water there were lots of Bufflehead, Red-necked Grebe and Pied-billed Grebe as well as a pair of striking Hooded Merganser. We also heard a Northern Pygmy-Owl. Just past Squaw Bay another Common Loon was seen.

A stop at Echo Bay found 6 Red-necked Grebe close-up. Then on Gotham Bay a large flock of Common Loon plus some scattered ones (16 total) attracted our attention. Several of these loons were doing some unusual splashing around that appeared to be a combination of bathing, playing and shallow diving but it may have been a method of attracting small fish, since one was observed catching and eating a small fish right after this activity.

Tumer Bay yielded two more Common Loon as we continued on to Carlin Bay Resort for a pit stop. Here a Northern Pygmy-Owl sat in a tree nearby. Down the highway again we went to Powder Horn Bay where we saw another group of 10 Common Loon.

At the mouth of the Coeur d’Alene River we birded for a while along Harlow Point Road and saw 2-Belted Kingfisher, a Winter Wren, 2 Western Grebe, 4 Pied-billed Grebe, 3 Common Loon and 2000+ American Coot.

We then crossed over to Thompson Lake where there were many waterfowl including 1000+ Mallard, 100+ Northern Pintail, 100+ American Wigeon, 20+ Gadwall, 20+ Ring-necked Duck, 12 Redhead, 1 Wood Duck, and many Canada goose. There was also a mystery duck with a white breast (like a Pintail), dark head and other unusual markings which was probably a hybrid. While there we also observed a few Song Sparrow and a couple of Marsh Wren which were fun to watch and listen to.

The trip home was by Anderson Lake, Harrison Flats (farm area), Coeur d’Alene River Valley, Medicine Lake and Rose Lake. It was a successful trip and the target bird, the Common Loon, was certainly common, with a total of 46, plus one Pacific Loon. Other species on the trip - not mentioned above - were Northern Harrier, Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, Pygmy Nuthatch, Gray Jay, Steller’s Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Common Raven, and Belted Kingfisher. Our total species count was 41.

Participants in the loony trip with me were Jan and Herb Severtson, Theresa Potts, Kris Buchler, Janet Callen, Lynn Sheridan, Shirley Sturts and Ken Eppler. •
THE EAGLES ARE HERE!

Scott Robinson

The BLM will host the ninth annual Coeur d'Alene Eagle Watch Week from December 26 through January 1. While most of our eagles come from Canada, about 70% of our eagle watchers come from within a 3-hour driving time of Coeur d'Alene. The other 30% come from everywhere else including 44 American states, Washington D.C., and 16 foreign countries. Two years ago, I visited with a grandmother from Lima, Peru who was visiting her family in Rathdrum.

Members of Audubon are invited to volunteer their time to help staff the exhibits at either the Mineral Ridge Boat Launch or Trailhead. Come join the fun for this positive public educational event. If you are interested, then please talk to either Lynn Sheridan or George Sayler about their experiences and then call Scott Robinson at 769-5048 or email Scott_Robinson@blm.gov See our Web Page: www.id.blm.gov.

LAKE SIDE CONDOS FOR THE BIRDS

Susan Weller

The temperature in Coeur d'Alene was in the mid-sixties on the day I chose to clean the nesting boxes on the Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course. Even though an unusually strong wind was blowing in from the lake, it was as warm as an early summer day. Scott Reed, retired vice-chairman of Audubon's National Board, joined golf course superintendent John Anderson and me for an afternoon of bird condo housekeeping duties. We were all wishing we lived in a lake shore sky rise complete with maid service!

Both the Wood Duck and American Kestrel boxes were occupied by mammals that were, fortunately, not at home when we called. The cedar chips donated by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game never made it into the duck box, however, which would explain why woodies never moved in along Fernan Creek. Cavity nesting raptors don't add nesting material perhaps because the nest would quickly become unsanitary. The kestrel box was loaded with pine needles, and a deep round impression suggested flying squirrels.

We were horrified to learn European Starlings had usurped the Common Flicker nesting box—disappointing, but expected so close to town. John mentioned he had trouble getting Osprey to nest on the platforms he erected because crows kept harassing the birds. As if on cue, about 65 Common Crows flew over cawing and wheeling in the wind.

None of the chickadee/nuthatch/wren boxes were occupied by birds. Though we could hear dozens of Pygmy Nuthatches in the Ponderosa pines, only yellow jackets and a hobo spider were present in the boxes. All of the swallow/bluebird boxes had been used by Tree Swallows. Swallows even nested in a third Wood Duck box. After observing the swallows all summer, I decided to replace the box only if there was evidence the fledglings could not get out. Evidently, Tree Swallows are pretty agile at climbing up the inside panel of a Wood Duck box.

For the first year, a 35 percent occupancy rate is about what I expected. The boxes will provide a warm place for mammals and birds to roost over the winter. Maybe we will pick up a few chickadee tenants when the boxes prove to be safe and warm for them during frigid weather.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

LAKE SIDE CONDOS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Next year John and I will place more swallow boxes around the boathouse, and on the floating green. Personally, I liked it when the boy scouts were around—they seemed eager to scale the ladder to the heights necessary for kestrel box placement!

Before I had the opportunity to ask John, he asked me if the golf course could be included in the Christmas Count for 1999. You bet! The golf course will be a welcome addition to the Coeur d'Alene count. •

REGARDING A PRECIOUS GIFT
A Message from the President

Susan Weller

My husband Greg holds a Class II Water Treatment Operator’s License issued by the State of Idaho. During the extensive training needed to acquire such a license, Greg learned that it takes only one gallon of gasoline to render one million gallons of water undrinkable.

In case you think you read that incorrectly, I will repeat the numbers: one gallon of gasoline renders one million gallons of water undrinkable.

In the early 1990’s, Montana Talc’s Sappington Plant had a small fuel leak from a relatively small fuel tank. That leak contaminated the ground water all around the mine, and polluted wells nearby.

Three Forks, Montana learned the definition of irony: having to drink bottled water in a pristine place.

To many Audubon members, it is unthinkable that the Kootenai County Planning Department would even consider a proposal to locate a major refueling depot above the Rathdrum aquifer. Conservationists know too well what may happen to land when someone stands to make or lose money. Perhaps Kootenai County Planning Department is out of touch, and has not kept up with the ethical development of its citizens. A truly enlightened planning department would have a plan in the works for immediate and uncompromising protection of the Rathdrum aquifer.

One prospect on it was not fully explored at the meeting—that of the land ethic. Aldo Leopold writes, “An ethic may be regarded as a mode of guidance for meeting ecological situations so new or intricate, or involving such deferred reactions, that the path of social expediency is not discernible to the average individual. “I believe all of the communities involved know that placing a fuel storage facility in the watershed above our aquifer, is both an unnecessary risk, and an unnecessary threat to a precious resource.

Such an enormous risk can and should be avoided at all costs. Man’s technological hubris should not be allowed to endanger the very resource that makes living in this region possible. Leopold calls ethics “a kind of community instinct in-the-making.” Our community instincts are spot-on regarding the proposed refueling depot. To locate fuel storage tanks above the aquifer is simply wrong.

Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden for assuming too much. I hope we have learned something about being good stewards on the only known garden planet in the universe. If we have not, thousands of people may someday be expelled from paradise on earth. •

THE FISH HAWK HERALD
MICA BAY SURVEY

Observers: Shirley Sturts, Jan Sewartson, Bill Gundlach, Lisa Hardy, Kris Buchler, Lynn Sheridan, Ken Eppler, Theresa Potts, Corrine Cameron, Roger Young, Bill Harrison, Wendy Aeschliman, Zella Bloxom, Dick Cripe (*Steven Lindsay in afternoon)

SPECIES NOVEMBER 8 NOVEMBER 22

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<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Nov 8</th>
<th>Nov 22</th>
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<tr>
<td>Horned Grebe</td>
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<td>Western Grebe</td>
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<td>Tundra Swan</td>
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<td>American Wigeon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bufflehead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hooded Merganser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Song Sparrow</td>
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<td>House Finch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Crossbill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pine Siskin</td>
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I found it interesting that 1 hour later on the Nov 22 survey Steve saw 6 species that we didn't see but he didn't see any of our ducks or the Northern Shrike. We saw the Shrike near the Highway and again in the bay - so there may have been two.

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

- **Monthly field trips** will be held the second Saturday of each month. There could also be special field trips in addition to the regular scheduled field trips - check your newsletter.
- **Brown Bag trips** will be held the second Tuesday of each month between Noon and 1:00 p.m.
- **Mica Bay Survey trips** are held twice a month - check your newsletter for dates and time.
- **Special weekend field trips** will be announced.
- **Next field trip January 9 Leader needed - Bill Gundlach 667-3339**
- **Volunteers are needed to lead field trips: Call: Bill Gundlach 667-3339**
OBSERVATION POST

Observers: Wendy Aeschliman (WAES), Kris Buchler (KBUC), Richard Crpe (RCRI), Ken Eppler (KEP), Cynthia Langlitz (CLAN), Stephen Lindsay (SLIN), Theresa Potts (TPOT), Scott Robinson (SROB), George Sayler (GSAY), Lynn Sheridan (LSHE), Shirley Stuts (SSTU), Coeur d'Alene Audubon Field Trip (CAS)
RBA Rare Bird Alert for Northern Idaho-Eastern Washington-Northeastern Oregon Phone (208) 882-6195 or Internet-Web Site: http://pinace.pine.edu/~cwilliamson/index.html

(Location listed in the Observation Post are limited to North Idaho. The editor would welcome articles about birding trips taken out of our area — Deadline — day of our regular meeting)

Pacific Loon: 1 Wolf Lodge Bay, CDA Lake Oct.30-Nov.5 (SLIN) and Nov. 13 (CAS)
Common Loon: 60 CDA Lake Drive Nov.11 (CLAN); 10 Wolf Lodge Bay Nov.5 (SLIN)
Wood Duck: 1 Thompson Lake Oct.30 (SLIN); 1 Kelso Lake Nov.5 (TPOT, KBUC, SSTU)
Common Goldeneye: 8 Fernan Lake Nov. 1 (LSHE)
Bufflehead: 12+ East end of Fernan Lake Nov.4 (1st seen this fall on Fernan Lake) (SSTU); 4 Fernan Lake Nov. 10 (LSHE)
Bald Eagle: 6 Wolf Lodge Bay, CDA Lake Nov. 15 (CCAM)
Northern Harrier: 1 Rathdrum Prairie Oct.30 (CLAN); 1 Fernan Cr. Oct.31 (KBUC, SSTU)
Northern Goshawk: 1 imm. Harrison Flats Oct. 30 (SLIN)
Red-tailed Hawk: 3 Rathdrum Prairie Nov.7 (JALL); 1 Rathdrum Prairie Nov.15 (CLAN); 1 Harrison Flats Oct.30 (SLIN)
Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Harrison Flats Oct.30 (SLIN)
Golden Eagle: 1 Hollister Mountain (near Hauser Lake) Nov.9 (SROB)
American Kestrel: 1 Dalton Gardens Nov. 10 (JALL)
Merlin: 1 Coeur d'Alene south 16th Street Nov.15 (BGUN)
Gray Partridge: 5 Rathdrum Prairie Nov.10 (CLAN)
Bonaparte's Gull: 1 adult 1 immature Thompson Lake Oct.30 (SLIN)
Downy Woodpecker: 1 pr. CDA north 16th suet feeder Nov.10 (LSHE)
White-headed Woodpecker: 2 Hauser Lake Oct. 23 (JALL)
Northern Flicker: 1 CDA north 16th suet feeder Nov.1 (JALL)
Filaeted Woodpecker: 1 Hauser Lake Nov. 1 (JALL)
Northern Pygmy-Owl: 1 CDA Stanley Hill Nov.1 (RCRI); 1 Hoo Doo Valley Nov.5 (TPOT, KBUC, SSTU)
Northern Shrike: 1 CDA Stanely Hill Nov.1 (RCRI); 1 Rose Lake and Thompson Lake Oct.30 (SLIN)
Gray Jay: 2 Shepherd Lake Nov. 15 (WAES)
Blue Jay: 2 CDA - east Lakeshore Drive Nov. 3 (BGUN)
American Crow: 80+ feeding on the lawn and parking lot in the area of 23rd and Sherman - unusual to see them in such large numbers in CDA - food must have been especially penful in that area Nov. 5 and 8 (SSTUKBUC)
Horned Lark: 6+ Rathdrum Prairie Nov. 14 (CLAN)
Black-Capped Chickadee: 4 CDA 11th and Ash Nov.15 (GSAY)
Mountain Chickadee: 3 Dalton Gardens Nov. 10 (JALL)
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 CDA North 16th Street Nov. 5 (LSHE)
Golden-Crowned Kinglet: 2 CDA 15th Street Oct.24 And 11th/Ash Nov.15 (GSAY)
Dark-eyed Junco: 10 CDA N.16th Oct.10 (LSHE); 8-10 Dalton Gardens Nov.2 (JALL)
Cedar Waxwing: large flock Tamarack Ridge (near Cataldo) Oct.30 (SLIN)
Song Sparrow: 1 Dalton Gardens daily (JALL)
Pine Siskin: Large flock Tamarack Ridge Oct. 30 (SLIN)
American Goldfinch: 15 Silverwood Nov. 15 (KEPP)
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Downy Woodpecker: 1 pr. CDA north 16th suet feeder Nov. 10 (LSHE)
White-headed Woodpecker: 2 Hauser Lake Oct. 23 (JAIL)
Northern Flicker: 1 CDA north 16th suet feeder Nov. 1 (JAIL)
Fileated Woodpecker: 1 Hauser Lake Nov. 1 (JAIL)
Northern Pygmy-Owl: 1 CDA Stanley Hill Nov. 1 (RCRI); 1 Hoo Doo Valley Nov. 5 (TPOT, KBUC, SSTU)
Northern Shrike: 1 CDA Stanely Hill Nov. 1 (RCRI); 1 Rose Lake and Thompson Lake Oct. 30 (SLIN)
Gray Jay: 2 Shepherd Lake Nov. 15 (WAES)
Blue Jay: 2 CDA - east Lakeshore Drive Nov. 3 (BGUN)
American Crow: 80+ feeding on the lawn and parking lot in the area of 23rd and Sherman - usualy to see them in such large numbers in CDA - food must have been especially plentiful in that area Nov. 5 and 6 (SSTUKBUC)
Horned Lark: 6+ Rathdrum Prairie Nov. 14 (CLAN)
Black-Capped Chickadee: 4 CDA 11th and Ash Nov. 15 (GSAY)
Mountain Chickadee: 3 Dalton Gardens Nov. 10 (JAIL)
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 CDA North 16th Street Nov. 5 (LSHE)
Golden-Crowned Kinglet: 2 CDA 15th Street Oct. 24 and 11th/ash Nov. 15 (GSAY)
Dark-eyed Junco: 10 CDA N. 16th Oct. 10 (LSHE); 8-10 Dalton Gardens Nov. 2 (JAIL)
Cedar Waxwing: large flock Tamarack Ridge (near Cataldo) Oct. 30 (SLIN)
Song Sparrow: 1 Dalton Gardens daily (JAIL)
Pine Siskin: Large flock Tamarack Ridge Oct. 30 (SLIN)
American Goldfinch: 15 Silverwood Nov. 15 (KEPP)

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

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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

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National Audubon Society
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GREAT EGRET
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