

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society
Editor: Shirley Sturts - 24615 Fernan Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 -
664-5318

FEBRUARY 1996

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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

FEBRUARY 7 WEDNESDAY BOARD MEETING

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Home of Janet Callen
1392 Ocean Ave.

FEBRUARY 20 TUESDAY REGULAR MEETING

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Idaho Fish and Game Office
2750 Kathleen Ave.

Program: Landscaping to Attract Birds
presented by Kathy LeFrancis, master
gardner

AUDUBON FACTS

With nearly 500,000 members and more than 500 chapters throughout the Americas, Audubon is a leading grassroots organization that works to protect and conserve the environment- from natural ecosystems to the urban landscape. The new headquarters, a restored and remodeled century-old Romanesque Revival loft building in Manhattan, reflects this national role by serving as a model for the energy-efficient environmentally responsible work place. Achieved at market rates with readily available technology, Audubon House's renovation proves that environmentally conscious design can be both practical and affordable.

FIELD TRIPS

February 10, Saturday Field Trip to Davenport, Wa. Area

Time: 7 am

Meet: SW corner-Rosauer's parking lot
Leader: Chris Buchler 664-4739

Activity: We will combine efforts with members of the Spokane Audubon Chapter to find a snowy owl that has been seen this winter on the prairies west of Spokane. Horned larks, snow buntings and hawks are good possibilities as well, plus the unknown. Bring your lunch and plan on an interesting day. For more information call Chris.

FEBRUARY 13, TUESDAY BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

6th in a series of noon time birding

Time: 12 noon to 1 pm

Meet: Parking spot for Blackwell Island
across road from Cedars Restaurant

Leader: Judy Waring 765-5378

Activity: We will tour Blackwell Island for both birding purposes and to familiarize ourselves with this valuable wildlife habitat. Please join us for a change-of-pace lunch hour.

MAY 25-27 FIELD TRIP - MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND TRIP TO THE WORLD CENTER FOR BIRDS OF PREY IN BOISE

Leader: Judy Waring 765-5378

Activity: Many exotic birds are housed at this facility including California condors that are being raised for eventual release into the wild. We will also be taken on some local birding routes by a birder from the Boise chapter of Audubon. This will be a 3 day trip, or longer if you have the time. Plan to come along and take a closer look at beautiful Idaho, birding all the way. For more information call Judy Waring.

Bird Quotes Quiz

(Bird watching inside literature)



Check your bird/literary IQ. There are many memorable quotes, poetry, and quips about birds. How many can you recognize? Who said.....

(see answers on page 7)

(send quotes to the editor for future newsletters)

"Better far, ah, yes! than no bird
Is the ever-present snowbird;
Gayly tripping, dainty creature,
Where the snow hides every feature;
Covers fences, field, and tree,
Clothes in white all things but thee;
Restless, twittering, trusty snowbird,
Lighter heart than thine has no bird."

"The woodpecker well may despair of this feat--
Only the fly with you can compete!"

"There is joy in the bells of the snow-crunching sleigh,
In the ruddy cheek and the laughter gay,
But I long for the song of the birds"

PROVERBS AND AFFORISMS

"A ogni ucello suo nido e bello."
(To every bird his nest is beautiful.)

"Do your talking so you can sell your parrot to the local gossip."

"Faith is the bird that sees the light while the dawn is still dark."

"Keep a green tree in your heart; perhaps a singing bird will come."

"There is no better bird watcher than another bird."

"A bird can't fly on one wing."

"A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

CLASSES OFFERED

A beginning bird identification and a wildflower identification class are both being offered this spring at the North Idaho College Workforce Training Center in Post Falls. For more information about either class pick up a catalog of non credit classes at the NIC campus or the Workforce Training Center in Post Falls, or call 769-3333

Bird Identification For Beginners
Classroom instruction Mondays 7-9 p.m.
April 8-May 13 Field trips Saturdays
9 a.m. to Noon April 27 and May 18
Cost \$51 Instructor: Shirley Sturts

Wildflower Identification
Mondays 7-9 p.m. April 8-May 13
Cost \$38 Instructor: Robert Mathiasen



Located at 6005 N. Division
Hours: M-F 10-6 Sat. 9-5 Sun. 12-5

Wild Birds Unlimited will donate 5% of your purchases back to our Audubon Society Chapter. Be sure to mention that you are a member and present your membership card or a copy of the Fish Hawk Herald with your name on it

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Congratulations to George Saylor for winning 3rd place (category: Anything goes) in the Idaho Wildlife Photo Contest for 1995. His picture is entitled "Boy With Boat" Priest Lake. It is featured in Idaho Wildlife Winter 1996.

SUMMER AUDUBON CAMPS

Local Scholarship Offered

Our Chapter is offering a scholarship for an adult 18 years or older to attend the Audubon Ecology Workshop in the Rockies for the week of July 27-Aug. 7. This workshop offers the combination of a natural history program integrated with information on conservation issues, ethics, and ecological living. The emphasis is on ecological relationships, including the role that humans play. One semester credit is offered through the University of Wyoming.

For more information and an application call Kris Buchler at 664-4739

NEEDED !!!!! Scholarship Funding

Our chapter would like to make the Scholarship to attend the Wyoming Audubon Ecology workshop an annual award and present it as a memorial scholarship or scholarship fund. We are looking for donors who would be interested in funding the scholarship (in part or in full) and in naming it. The workshop currently costs \$750 (not including travel). Anyone interested in seeking more information, please call the Education Chairwoman- Kris Buchler at 664-4739.

Employment Opportunities

Audubon is now hiring Natural History Instructors and Student Assistants for their summer camps located in Maine, Connecticut, and Wyoming. The programs run for approximately eight weeks from mid-June to late August and the positions include salary plus board and room. Interested persons should send a resume to:

Audubon Ecology Camps and Workshops
National Audubon Society
613 Riversville Road
Greenwich, CT 06831

QUAIL TALES



by Susan Weller

My father was an avid outdoorsman, he hiked and hunted, boated and fished, and on occasion, camped and rode horses in pursuit of those activities. I guess you could even say he watched birds, but he definitely liked to hunt birds. I remember hunting with him for California quail in the grassy valleys, in the bushes between the live-oak trees. I could barely tote a shotgun, but Dad really brought me along for company when my brother was unavailable. Afterwards, Dad would dump his gamebag in the sink, and while mom would vacate the kitchen, I would stay while my father cleaned the birds, because sometimes he'd give me the male's darkly iridescent teardrop-shaped plume we called a "topknot."

I liked the taste of quail, but felt they were a lot of work to clean for so little actual substance. One might be a meal for a sharp-shinned hawk, but humans need at least two roasted quail per person. I never really thought about whether that ended up being more than our fair share--after all, the sharp-shinned hawk poses no additional threats to quail; it takes no more than it needs to eat, and has no surplus burning in the freezer. The sharp-shinned hawk doesn't annihilate habitat, or introduce hazards like automobiles and plate-glass windows, cats and dogs, pollutants and poisons.

Sometimes the mere mention of a quail gets me ruminating about matters more profound. Roger Young, for instance, recently told me a quail-tale that had he and neighbor Scott Reed waxing philosophical. The Young's hosted a covey of about twenty California quail at their house all winter, which broke up into pairs this spring, three pairs of which stayed on at Roger and Donna's. One day, Roger

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

MICA BAY SURVEY

For the results of Nov.-Dec. survey see The Jan. issue of The Fish Hawk Herald. Observers in Jan. included Kris Buchler, Corinne Cameron, Nancy Cergl, Pam Comrie, Bill Gundlach, Cindy Langlitz, Theresa Potts, John Shipley, Shirley Sturts, and Roger Young. Anyone interested in helping with the surveys should call Shirley Sturts 664-5318.

	Jan 3	Jan 18
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	3	-
Great Blue Heron	-	1
Canada Goose	60+	8
Mallard	23	5
Canvasback	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	8
Lesser Scaup	-	-
Common Goldeneye	20+	22
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	1
Bufflehead	2	3
Hooded Merganser	-	-
Common Merganser	3	11
Red-B Merganser	-	1 female
Bald Eagle	3	-
Red-tailed Hawk	-	-
Rough-legged Hawk	-	1 flying
American Coot	-	2
Ring-billed Gull	3	-
California Gull	-	1
Herring Gull	-	-
Gull (species)	10	2
Northern Pygmy Owl	-	2
Downy Woodpecker	-	-
Hairy Woodpecker	-	1
Northern Flicker	-	2
Common Raven	-	4
Black-b Magpie	1	2
Black-C Chickadee	4	14
Mountain Chickadee	1	4
Chestnut-b. Chickadee	-	-
Red-b Nuthatch	2	8
Winter Wren	4	1
Golden-c Kinglet	-	2
Dark-eyed Junco	18	5
Song Sparrow	4	7
Cassin's Finch	-	1+ heard
Finch (sp)	-	20+
Red-Crossbill	-	1
Common Redpoll	-	1+ heard
Pine Siskin	-	6

INDIAN MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

See page 5 for results

The Indian Mountain Bird Count took place Saturday Dec. 30. Three Teams covered a 15 mile diameter circle which included Spokane Point, Heyburn State Park, St. Maries, and Harrison to Medimont. This count has been done every year since 1967. The results on page 5 cover only the last three years. Participants in the count were as follows: Don Heikkila (compiler), Mike Blackbird, Bruce Cergl, Nancy Cergl, Susi Faville, Brian Howard, Theresa Potts, Ellen Scriven, Shirley Sturts, and Susan and Greg Weller Feeder Watchers: Carol and Winnie Jensen.

BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

City Beach and the NIC Dike Road

Leader: Shirley Sturts



A cold wind greeted us at noon on Jan. 16th as five of us assembled to study gulls and other birds that might come our way. At Idepandance Point we looked over about 100 gulls. Most of them were Ring-billed Gulls but we spotted at least 3 California Gulls. California Gulls are larger in size and instead of a black ring around their bill they have a black and red dot. Our walk the length of city beach did not bring us any new birds but it did warm us up and as we rounded the corner of the dike road we happily found ourselves out of the wind and birding became fun once again. Birds counted along the NIC beach and on the Spokane River included Great Blue Heron 2, Canada Goose 12+, Mallard 8, Common Goldeneye 1 female, Bufflehead 3+, Common Merganser 3+, Bald Eagle 1, ring-billed Gull 100+, California Gull 2+, Belted Kingfisher 1, Raven 6.

THE INDIAN MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Species	1993	1994	1995	Species	1993	1994	1995	
Yellow-billed Loon	-	-	-	Downy Woodpecker		6	4	4
Pied-Billed Grebe	2	-	6	Hairy Woodpecker	9	2	3	
Horned Grebe	22	-	2	Northern Flicker	16	18	24	
Eared Grebe	1	-	-	Pileated Woodpecker	1	1	1	
Red-Necked Grebe	-	9	6	Horned Lark	(150 in 1990)	-	-	
Western Grebe	1	4	-	Gray Jay	9	-	-	
Great Blue Heron	41	7	8	Steller's Jay	7	6	2	
Tundra Swan	30	7	-	Blue Jay	-	-	-	
Canada Goose	6653	7565	1395	Clark's Nutcracker	6	-	-	
Wood Duck	2	-	-	Black-billed Magpie	25	27	13	
Green-winged Teal	2	-	-	American Crow	67	49	27	
Hallard	1357	191	18	Common Raven	24	60	17	
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	Black-c Chickadee	58	52	88	
American Wigeon	28	57	58	Mountain Chickadee	4	4	1	
Canvasback	-	-	5	Chestnut-b chickadee	13	7	1	
Redhead	7	10	50	Red-b Nuthatch	31	24	15	
Ring-necked Duck	2	27	5	White-b Nuthatch	-	1	-	
Lesser Scaup	-	31	-	Pygmy Nuthatch	-	-	-	
Common Goldeneye	37	6	31	Brown Creeper	-	3	-	
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	3	-	Bewick's Wren	-	1	-	
Bufflehead	-	1	3	Winter Wren	3	-	1	
Hooded Merganser	147	81	108	Marsh Wren	2	1	-	
Common Merganser	68	257	39	American Dipper	-	-	-	
Ruddy Duck	-	1	-	Golden-c Kinglet	21	65	14	
Hald Eagle	21	23	13	Ruby-c Kinglet (1 seen in 1974-1975)	-	-	-	
Northern Harrier	3	-	2	Townsend's Solitaire	1	3	2	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	American Robin	10	29	25	
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	Varied Thrush	-	-	-	
Red-tailed Hawk	34	11	10	Bohemian Waxwing	223	275	181	
Rough-legged Hawk	3	14	4	Cedar Waxwing	103	-	-	
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	Northern Shrike	5	3	4	
American Kestrel	1	1	3	Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	
Gray Partridge	-	-	-	European Starling	57	1	27	
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	1	-	Yellow-r Warbler (2-1974, 1-1975, 1-1988)	-	-	-	
Blue Grouse	1	-	-	Rufous-s Towhee	-	-	-	
Ruffed Grouse	5	-	1	Am. Tree Sparrow (1-1974, 1-1990)	-	-	-	
Wild Turkey	84	17	-	Song Sparrow	26	17	18	
California Quail	6	-	-	White-th. Sparrow	1	-	-	
American Coot	3	125	223	Dark-eyed Junco	54	45	81	
Killdeer	1	-	-	Red-w Blackbird	136	23	-	
Common Snipe	1	-	-	Brewer's Blackbird	2	2	-	
Ring-billed Gull	96	408	40	Pine Grosbeak	1	11	-	
California Gull	31	1	2	Cassia's Finch	40	-	-	
Herring Gull	1	10	-	House Finch	2	22	89	
Rock Dove	5	19	10	Red-Crossbill	69	62	-	
Mourning Dove	1	6	1	White-w Crossbill	-	-	-	
Great Horned Owl	-	1	-	Common Redpoll	-	8	-	
Northern Pygmy-Owl	2	1	5	Pine Siskin	112	-	50	
Short-eared owl	-	-	-	American Goldfinch	65	39	-	
Northern Saw-whet Owl (1 in 1987)	-	-	-	Evening Grosbeak	92	10	-	
Black-c Hummingbird (1 in 1980)	-	-	-	House Sparrow	-	-	-	
Belted Kingfisher	2	4	7					
Yellow-b Sapsucker	1	-	-					
Williamson's Sapsucker(1 in 1988)	-	-	-					
				Total Species	71	64	50	
				Total Individuals	9819	9749	2753	

Continued from Page 3

walked around the front of his house in time to see a sharp-shinned hawk fly out from under his deck, and into a plum tree. Roger then saw a female quail lying prostrate on his deck, and realized she had flown into the window and been killed. Roger could only surmise she had been trying to get away from the hawk, as the bird still sat in the plum tree waiting to claim its meal. Roger left the quail out in the yard for the hawk but the raptor wouldn't come back for her.



Roger wasn't prepared for what happened next: he was not prepared for the intensity of the devotion the male seemed to be paying to his fallen female. He wandered Roger's property crying a plaintive "chi-ca-go." He stalked the Reed's property next door, the incessant vocalizations making Scott feel bad about all those widowed quail in his past. Scott wondered how many quail relationships he had torn asunder, how many quail he had left wandering forlornly calling in vain for their mates. The plucky little quail even flew at Roger's window seemingly trying to follow his mate through the looking glass into which she had disappeared. Roger said he didn't realize they mated for life, but could find no other explanation for the quail's apparent distress.

California quail do not really mate for life, not in the same sense as geese and swans, which live to advanced ages compared with quail. Actually, Brian Hemlick, with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, said the literature he consulted gave conflicting information about the life-long matrimonial fidelity of *Callipepla californica*. In captivity, California quail have been known to live up to nine years, but are long-lived at two or three years in the wild. Canada geese might live twenty or thirty years in the wild, and it's been documented that a captive pair were mated for 42 years. In the sense that quail may spend two seasons in a row

with the same mate and then die, I suppose you could say they mate for life. Just about anybody could be monogamous for two years, but forty-two is quite an accomplishment.

The Young's and the Reed's will probably continue to be haunted by the mourning male calling for his mate. Not that the death of a California quail--a species non-indigenous to northern Idaho--at the talons of sharp-shinned hawk is by any means tragic. But the quail's calls won't go unheard by those of us who have been married for a few years now, we believe we can imagine the magnitude of loss the quail must be experiencing. How easy it is to anthropomorphise--to try and imbue animals with human-like attributes and emotions. Maybe empathizing with other beings helps us to define our own humanity--just like the sharing of stories helps us to define ourselves.

Like Roger and Scott, I have many memories of hunting quail-- though mine are mostly from my childhood. After my father died, I opened a little gold box that had belonged to him. Inside was a soft deerskin bag. I poured the contents into my hand and smiled at the totems of my father: the end segments of a rattle snake's tail, a petrified shark's tooth, a little piece of red stone from Ireland naturally shaped like a celtic cross. Last to fall into my hand from the bottom of the bag was a plume from a California quail. I stroked the feathery crest and the touch brought back the memories that began this story.



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OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Kris Buchler (KSB) Corinne Cameron (CC), Cliff Cameron (CLC) Gordon Comrie (GC), Pam Comrie (PAC), Paul DeLuca (PAD) Bill Gundlach (BG) Lisa Kirchhoffer (LK), Cindy Langlitz (CL), Roberta Rich (RR) George Sayler (GES), John Shipley (JNS) Shirley Sturts (SHS), Judy Waring (JDW), Roger Young (RY)
 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 Bennet Bay, CdA lake Jan. 16 (CC)
2. Red-necked Grebe 1 Cougar Bay, CdA Lake Jan. 14 (GES)
3. Double-Crested Cormorant 2 Blue Creek Bay, Cd'A Lake Dec. 27 (CL)
4. Great Blue Heron 1 Mica Bay, CdA Lake Jan. 15 (GES)
5. Tundra Swan 12 Mica Bay, CdA Lake Jan. 15 (GES)
6. Canvasback 1 male Hayden Lake (Dike Road) Jan. 13 (JNS) Jan 15 (CC,CLC)
7. Bald Eagle 1 Tubbs Hill Jan.11 (CC); 1 Potlatch Hill Jan. 14 (KSB); 1 Mica Bay, CdA Lake Jan. 15 (GES); 1 Mica Bay Jan. 16 (RR)
8. Northern Harrier 1 Rathdrum Prairie Jan. 13 (GC,PAC,SHS)
9. Northern Goshawk 1 Twin Lakes Dec. 31 (CL)
10. Red-tailed Hawk 1 Mica Bay, Cd'A Lake Jan. 15 (GES); 3 Rathdrum Prairie Jan. 13 (GC,PAC,SHS)
11. Rough-legged Hawk 4 Rathdrum Prairie Jan 7 (CL); 1 Rathdrum Prairie Jan. 13 (GC,PAC, SHS)
12. Merlin 1 Post Falls area on Greensferry Road near the Spokane River Jan. 13 (JNS)
13. American Kestrel 1 Rathdrum Prairie Jan. 13 (GC,PAC,SHS)
14. Glaucous Gull 1 adult, 1 1st winter and 2 2nd winter with Herring, California, and Ring-billed Gulls at the Ramsey (Landfill) Transfer Station Jan. 13 (GC,PAC,SHS)
15. Northern Pygmy-Owl 1 Farragut State Park Dec. 17 (CL) and Jan. 13 (GC,PAC,SHS); 1 Squaw Bay, Cd'A Lake Jan. 10 (BG); 1 Wolf Lodge Bay, Cd'A Lake Jan. 16 (CC,CLC)
16. Northern Flicker 5 Blackwell Island Jan. 3 (JW,SHS)
17. Downy Woodpecker 1 pr Twin Lakes Jan.13 (GC,PAC,SHS); 1 Fernan Hill Jan.19 (RY)
18. Hairy Woodpecker 1 coming to feeders Potlatch Hill (KSB) Fernan Lake (SHS)
19. Black-backed Woodpecker 1 male Twin lakes Jan.12-13, 1 female Jan.19 (PAD)
20. Pileated Woodpecker 1 Twin Lakes Jan. 19 (PAD)
21. Steller's Jay 2 Twin Lakes Jan. 13 (GC,PAC,SHS)
22. Chestnut-backed Chickadee 1 Potlatch Hill (KSB); 1+ Twin Lakes (GC,SHS)
23. Pygmy Nuthatch 2 Rathdrum Prairie in pine trees) Jan. 13 (GC,PAC,SHS)
24. Townsend's Solitaire 1 Farragut State Park (GC,PAC)
25. Varied Thrush 1 Fernan Lake Feeder Jan.19-20 (SHS)
26. Bohemian Waxwing 14 Cd'A City Jan. 11 (CC); 50+ Twin Lakes Jan. 13 (GC,PAC,SHS)
27. Cedar Waxwing 40 Hayden View Estates area Jan. 13 (JNS)
28. Northern Shrike 2 Conklin Park Road Dec. 15 (LK); 1 Rathdrum Prairie Jan. 13 (CL); 1 Kelso Lake area Jan. 13 (GC,PAC,SHS)
29. Cassin's Finch 1 coming to feeder Potlatch Hill Jan. 21-22 (KSB)
30. Red Crossbill 12 Rathdrum Prairie (in Pine Trees) and 2 on the Hoo' Doo Valley Road Jan. 13 (GC,PAC,SHS)
31. Common Redpoll 150 Hayden View Estates Jan. 4 (JNS)
32. Pine Siskin 50-60 Twin lakes Jan. 13 (GC,PAC,SHS)

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 Answers to Quotes Quiz from page 2

"Snowbird" by Charles C. Abbott - Edith Thomas from her poem "To a Nuthatch" - William G. Barton from his poem "Winter"

COEUR D'ALENE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Introductory National Membership \$20

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A membership with the National Audubon Society entitles you to chapter membership with the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society and the receipt of the bimonthly Audubon magazine and the chapter newsletter, The Fish Hawk Herald. New Members should send their name and mailing address along with their check made payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY and mail to:

Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Membership
P.O. Box 361
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

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