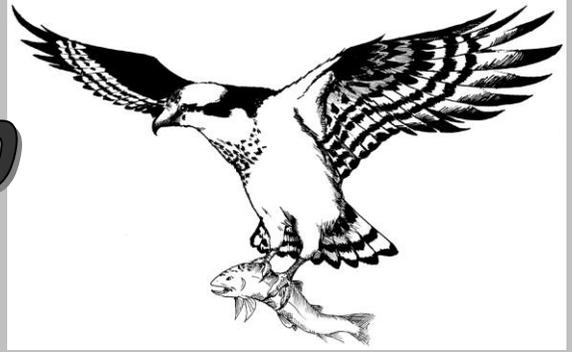


THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society



January 2001

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 5

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

BOARD MEETING

Date: January 8, Monday
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: Mountain West Bank
125 Ironwood Dr.

JANUARY PROGRAM

Date: January 15, Monday
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: First Presbyterian Church, 521
Lakeside
Program: Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife
Refuge:
Speaker: Rich Landers, Outdoor Editor for
the Spokesman Review. Rich traveled to
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the early
1990's and gained an understanding of the
complexity of this treasured ecosystem.
Rich will take us from the Brook's Range to
the Arctic Ocean as he discusses the
arguments for and against oil drilling in
this sensitive and special place.

After the slide presentation learn how you
may help protect the Arctic National
Wildlife Refuge for the many wildlife
species that depend upon the unique
Arctic ecosystem—from caribou to polar
bears, grizzlies to snow geese.

2000 YARD LIST CHALLENGE

On New Year's Day, tally up your yard list, and
send it to me:

Lisa Hardy
2153B Old River Road
Kingston, ID 83839
or: basalt@earthlink.net

Include the following:

- list of species seen or heard *from* your yard during
the calendar year 2000
- street address
- whether you are inside city or town limits
- whether you have a water view
- whether you are urban, suburban or rural
- any input on how your location should be
categorized, such as comments on advantages or
handicaps

Feel free to include any good stories or behavioral
observations. Please send me your list by January 15.

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

SCIENTISTS ASK PRESIDENT TO PROTECT ARCTIC REFUGE

About 250 North American scientists sent
President Clinton a letter last month, urging him to
"permanently protect, for future generations, the
biological diversity and wilderness character of the
coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

With the exception of the narrow 1.5-million acre
coastal plain, most of the area was set aside by
Dwight D/ Eisenhower in 1960 and designated as
Wilderness in the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands
Conservation Act.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our chapter and hope to see you at the field trips and meetings!

Nona Andrews, Donna Hollister, Douglas Hudson, Dottie Jones, Lesley Kasper, Betty Starr, Abby Alderman, Patsy Bogan, Jackson Crumm, David Robinson, Tim Shannon, Jason Thomas, and Jerry LaCelle, Carl and Marilyn Weik, Shirley Torkelson, Carolyn Cossetto. New Transfers into our chapter: Suzanne Digiacomio, Gray, Edward Jacobson, Jeri Oaks, Norma Serene.

A BIG WELCOME !!!



ON THE RATHDRUM PRAIRIE SERENDIPITOUS OWLING

December 3, 2000

Lisa Hardy

Eleven well-rested birders set out along the back roads of the Rathdrum Prairie on a chilly Sunday afternoon. One of our trip objectives was to find a Snowy Owl, though none had been reported yet from this area. Scouting around the airport in places where Snowies have been seen in previous years, we turned up a Red-tailed Hawk, but no owls. Moving on to Huetter Road, we watched 7 Ring-necked Pheasant cross the road. At the intersection of Huetter and Lancaster Roads, we stopped and walked around the grove of pine trees - nothing was moving except far down the railroad tracks, where a fluttering of confetti suggested a flock of birds. We walked down the tracks and got close enough to the flock to identify and count 35 Snow Buntings. The coloring of the buntings gave them perfect camouflage against the thin snow marked by stubble, and they would not have been detectable except for their constant movement.



We continued on to a grove of pines on Meyer Road where Stephen Lindsay had reported a Great Horned Owl earlier in the week. We found the tree where the owl had been roosting, but were unable to locate the bird. Next we headed to a grove of trees along Highway 41, the directions for which were a bit unclear, but apparently Stephen had seen a Great Horned Owl recently at this location as well. While the rest of the group observed a hovering Rough-legged Hawk and debated the fine points of the tail banding, Judy Waring plunged into the line of trees and single-handedly conjured up a pair of Long-eared Owls.

Everyone had a good look at the owls perched in an upright "camouflage position" about 20 feet away. The ear tufts of these owls are longer and more striking than those of a Great Horned Owl. The Long-eared is also a much slimmer bird than the bulky Great Horned. Just like in the books, these owls did not show any inclination to "flush", though they were certainly aware of our not-so-subtle presence. Shirley Sturts noted that this is the first Long-eared Owl sighting from the Rathdrum Prairie that she knows of, though the habitat is certainly right.

The Long-eared Owl, like the Snow Bunting and Rough-legged Hawk, is distributed around the globe in the northern latitudes. Being more strictly nocturnal than many other owls, and strongly disinclined to flush, the Long-eareds are seldom seen. Naturalists suspect that they are more common than reported observations would suggest.

Stephen Lindsay says that the Highway 41 pair will probably be there for the duration of the winter – it is rather late for them to just be migrating through. Shirley has two recent records for the northern panhandle: Bonner's Ferry (1985) and Kootenai County (1986). Further south, the Long-eared Owl appears to be more common in Latah County and the Lewiston area.

There is a final, ironic twist to the tale of our Long-eared Owl trip. Several days after the trip, I found out that the directions to the second grove were nothing more than a garbled version of directions to the first. There never was a second Great Horned Owl grove.

Trip participants: Wendy Aeschliman, Roland and Patricia Craft (new members), Dick Cripe, Ken Eppler, Bill Gundlach, Lisa Hardy, Theresa Potts, Shirley Sturts, Judy* and Phil Waring. *- bonus points awarded

Eleven species total.



JANUARY FIELD TRIPS

GULL SEARCH

DATE: January 28, Sunday

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

MEET: Rosauer's Parking Lot, east side

LEADER: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318

ACTIVITY: We will check all the places gulls hang out; Independence Point, NIC Beach, Spokane River and Cougar Bay. We will be looking for rare winter visitors; laucous, Glacous-winged, Thayer's, Mew, Bonaparte's, Franklin's. We will also stop to admire any other bird that comes our way. Dress warm and join us in our seach for the rare gulls. A little before noon we will head for hot drinks and lunch at Michael D's Eatery and talk over the morning's birding. (an optional activity)

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES: January 8 and 22 Monday

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: January 9, Tuesday

TIME: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

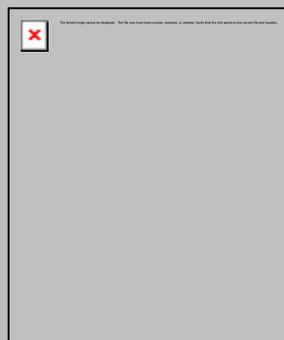
MEET: 402 S. 16th Street

LEADER: Bill Gundlach 667-3339

ACTIVITY: Bill has 2 hybrid Blue Jay/Steller Jay in his neighborhood plus a lot other feathered friends. Enjoy a walk around the neighborhood - see how many species can be found in an hour.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

George W. Bush said while campaigning that he would open the area to development if he were elected president. It is believed that the oil reserves under the refuge would supply the U.S. with about six months worth of oil. A decade of exploration would be required before any oil could be recovered from the field.



Because the scientists believe "oil exploration and development have substantially changed environments where they have occurred in Alaska," they fear for the fragile and unique compression of habitats if the area is not protected. A wide variety of wildlife species

occur there including polar bears, grizzly bears, wolves, wolverines, caribou, muskoxen, Dolly Varden trout, Arctic grayling, snow geese, and more than 130 species of migratory birds.

National Audubon's directors called on President Clinton to use his administrative authority to designate the area as a National Monument. Although perhaps not a permanent solution, the directors feel monument designation would provide "an additional layer of protection for its historic, scientific, cultural, ecological, and wilderness values."

Join Audubon's directors and Audubon's Alaska State office in calling upon President Clinton to secure permanent protection for the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by designating it as a National Monument. Call the White House Comments line at 1 202 456-1111 and dail 0 for operator and tell them today. It may be the last thing we can do to protect this sensitive and valuable Arctic ecosystem and keep it in tact.

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ARCTIC REFUGE

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

MISTER STELLER COMES TO STAY

And grants me an honorary place within the jay clan

Continued from the December Newsletter

By Susan Weller



Photograph by Wayne Tree

18 July

I have added crickets to Jay's diet today. He welcomes the addition to his diet as he was getting tired of too many mealworms. After I maim one to keep it from jumping, he can now pick it up and eat it

himself. I feel bad feeding a beneficial insect to Jay, but he's got to eat. Catching crickets will be good for helping him to track and capture his own food.

A major set back occurred today--one I hope is not permanent. Jay landed on some black plastic today and was having trouble negotiating on the slick surface. I never touch him, but I reached over to grab him off the plastic and boy, did he get mad! He flew past me and landed in some ivy. Unfortunately, a rock was hiding in the ivy and he slammed right into it. When I picked him up he was all droopy and lop-sided. Oh, Dear. He was bleeding a little from somewhere but I could not find the injury. His leg is hurt and he can't grip or put his weight down. His wing is also dragging. Oh, no! We've made so much progress in the last week, please don't let this be serious. I am just sick.

I called Steve Lindsay and he feels Jay probably just scraped and bruised himself. Please let him be right. Steve said that Jay would probably be sore for a few days. He said if the leg is dangling tomorrow, I may need to bring him in to the office for an exam. So much of your heart and soul goes into rearing young birds, you feel responsible if they are hurt while in your care. I should not have grabbed for him. I know better than to be grabby with wild creatures. In nature the only thing that grabs is a predator.

Fledglings have only a 20% survival rate during the first year. Birds are so delicate. They are more fragile than a fine porcelain cup, really. Imagine giving such a teacup wings and then releasing it in a world of cars, plate glass windows, trees, rocks, cats and more. It's a wonder any of them survive. Oh, regret, shame and chagrin. Please, please, please, let him be okay.

18 July, Later in the day

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

I think Jay is going to be okay. He can't put weight on his leg but he is using it to stretch his wings. He managed to hop down a branch when I wasn't quick enough with a tweezers full of crickets. Whew, thank the Gods.

19 July

Jay is perkier today. He was subdued and quiet after his accident yesterday. His wing is definitely okay. His leg is okay too, but three of his toes are tweaked a bit. He can grip my finger with both his feet but his grip is weaker in his right foot. It appears as if he is using his back toe to hold his foot closed around a perch.

Jay and I still forage daily. I am keeping a closer eye on him, as he would be marked as an injured bird by any predator that might be watching. We vary our routine from day to day because we humans think we are observant and watchful, but we are deluding ourselves.

Jay pecked at and gobbled up a worm we found foraging in the leaves. I had to tear it in to pieces for him. He is pecking at everything—even sugar ants. He spits out carpenter ants however—must be too acidic for him. He mimics my foraging behavior with great enthusiasm but has not found anything yet. I found loads of ripe service berries along the river today, thimble berries and pin cherries, too. Jay is quite partial to pin cherries. They have a nice long stem and I can dangle them in front of him. This allows him to practice grabbing larger objects with his bill. I wove a nice, fully loaded bunch of service berries in his crate. Once I pointed them out to him he found a berry small enough for him to manipulate with his bill. He stabs at it but has yet to master plucking.

Today after a short walk about, Jay snuggled down in my cupped palms and fell asleep. When he woke we had a "chat" session. He still loves "row, row, row, your boat" sung in a flamboyant manner. I try to talk jay talk to him and "tchook, tchook, tchook," makes him squawk back in like manner. I try to imitate the "tjar," sound they make that mimics the red-tailed hawk but I'm bad at it. He seems to like that I try.

It is a wonder to me that when he does something--when I see him perform and complete some task of classic jay behavior—that he is doing it for the very first time.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

MISTER STELLER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

A bit of macabre minutia: if you tear off a wasp's head and abdomen, the legs and wings go on behaving like a wasp! Jay will eventually learn to eat wasps without getting stung but I leave nothing to chance. I have to de-stinger them and tear off the hard parts before I feed him. It is very weird to have a headless, body-less wasp clinging to and crawling up your fingers. There is absolutely no chance of being stung. The poor insect looks like a creature out of a Tim Burton movie. What a shudder!

21 July

Jay was just starting to move around well again but he has re-injured his leg. He got a tail feather stuck between his leg and it totally disconcerted him. He toppled right off his perch and landed hard on his injured leg. He hopped around for a bit like a human when they drop something on their foot--comical but not funny.

22 July

Jay is beginning to act more jay-like when outside his crate. He is getting more adventurous but his leg obviously hurts. He rarely puts his full weight down on it and still lacks firm grip strength. He is flying more deftly today but landing is not so easy with a hurt leg. He must exercise and grow strong so I'll have to use good judgement about the duration of his outings.

He is exhibiting bill tapping today and pecks at everything and anything. He is having a blast tearing up an old rotten burl in front of the greenhouse door. He eats little bits of moss and wood that he pecks off. He can now nail his own crickets. He seems to take great pleasure in catching and eating them. At first he runs around really comically and screeches at them. He holds his mouth open in begging mode while he screeches, as if he expects the crickets to just leap into his mouth. When they do not, he tries being even more emphatic.

He is picking up sunflower seeds and slamming them back with gusto. Berries and pine nuts are too big yet. Mealworms are still too big to gobble in one piece as well. He is lately showing a preference for pin cherries above all other berries. Today I held a service berry in one tweezers and a pin cherry in another tweezers and held them up to him. He took the service berry and then saw I had a cherry as well. He spit out

the service berry ate the cherry, and then begged for another.

23 July

Well, pin cherries were a one-day fascination for Jay. He would accept no other berry yesterday and precious few insects. Today, he is tired of them and will not even look at a pin cherry. He keeps re-injuring his leg on our walks. He is gimpy and will be a marked bird as long as his leg will not support weight. Tomorrow I will keep him crated to see if we may facilitate healing. He is bathing every morning now—around 9:30. He must consider himself too mature to bathe in front of his mother now, as he waits until I leave. Bathing is a private matter to a maturing boy-jay.

Jay has suddenly noticed rocks. He picks one up, hops a few paces and then puts it down, situating it just so. I have observed him swallowing a few grain-sized pebbles.

CONTINUED IN THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



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

BOOK REVIEW

Fay Wright

"Hope is the thing with feathers/ that perches in the soul/ and sings the tune without the words/ and never stops/ at all" —Emily Dickinson.

If you like a good mystery; if you've ever stood, leaned, hunkered or craned your neck to watch Red-tail Hawks; if you have leanings toward love and all the drama it calls up, you will take special pleasure in Marie Winn's *Red-Tails in Love: A Wildlife Drama in Central Park*.

More than a naturalist's journal, Red-Tails is a story with a rich plot worthy of Shakespeare, Dickens, Elizabeth George, or Barbara Kingsolver as it traces six years in the life of its hero, Pale Male, during which time he mates (and mates, and mates...), builds nests, hunts, eventually rears young, and in-short, lives the life Nature dictates. Told this way, it's a short story, but told from the point of view of Ms. Winn, a member of a hardy group of New York City nature lovers (no, that's not an oxymoron), it becomes a 300+ page epic, complete with gallant hero, maps of significant "battles," and listings of "weapons and encounters" in the form of a ten year almanac of birds, migrating hawks, butterflies, dragonflies, and damselflies seen in Central Park, as well as an excellent bibliography and index).

The story begins when Ms. Winn joins the Regulars and a "Wood Thrush sings in the Ramble." She is drawn to the group when she first discovers the Bird Register, a "plain, blue canvas loose-leaf notebook," that is kept in Loeb Boathouse on the eastern tip of the lake. She reads page after page of bird, mammal, and insect sightings. She glories in notes like this one from "regular" Tom Fiore:

March 6: Four or more Fox Sparrows near Azalea Pond, 2 of which seemed to be showing preliminaries-to-mating behavior: one calling and singing quietly, the other following, then both facing each other almost beak to beak and generally imitating what the other would do. This went on 10 minutes or so, then they continued feeding. (30)

Winn falls in love, plain and simple. Then in March of 1990 a surprising entry is made by Fiore: "There is a very light-colored, immature red-tailed hawk that has

been seen eating a rat and also swooping a foot above shoveler ducks on the lake (44). And as our sleuth Holmes would say, "The games afoot!"

What unfolds is a multi-layered story. I read it like the braiding of hair: the central strand--the six year mating history of Pale Male with three (or is that two?) females; the next strand--the relationships formed between the Regulars, other New Yorkers (some as famous as Mary Tyler Moore), the Western World, and the hawks in Central Park; and the third strand--love, wonder, and suffering that visit and bind together all who are fully conscious to this life.

Did I mention this is a mystery, too? Well, without giving any of the critical parts away, we have here a story of one male; a first love (referred to simply as First Love); a catastrophe brought on by mobbing crows (damn those crows); a disappearance of love; a return of...love, (but is it the same love?); sleuthing; protecting; disappointing; loss of young; new love; chicks!!!; happy times; death and rebirth; more happy times; a final farewell and another lovesong. By the end of the chapter, "The Queen is Dead, Long Live the Queen" I found tears running down my face as early morning regulars at Starbuck's stared at me while I dabbed my eyes with brown napkins. Not much given to public displays, I offer this only as a measure of the book's power.

If hawks aren't your cup of tea, and love is too tender, you might enjoy all of the detailed observations of such creatures as a Northern Saw-whet Owl, a Killdeer nesting in a drained turtle pond, a Downy Woodpecker hacking out a winter roost hole, and even a sighting of a Connecticut Warbler. Or, if you are into "star" gazing, read this book and see what Woody Allen and Soon-yi Previn were doing on their balcony only yards away from the hawks' Fifth Avenue nest. (Oh, the power of a good spotting scope!)

Yes, folks, this is a book for all seasons and all readers, but for me it was foremost a book straight from the heart, and since, like Marcel Proust, I believe that "loving helps us to discern, to discriminate," straight from the heart will get my vote every time. (Did I say "vote"? Now there's a four-letter word....)

Nevertheless, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. See you in January with the story of one man's owl.

Red-Tails in Love. Marie Winn. Vintage Books. or check with Wild Birds Unlimited.

COEUR D'ALENE

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

compiler: [Shirley Sturts](#)

Species	CBC Dec.17, 2000	Observed Past 10 Years	Highest Number Observed&Year Observed
Common Loon	-	4	1-'93'96'97'99
Pied-billed Grebe	24	8	24 ('00)
Horned Grebe	23	10	40 ('95)
Red-necked Grebe	4	10	26 ('99)
Eared Grebe	-	1	1 ('95)
Western Grebe	2	9	9 ('91)
Great Blue Heron	7	9	10 ('94)
Tundra Swan	11	2	11 ('00)
Canada Goose	1052	10	1905 ('99)
Wood Duck	-	4	2 ('93)
Green-winged Teal	-	1	1 ('98)
Mallard	759	9	759 ('00)
Northern Pintail	1	2	1 ('95'00)
Gadwall	2	1	2 ('00)
American Wigeon	10	5	26 ('97)
Canvasback	2	4	2 ('94'00)
Ring-necked Duck	157	10	157 ('00)
Lesser Scaup	21	5	21('00)
Oldsquaw	-	2	6 ('91)
Common Goldeneye	98	10	107 ('96)
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	6	5 ('96)
Bufflehead	313	10	313('00)
Hooded Merganser	33	10	92 ('96)
Common Merganser	86	10	214 ('98)
Red-breasted Merganser	-	2	2 ('93)
Ruddy Duck	-	1	1 ('93)
Duck (hybrid)	10	?	?
Bald Eagle adult	20	10	27('00)
Immature	7		
Northern Harrier	1	7	10 ('99)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	6	3 ('92'00)
Cooper's Hawk	-	3	2 ('94)
Red-tailed Hawk - Harlan's	19 1	10	22 ('99)
Rough-legged Hawk	5	10	20 ('93)
Golden Eagle	-	1	1 ('96)
American Kestrel	4	9	15 ('99)
Merlin	4	5	4 ('97'00)
Gray Partridge	40	5	46 ('92)
Ring-necked	22	10	49 ('97)

Pheasant			
Blue Grouse	-		2 ('92)
Ruffed Grouse	3	2	8 ('94)
Wild Turkey	84	9	128 ('99)
California Quail	119	10	351('99)
American Coot	1103	10	2234 ('97)
Killdeer	-	3	2 ('97)
Common Snipe	-	1	4 ('98)
Mew Gull	-	1	1 ('98)
Ring-billed Gull	133	10	1077 ('91)
California Gull	CW	9	100 ('96)
Herring Gull	14	10	562 ('91)
Thayer's Gull	--	2	3 ('93)
Glaucous Gull	--	3	2 ('92)
Gull, Sp.	9	7	1161 ('92)
Rock Dove	166	9	167 ('96)
Mourning Dove	15	9	42 ('92)
Barn Owl	-	1	2 ('95)
Great Horned Owl	1	3	1-'95'98 '00)
Snowy Owl	-	2	1-'93'96
Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	9	7 ('96)
Short-eared Owl	-	2	1 ('91'99)
Belted Kingfisher	3	10	5 ('91'95)
Downy Woodpecker	8	10	16 ('92)
Hairy Woodpecker	9	10	16 ('92)
Northern Flicker	53	10	53 ('00)
Pileated Woodpecker	2	9	3 ('91)
Horned Lark	CW	4	35 ('98)
Gray Jay	-	3	2 ('92)
Steller's Jay	14	9	15 ('98)
Blue Jay Hybrids	2	4 1	3 ('94'95'97) 2 ('00)
Clark's Nutcracker	20	3	20 ('00)
Black-billed Magpie	39	10	64 ('96)
American Crow	211	10	211 ('00)
Common Raven	66	8	158 ('96)
Black-capped Chickadee	169	10	169('00)
Mountain Chickadee	27	10	93 ('92)
Chestnut-b Chickadee	10	10	29 ('95)
Chickadee, Sp.	13	4	13 ('99'00)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	55	10	76 ('91)
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	2	2-'93'96
Pygmy Nuthatch	13	10	71 ('95)
Brown Creeper	1	8	5-' 92'93
Bewick's Wren	-	1	1 ('93)
Winter Wren	CW	4	2 ('94)

American Dipper	-	2	2-'94'95
Golden-c Kinglet	26	10	37 ('93)
Townsend's Solitaire	CW	5	2-'91'96
American Robin	127	8	350 ('97)
Varied Thrush	4	4	4 ('00)
Gray Catbird	-	1	1 ('93)
Bohemian Waxwing	211	7	285 ('91)
Cedar Waxwing	-	3	18 ('95)
Northern Shrike	2	10	8 ('95)
European Starling	578	10	1158 ('93)
Song Sparrow	25	10	43 ('92)
White-crowned Sparrow	1	2	1 ('94'00)
Dk-eJunco Oregon)	215	10	215 ('00)
Slate-colored	3	2	3 ('00)
Snow Bunting	-	1	36 ('98)
Western Meadowlark	14	2	14 ('00)
Red-winged Blackbird	CW	2	15 ('93)
Pine Grosbeak	-	2	13 ('92)
Cassin's Finch	20	5	39 ('91)
House Finch	372	10	701 ('97)
Red Crossbill	3	8	45 ('95)
Common Redpoll	-	3	85 ('95)
Pine Siskin	50	10	346 ('99)
American Goldfinch	19	10	135 ('91)
Evening Grosbeak	8	8	134 ('91)
House Sparrow	161	10	151 ('93)
TOTAL SPECIES	71		71('00)
CW=Count Period	5		
TOTAL NUMBERS	6940		6940 ('00)
OBSERVERS (FIELD)	24		
(FEEDERS)	11		

BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Lynn Sheridan

We met at the Blackwell Island Wetland, off of Highway 95. It was a beautiful day, dry, gray/blue sky, 21 degrees, with a little snow on the ground. As I waited, I saw a large brown raptor on a distant conifer. It looked a little like an immature Bald Eagle but when it flew overhead it had brown on the leading edges

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

and lots of white on the trailing edge, with a long darkish tail and black wingtips. Studying my books, I decided it must be a dark phase of either Rough-legged or Red-tailed Hawk. Soon, Jan Severtson and Anita Magnusson joined me. Anita related an interesting story to us. On her way to meet us she rescued a stunned crow of the roadway and carried it to a sheltered spot. The rescue didn't go unnoticed by the stunned crows companions. Several crows followed along behind Anita and her rescued crow.



Photo by Wayne Tree

On the walk along the woody trail we heard Northern Flicker, then saw two flattened against a tree trunk pecking for insects. We heard robins, then saw a few here and there, and suddenly a flock of 15 were overhead. A couple of Black-capped Chickadee were calling back and forth.

On the Spokane River we saw 6 Bufflehead (2 male 4 female), 1 female Goldeneye, 5-6 Mallard and an abundance of Canada Goose (40+) and Gulls (30+)

The little Blackwell Channel was frozen solid. We saw lots of dog tracks, one deer trail and a small rodent path leading from hole to hole. This is a delightful place to walk and bird.

KAY'S HIGH ENERGY CAKES

KAY'S HIGH ENERGY CAKES

1 cup lard
1 cup Adam's chunky peanut butter
1 cup whole wheat flour
½ cup sugar
2 cups oatmeal
2 cups cornmeal



Photo by Wayne Tree

Mix dry ingredients. Cut in peanut butter with a knife and mix. Melt lard and pour over dough, mix together. Dough may be pressed into old suet cake containers or into Tupperware containers. Cover with lid or plastic wrap and freeze or refrigerate. The cakes may be hung or crumbled on the ground.

OBSERVATION POST



OBSERVERS:

Janet Allen (JALL),
Kris Buchler (KBUC, Janet Callen (JCAL),
Lindsay Carr (LCAR) Ken Eppler (KEPP), Lisa
Hardy (LHAR), Roberta Larson (RLAR), Steve Lindsay (SLIN),
Theresa Potts (TPOT, Sarah Powers (SPAR) George Sayler
(GSAY), Jan Severtson (JSEV), Lynn Sheridan (LSHE), Shirley
Sturts (SSTU), Susan Weller (SWEL), Faye Wright (FWRI),
Roger Young (RYOU)

RBA Rare Bird Alert for Northern Idaho-Eastern Washington-
Northeastern Oregon

Phone (208) 882-6195 or Internet-Web Site:

<http://pimacc.pima.edu/~cwilliamson/index.html>

Pied-billed Grebe 1 Mica Bay Survey, Nov. 22 (SSTU,
KEPP, KBUC,SPOW,LCAR)

Red-necked Grebe 3 Mica Bay Survey, Nov. 22 (SSTU,
KEPP,KBUC,LCAR,SPOW)

Great Blue Heron 27 CDA River Delta, Dec. 9 (SLIN)

Tundra Swan 16 Kidd Island Bay, CDA Lake, Nov. 8
(KBUC, SSTU,KEPP, SPOW, LCAR), 3 Cougar Bay, CDA
Lake, first part of Dec. (RLAR)

Hooded Merganser 1 Mica Bay Survey, Nov. 22
(KBUC,KEPP, SSTU,SPOW,LCAR); large flocks in open
water CDA River WMA, Dec. 9 (SLIN)

Bald Eagle official BLM Eagle survey in Wolf Lodge Bay,
CDA Lake is being done by Corinne and Cliff Cameron.
They have the following results so far: (This is earlier and in
larger numbers than usual)

**5 Nov.13 - 13 Nov. 20 - 23 Nov. 27 - 61 Dec. 4 -
51 Dec. 11** The count was low on Dec. 11 because of snow
conditions making it difficult to count.

Cooper's Hawk 1 Harlow Pt. Road near Harrison, Dec. 9
(SLIN)

Red-tailed Hawk 3 Rathdrum Prairie, Dec. 8 (JALL); 1
dark-morph near Placer Creek out of Wallace, Dec. 10
(LHARD)

Harlen's Hawk (Red-tailed) 1 second winter for it being on
the Rathdrum Prairie - consistently between Poleline and
Burlington Northern Rd. west of Highway 41 (SLIN)

Ring-necked Pheasant 1 Dalton Gardens, Nov. 30 (JALL)

Ruffed Grouse 1 Hauser Lake, Nov. 25 and Dec. 2 (JALL)
THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Wild Turkey 5 Fairmont Loop Road, Nov. 18 (JSEV); 3
Hauser Lake, Nov. 10 (JALL)

Northern Bobwhite 3 still coming to my feeder on Fernan
Lake as of Dec. 16 (SSTU)

Franklin's Gull 1 in Front of Starbuck's on Ironwood - it
flew low over the parking lot, Dec. 13 (FWRI)

Northern Flicker 1 Hauser Lake, Nov. 25 and 2 Dalton
Gardens, Nov. 25. Dec. 10 (JALL)

Downy Woodpecker 1 Dalton Gardens, Dec. 9 (JALL); 1
Arrowhead Road CDA, Dec. 11 (TPOT)

Blue Jay 1 16th Street CDA, Dec. 6 (LSHE)

Black-capped Chickadee 2 Ash Ave. CDA, Nov. 24
(GSAY)

Mountain Chickadee 1 Ash Ave. CDA, Nov. 24 (GSAY)

Pygmy Nuthatch 4 every day at her feeder Ocean Ave.
CDA (JCAL); 1 feeder on Fernan Lake, Dec.15 (SSTU)

Brown Creeper 12 her home near Cataldo Dec. 1-11
(SWEL): 1 English Pt., Dec.1 (JCAL)

Bewick's Wren 1 Thompson Lake, Dec. 9 (SLIN)

Winter Wren 1 Fernan Lake Home, Dec. 15 (SSTU)

Golden-crowned Kinglet 1 Ocean Ave. CDA, Dec. 3
(JCAL)

American Robin 1 Ocean Ave. CDA, Dec. 3 (JCAL); 35
Coeur d'Alene (SWEL); 1 Mica Bay Survey, Nov. 22
(KBUC,KEPP,SSTU,LCAR,SPOW)

Bohemian Waxwing 13 Kingston area, Dec.10 (LHAR)

Cedar Waxwing 1+ Thompson Lake area, Dec. 9 (SLIN)

Song Sparrow 1 Ash Ave. CDA, Nov. 25 (GSAY); 1-2
daily Dalton Gardens (JALL); 2 coming to feeder daily
Fernan Lake (SSTU)

Dark-eyed Junco 5 Dalton Gardens, Nov. 21 (JALL); 6
16th street feeder CDA Nov. 30 (LSHE)

Snow Bunting 15 (about) between Landcaster and Meyer
& Huetter Roads on the Rathdrum Prairie, Nov. 24 (JCAL)

Red-winged Blackbird 1 at his feeder Fernan Hill, Dec.
14 (RYOU); 1 Ocean Ave. CDA, Dec. 2 (JCAL)

Cassin's Finch 2 Dalton Gardens, Nov. 21 (JALL)

