

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society  
Editor: Shirley Sturts - E4615 Fernan Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 -  
664-5318

MARCH 1995

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PAGE 1



## 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)

### MARCH 21 TUESDAY BOARD AND REGULAR MEETING

Time: 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Regular meeting

Place: Iron Horse

Regular Program:

Mark Elsbree from the Nature Conservancy will have a slide presentation about areas in Idaho the Conservancy is involved with.

### MARCH 21 TUESDAY CDA CITY COUNCIL BLACKWELL ISLAND ANNEXATION MEETING

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Coeur d'Alene City Hall

### MARCH 26, SUNDAY FIELD TRIP GAMBLIN (Gamble) LAKE

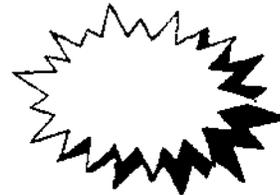
Time: 8 a.m.

Leader: Wallace Keck, 664-4029

Meet: Panhandle Supervisor's Office parking lot on Kathleen Ave. 1/2 mile west of US Hwy 95 N.

Activity: Participants will carpool 50 miles to Gamlin lake to investigate the BLM's proposed recreational development plan, and observe wildlife around the property. Bring a sack lunch, which we'll plan to eat at the secluded and scenic, Green Bay Campground along the

shores of Pend O'reille Lake. On the return we'll scope out birds on Cocolalla, Granite, and Kelso Lakes. Mark your calendar; you won't want to miss this one. If you need a ride, call Wallace.



### MAY 27 SATURDAY MOYIE RIVER FLOAT TRIP

Time: 9 a.m. to  
5 p.m.

Leader: Nancy  
Mertz (Audubon

Member and rafting guide with ROW) day 765-0841 or eve. 765-5254 Limited space sign up early

Cost: \$79 inc. lunch (if 10 Audubon members sign up otherwise \$87)

Activity: Frolicking, splashing, laughing through a lush cedar forest, the Moyie is among Idaho's best-kept whitewater secrets. ROW pioneered trips here in 1981 and each year, during its brief two-month season we delight in sharing this hidden jewel. Floating through this remote wilderness canyon, we always see Osprey, Dippers and ducks, including the rare Harlequin Duck. The Moyie River is an important breeding area for Harlequins. Our Moyie trips are in paddle rafts where we all work as a team. The adventure begins on calm waters where your guide helps you learn the skill needed for the whitewater ahead. After a gourmet riverside smorgasbord lunch, it isn't long before we're bouncing and crashing through boisterous waves in a seemingly endless succession of galloping rapids! It's a fun-filled day for beginners and veterans alike. ROW provides wetsuits and wetsuit booties for your safety and comfort. Minimum age is 14.

## \*\* LOCAL CONSERVATION \*\*

By Wallace Keck, Conservation Chair

February was certainly an interesting month to be a conservationist in North Idaho. Many of you silently celebrated Micron's decision to locate it's \$1.3 billion micro-chip plant somewhere other than Kootenai County. Those of you following the Blackwell Island PUD, zoning, and potential annexation into the city also had cause for celebration, as the request to build a 292-unit RV park was denied by the City Planning and Zoning Commission. All this, and the governor made peace with the Fish and Game Department (sort of...). Before we close the book on these issues, let me add the following:

As stated previously, few would argue that Micron is a respectable company. Our concern is with Jobs plus whose mission would seem honorable enough, but controls too much of the community's destiny. It seems their vision of what North Idaho should be is forced on a majority of the people who prefer slower, more managed growth (CDA Press letters to the editor ran 2-1 against Micron development, despite the paper's obvious support). It is not unlike the Feds telling Governor Batt that nuclear waste is coming to INEL and he has no say in the matter. It is interesting to note that the employees of Micron voted overwhelmingly to have the company relocate outside Boise. Even they were against significant growth in Idaho's largest city.

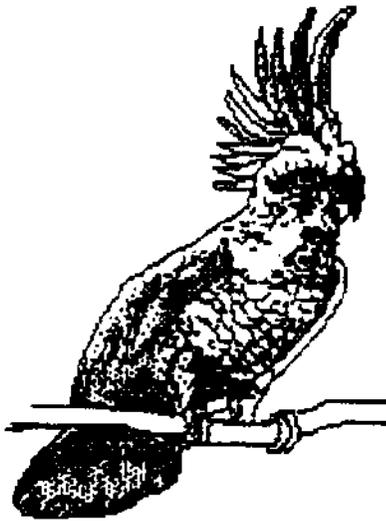
Our appreciation goes to Wes and Gertie Hanson, Rural Kootenai Organization, and the other concerned citizens who spoke against unwise development of Blackwell Island. The Planning and Zoning Commission voted 4-2 against the proposed Planned Unit Development, and 5-2 against recommending annexation. I've heard it said that conservation battles are rarely won; often the best we can do is postpone the degradation. The desire to develop and annex Blackwell Island will always be there. Just ask the Hanson's. They've been following the issue since at least 1981. The city council is scheduled to discuss Blackwell Island annexation on Tuesday, March 21.

And now for some "grizzly" news. The USFS reopened the comment period on the Kalispell-Granite Grizzly Bear Access Management Plan (i.e. road closures in the Selkirks to protect bear habitat). After officially closing September 16, Intermountain Forest Industry Association, Priest Lake Chamber of Commerce and others, along with pressure from Sens. Craig and Kempthorne, effectively postponed the plan supported by the USFS & USFWS, and most environmental watch groups. IFIA has presented another plan which they suggest will close more roads during crucial times of the year, and will provide more education and enforcement. Continued page 4



## 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 4 - send quotes to the editor for future newsletters)

"Perched on the eagle's soaring wing  
The lovely linnnet loves to sing."

"If I can stop one heart from breaking,  
I shall not live in vain:  
If I can ease one life the aching  
Or cool one pain,  
Or help one fainting robin  
Unto his nest again,  
I shall not live in vain."

"I once had a sparrow alight on my  
shoulder for a moment while I was  
hoeing in a village garden, and I  
felt that I was more distinguished by  
that circumstance than I should have  
been by any epaulet I could have  
worn."

"Pack up all my cares and woes  
Here I go  
Singing low  
Bye bye blackbird."

"When the red, red robin  
Goes bob, bob bobbin along."

## BITS AND PIECES

### A Message from the President

The current 2 year terms for the officers and several of the chairs expire at the end of August, 1995. I would like to encourage any member of CDA Audubon to call me if they would be interested in serving as an officer or consider serving as a chair person.  
\*\*\*Mike Mihelich 664-4741

### Keep Woodpeckers Off

Keep woodpeckers off with Mylar ribbon. You can get the material from stores that sell helium balloons. It's usually silver on one side and colored on the other. Cut several pieces of 12 to 24 inches in length and attach them in the areas that the birds are attacking. The mylar ribbon is lightweight and moves easily in the wind. The random movement and brightness of the ribbons seems fairly effective (Chuck Otte, Kansas State Univ. Ag and Coop.) Taken from Bird Note's: March 1994.



**C o e u r  
d ' A l e n e  
A u d u b o n  
b u y s a  
b r i c k**

At our February meeting members voted to purchase a brick for \$35. Our

personalized brick will be placed in the outdoor courtyard of the Cultural Center located in the City Park. The money goes toward the restoration of the building which will be a home for arts and sciences in our community. Anyone wishing to buy their own brick should contact: Coeur d'Alene Cultural Center, P.O. Box 911, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816.

## (Local Conservation Continued)

I have examined the plan (to receive a copy call 667-4641) and agree with some of its merits; however, I have concerns. Their plan weighs heavy on the assumption that an education blitz by the various resource agencies and more enforcement is the panacea to protecting the bear. All resource agencies have and continue to present education on the grizzly, yet hunters continue to "accidentally" kill the wrong species; all resource agencies in the area enforce regulations concerning the bear, but clearly cannot cover 85,000 acres at the same time. To do so would require additional agency funding which the industry, Republicans, and the Wise-use movement is strongly against. By their own admission, the plan is not designed to increase the population of grizzlies, which is teetering on extirpation. I am pleased to see the plan does support a number of road closures, but it remains to be seen if the experts agree that the miles are both sufficient and closed during the appropriate times to protect security habitat--which is the real issue. IFIA should understand that no one seriously thinks closing the roads... "creates a large area of de-facto wilderness near Priest Lake..." since most of the roads access clearcuts. It's certainly not my idea of wilderness. I also take exception to IFIA's attitude that if the alternative plan isn't accepted, we can expect more "3-S" bear management (Shoot, Shovel, and Shut-up). Such comments suggest that the local community isn't really serious about protecting bears. Comment period ends (once again) March 17.



## OBSERVATION POST

Observers: Karen Boarders (KB) Kris Buchler (CB), Janet Callen (JC), Gertie Hanson (GH) Eula Hickman (EH), Cody Montgomery (CM) John Montgomery (JM), John W. Nigh (JWN) Lee Strelz (LS) Keith Sturts (KS), Shirley Sturts (SHS), Dan Svingen (DNS), Barbara Wardsworth (BW),

1. Tundra Swan several 100 migrating through the CdA River basin starting Feb. 21 - they did not remain long - water levels over flood stage (JWN)
2. Eurasian Wigeon 1 pair near St. Maries Gun Club Feb. 19 (CM, JM, DNS)
3. Bald Eagle 1 Lake Coeur d'Alene Drive Feb. 21 (KB)
4. Cooper's Hawk 1 Potlatch Hill Feb. 10 (KRB)
5. Red-Tailed Hawk 2 Woodland Meadows Feb. 17 (EH)
6. Ring-Necked Pheasant 1 Coeur d'Alene area (JC)
7. Thayer's Gull 2 first winter Fighting Creek Landfill (DNS, JM)
8. Glaucous-winged Gull 1 adult Fighting Creek Landfill (DNS, JM)
9. Glaucous Gull 2 imm and 2 adult Fighting Creek Landfill (DNS, JM)
10. Great Horned Owl 2 Blackwell Hill Carder Farm all winter (GH)
11. Northern Pygmy-Owl 1 Blackwell Hill Carder Farm all winter (GH)
12. Barred Owl 1 Squaw Bay area in December and again Feb. 8 (BW)
13. Northern Saw-whet Owl 2 Fernan Lake area heard calling since Feb. 4 (KS and SHS)
14. Northern Flicker (Yellow-Shafted) 1 at her feeder Emerald Estates Hayden Lake (KB)
15. Pileated Woodpecker 1 Fernan Lake area Jan. 29 (SHS) and 1 at the feeders of (BW Squaw Bay area) (LS Emerald Estates north of Hayden Lake)

Answers to Quotes Quiz from page 3

Colley Cibber, Emily Dickinson, Henry David Thoreau, Mort Dixon, Harry Woods

## FIELD TRIP TO HEYBURN STATE PARK

by Wallace Keck

The Field trip to Heyburn State Park was an enjoyable adventure. Eight hardy birders met in Coeur d'Alene to car-pool around the lake. Our first stop was the BLM land on Cougar Bay. Surprisingly, the gate was locked, but we were determined. From the shore we observed the following species: American Wigeon, Canada Goose, Great Blue Heron, Common Merganser, Ring-billed Gull, Bufflehead, Ring-neck Duck, Common Golden-eye, and Common Raven. On the road to Heyburn, we observed Red-tailed Hawk, Black-billed Magpie, American Goldfinch, Rock Doves, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike, and American Robin.

After making arrangements to meet Heyburn's Ameri-Corps Volunteer and resident naturalist, Lisa Kirchoffer, Wallace forgot the meeting time. We arrived nearly an hour late. Not to be deterred, we struck out on our own for Plummer Creek. Along the 3 mile hike we added the following birds: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Steller's

Jay, Ruffed Grouse, Golden Eagle, Black-capped Chickadee, Mallard, Northern Flicker, and Chestnut-backed Chickadee. The hike also included a discussion on identification of common forest trees and shrubs. There may be some lingering doubts on the first Golden Eagle sighting which initially appeared to be a raven being mobbed by crows; however, once the mobbing bird called, we quickly realized we were watching a raven mob a raptor. Since the bird was half again as large as the raven, and very dark, most of us settled on Golden Eagle. Later Shirley Sturts confirmed a Golden Eagle in the immediate vicinity of the first sighting.

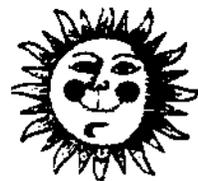
We met up with Lisa, and she invited us to her house for conversation over sack lunches. By 1 p.m. we were headed to St. Maries. On a roadside view of the lake we stopped to scope out hundreds of geese. Among them was one Bald Eagle and a lone Northern Pintail drake. The weather was extremely cooperative until nearing Harrison. We waited out the worst of the downpour over coffee in the local cafe. On the Coeur d'Alene River delta we observed 50-60 Tundra Swans, another Bald Eagle and a plastic owl

atop a telephone pole.

On the way home the lead vehicle picked up a Red-winged Blackbird, while car number two observed an American Kestrel, bringing the total trip count to 30.

Those of you who missed this trip also missed a great opportunity to socialize with fellow enthusiasts, see some great birds, and spend the day exploring Idaho's great outdoors. We hope to see you on the next trip.

\*\*\*\*\*



WELCOME

NEW

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Richard C. Bassett	Hayden Lake
Barry Casebolt	Post Falls
Hilary Chick	Coeur d'Alene
Joshua Colstron	Coeur d'Alene
Donald R. Emehiser	Post Falls
Deborah Ferguson	Coeur d'Alene
F. W. Grove	Coeur d'Alene
B.G. Halbadden	St. Maries
Mr-Mrs. Dan Heiland	Post Falls
Yvetter Howell	Hayden Lake
James L. Kaiser	Hayden Lake
Tom Keenan	Coeur d'Alene
Blooms by Kelly	Coeur d'Alene
Ekkneth Leight	Post Falls
Tracey C. Leinbaugh	Coeur d'Alene
Marion Lillie	Coeur d'Alene
L. McChesney	Post Falls
Linda Michal	Coeur d'Alene
Patti Olson	Wallace
Kelli Pattison	Harrison
Janet R. Peters	Hayden Lake
Wilma Robison	Hayden Lake
Ralph D. Shay	Coeur d'Alene
<u>Transfers into Chapter</u>	
Helen DeJaney	Coeur d'Alene
Jorothy Joy	Coeur d'Alene
Margie Probert	Post Falls

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## BOOK REVIEW

By Herald Keck

Audubon: Life and Art in the American Wilderness

By Shirley Streshinsky  
New York: Villard Books  
407 pp., \$25, 1993



Much weight these days is carried on the name "Audubon" although, I suspect many have not taken the time to acquaint themselves with John James Audubon, the man behind it. As an avid birder, member of the society that honors his name, and as one fond of the adventurous spirit, I knew it was time to make that acquaintance.

Shirley Streshinsky, in writing *Audubon: Life and Art in the American Wilderness*, did not dress her words in revealing the chronicles of a man, born out of wedlock, prone to fits of depression, quick to take offense, often insecure, and victim to old age senility. Despite these human failings, the author reveals a man that most of us would have treasured even a moment in his company. Audubon encompassed the best characteristics of both a Frenchman and an "American Woodsman", as he so often loved to portray. He showed deep affection for most women, and cherished their

company over men of his own understanding. He was passionate with his work, his dream, and those who called him friend.

"Audubon" is a story of a man who walked among presidents, nobility, and great men of science, but whom felt uncomfortable in their presence. Upon meeting his idol, Sir Walter Scott, he could barely speak. Perhaps he never could live down the many years he, his wife Lucy and two sons, lived in abject poverty. His failed business ventures led to bankruptcy, debtors prison, and scorn from many relatives and friends. Somehow Audubon persevered.

The author does well to weave in historical events of the time, including scientific achievements and politics. Readers will appreciate Audubon's witnessed accounts of the New Madrid Earthquake, Trail of Tears, and slaughter of the Plains Bison--the latter of in which he regretted having participated. The reader is exposed to numerous naturalists of the day such as Wilson, Bachman, Swainson, Bewick, Bonaparte, Cooper, and MacGillivray. One need only open a field guide to see that these men played an important role

in ornithology.

As was the practice of the time, Audubon shot birds, primarily for study, and the book is full of these accounts. In preparation for a trip to Europe, Audubon "...skinned 20 Carolina Parakeets and some Ivory-billed Woodpeckers"... to present to the various academies and naturalists. He talks about the first time the group fired into a beach full of Marbled Godwits and killed 65 birds. He witnessed the slaughter of the Passenger Pigeon, and on one occasion noted that the flocks were so large and noisy, the flash of the hunters gun was the only indication the killing was even taking place. The modern reader must be careful not to judge Audubon for he was living in another time, and many of the species he killed were needed to paint them accurately.

As a birder, I delighted in his ornithological observations. He speaks of his first view of a Hemlock Warbler (Blackburnian Warbler) which had alluded him for years, and alludes me still.

Streshinsky's style, in-depth research, and attention to detail combined with an art for telling the story has presented an Audubon that was both common, yet worthy of praise. A copy of *"Audubon: Life and Art in the American Wilderness"*, can be found at the Coeur d'Alene and Hayden Public Libraries.

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