

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

MARCH 1997

VOLUME 6 No. 7

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)

## MEETINGS

### MARCH 17 MONDAY REGULAR MEETING

**Time:** 6:30 Bird sharing and identification (call Shirley 664-5318 if you have slides, video etc. to share)

7:00 p.m Meeting starts

**Place:** First Presbyterian Church  
521 Lakeside Ave. (enter through the door at the north end of the parking lot)

**Program:** Don Johnson "Migration and Dispersal of North Idaho Osprey"

### MARCH 22-23 SATURDAY AND SUNDAY WILDLIFE REHABILITATION SEMINAR

The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council will be presenting a weekend seminar. This event is currently being organized by some Audubon members and area wildlife rehabilitators. If you wish to receive an application, call Kris Buchler 664-4739 or Cynthia Langlitz 687-2475.

### MARCH 25 TUESDAY CRAIG SENAT WORKSHOP ON FOREST MANAGEMENT

Senator Larry Carig(R-ID) is coming to Coeur d'Alene to hold a "workshop" on his proposed forest management bill. For time and location of the workshop check the local paper or call Barry at 509 838-4912

## FIELD TRIPS

### MARCH 17 MONDAY

#### MICA BAY SURVEY

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Meet:** Cove Bowl Parking Lot

**Leaders:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318

**Activity:** birding area until 11:30 a.m.

### MARCH 16 SUNDAY

#### FIELD TRIP: COEUR D'ALENE RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Meet:** Rosauers Parking Lot, east side of  
**Leader:** Gordon Comrie 664-1050

**Activity:** We will start in the Cataldo area and work our way south along the Coeur d'Alene River to Thompson Lake. Where we go from there will depend the time and the groups wishes. Thousands of waterfowl migrate through this area in March and April. We shouldn't have any trouble finding plenty of Tundra Swan, Northern Pintail, Wood Duck, Northern Shoveler and other waterfowl in the flooded fields, lakes and marshes. This is an exciting time of year as summer residents return to our area. Possible sightings may be Western and Mountain Bluebird, Violet-green and Tree Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Osprey. Bring a lunch and some sunshine.

### MARCH 25 TUESDAY

#### BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

77th in a series of noon time birding

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

**Meet:** Fairmont Loop Road

**Leader:** Gertie Hanson 667-9389

**Activity:** After meeting Gertie at Fairmont Loop Road we will drive to the west end of Cougar Bay and look for birds in the marsh and flooded fields.

## IDAHO BIRDING HISTORY

Taken from: *The Oologist* vol. XII July 1904

### "An ornithological Iron-Clad"

By Chas. S. Moody, Sandpoint, Idaho

Continued from the February Newsletter

It has been my pleasure to act the spy upon these birds while home building. It seems in other parts of the country they insist on anchoring their domicile out in the water three or more feet from the shore. Occasionally they do so here too, but most generally the nest is placed upon some little hummock or a deserted muskrat home out in the marsh, sometimes many yards from the shore. One day I was beating up the quarters of a colony of red-wings that were habiting a big marsh not far from here and while sweeping the tules with my glass I allowed the binoculars to rest for a moment upon one of these little islands. My eye was attracted by a movement upon the island. At first I thought it to be a musk-rat foraging but upon closer inspection I saw that it was a pair of Western Grebe house building. For a better view, I crept closer.

The architecture seemed to be planned by the lady of the household and the principal occupation of the master was to gather the building material which he did with a great deal of zeal in the labor. With a continual chattering he would waddle in a top-heavy manner to the edge of the hummock and seize upon floating bits of tule and drag them to the nesting site where they were raked with bill and toes into position by Mrs. Grebe. Noise seemed to be necessary to the proper arrangement of the nest for they both kept up a continual and not at all unmusical chatter, grading at times into a sort of grunt.

Many days after, I visited this same spot and found the house keeping fully established with three eggs to their credit. Upon seeing me approach the nesting bird hastily covered the eggs over with moss and dried tules and slid into the water, swimming away with one eye looking over her shoulder at the intruder of her home. I carefully uncovered the eggs using a long stick for the purpose and inspected the nest and contents. There was very little attempt at nest building, the tules being merely laid together and a

depression hollowed out by the weight of the bird's own body. The eggs differed none from the ones usually found in the collections of every oologist excepting that they were much stained with the grasses upon which they lay. I was being watched with jealous eyes by the parents at some distance. I returned the covering and silently retired. Watching the hummock from a safe distance the birds soon returned and investigated the damage done. Satisfied with the result the hen snuggled down into the nest again where I left her. Weeks after I had occasion to return that way and found a fluffy brood of nine careening around in the open water. A shrill whistle sent every one of them to the bottom as quick as a flash of light. For a long time I waited for them to reappear in vain. At last tired with waiting I sought another part of the pond some hundreds of yards distant. To my surprise here were my truants. For an experiment I fired my shot gun at them, and at the report of the gun the water was entirely guiltless of bird life, so I said the youngsters can get under the protection of the water as expeditiously as the elders.

This is about all I can think of about the Western Grebe. Often when tired of my professional duties and out of harmony with things in general, I saunter down to the long bridge and sitting on a pier quietly smile at these happy-go-lucky fellows fishing in the deep blue water. Then go home and think that the old world is not such a bad place after all.



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## THE ORIGINS OF BIRD NAMES

by Susan Weller

Last month I introduced you to Lewis and Clark, William Swainson and William MacGillivray, just a few of the gentlemen after whom birds have been named. Let's continue this month starting with George Wilhelm Stellar.

Stellar was born in Germany in 1709. Though he followed his parent's wishes by studying theology, Stellar's true passion was the natural world. After studying botany and medicine, Stellar signed on to serve as an army physician in Russia. He welcomed the opportunity to join Bering's expedition to Alaska. On Kayak Island, Stellar encountered and collected the bird later to become known as the Stellar's jay.

The return voyage turned into somewhat of a disaster, their vessel wandering among the islands off Alaska, the crew too sick to continue. The crew spent eight months recuperating on Bering Island which they had mistaken for Kamchatka Island. Stellar collected many specimens on the island and observed the eagle that would later bear his name, the Stellar's sea eagle. Stellar was also the last man to see alive the now extinct spectacled cormorant. Another German scientist named the eider duck found on Kamchatka for Stellar. Stellar died in Siberia when he was only 37 years old.

Let's stay in the frozen reaches of the arctic and talk next about Sir John Barrow. An Englishman, Barrow is credited with being a chief founder of the Royal Geographic Society. A world traveler, Barrow spent several years in China in the diplomatic service, and helped produce some of the first topographic maps of South Africa. Barrow is most well known for his travels in the Arctic where many geographic features still bear his name, Barrow Straits, Cape Barrow, and Point Barrow. Sir John Richardson named the Barrow's goldeneye after his esteemed colleague with the words, "The specific appellation is a tribute to Mr. Barrow's varied talents, and his unwearied exertions for the promotion of science."

Rounding out our study of gentlemen to explore and navigate in the Arctic is Sir James Clark Ross. By the time Ross turned eighteen he had already served six years in Britain's Royal Navy. He traveled with Parry on four Arctic expeditions and was a member of Booth's expedition, which discovered the magnetic pole. Ross went on to command his own Arctic expeditions including the quest to rescue Sir John Franklin who had become lost and died searching for the North Pole and a Northwest Passage. Only a quirk of fate had kept Ross from accepting the command that would later take Franklin to the Arctic and his doom. Even after retirement, Ross was recognized as the leading authority on work in the Arctic. The Ross' gull is named to commemorate Sir James Clark Ross.

Continued in the April Newsletter

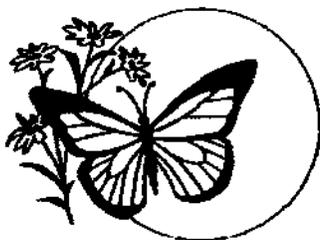


## BIRD SEED SALES CONTINUE

Our first sale of bird seed was a success, with all forty bags sold. We plan to continue selling seeds by taking orders, and tentatively plan our next delivery in May. You will get top-quality, clean black-oil sunflower seed at a very competitive price, and the club can profit from your purchase. The price of a 50 lb bag will be \$16.00 including tax. If you missed out on the first order, or if you've already used what you bought, here is an opportunity to buy the seed you'll need. Perhaps you can sell a bag of seed to a friend or neighbor. Payment will be collected before the seed is ordered. There will be a central pickup location. Call Janet Callen at 664-1085 if you want to order a bag or two. We'll need your name and telephone number and the number of bags you want. If we get enough orders we will send in an order at the end of March or April.

## SPRING MEETING OF THE IDAHO AUDUBON COUNCIL

Susan Weller, President



The Spring meeting of the Idaho Audubon Council will be held on May 23, 24, and 25. The IAC will meet near Harrison, Idaho, and will be housed

at N-SID-SEN, a camp and conference center on Coeur d'Alene Lake.

Along with members from Idaho's seven Audubon chapters, members from Audubon chapters in eastern Washington have been invited to join us in Harrison. Jeff Parsons, Washington State Audubon Director, will present an interactive program on Chapter Leadership Training.

Join us in this beautiful setting on Coeur d'Alene Lake, we'll be staying in a modern intimate retreat center where every sleeping room has a view of the lake. Spirit Retreat Lodge also has meeting rooms nestled in among the pines. An organized field trip begins every morning, and after dinner, plenty of light will be left for more birding.

Meals will be served three times daily in the Forrester Lodge; a vegetarian menu is available. Even though there are no activities planned for Friday evening, IAC participants may stay the night. However, no kitchen facilities will be available.

For this newsletter we have not been able to double check prices with the manager of the camp. The approximate prices are as follow: To stay Friday night: \$20.00, To stay Saturday night, including meals: \$35.00, Sunday breakfast and lunch: \$10.00. Total charge for Friday night lodging through Sunday lunch is \$65.00 per person. Before registering check with either Susan Weller or Shirley Sturts for firm prices.

There will be a \$10.00 per day registration fee for participants not staying at the lodge. There could be additional charges for meals.

## TENTATIVE AGENDA

### Friday, 23 May 1997

Registration 6:30 p.m. onward.  
Hosted by Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society.

### Saturday 24 May 1997

6:30 a.m. Early bird field trip (Canoes provided) Shirley Sturts, leader

8:00-9:30 a.m. Registration/Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Introduction/Welcome Ronn Rich, President CAS

10:30 a.m. Keynote Speech: Scott Reed, Board Member, NAS

11:00 a.m. Program: Jeff Parsons, Washington State Audubon Director, "Getting What We Want Out Of Audubon."

12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch.

1:00-4:00 p.m. Chapter leadership training, facilitated discussion about goal setting and chapter development.

Break

4:30-5:30 p.m. Michael Roy, National Wildlife Federation. "Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem.

6:00 p.m. Dinner. After-dinner program to be announced.

### Sunday 25 May 1997

6:30 a.m. Early bird field trip. Dan Svigen, leader.  
(Breakfast)

10:00 a.m. Idaho Audubon Council meeting, chapter reports.  
(Concurrently)  
Rare Bird Committee meeting, Chuck Trost.

=====  
"Ever, in all places, in all countries, in all continents, which they visit in spring they are seen pressing Northward still from March until Maya; no one being able to say here ends their tide of emigration this is their chosen resting place."  
-Frank Forester-

# REGISTRATION FORM

**Idaho Audubon Council Spring Meeting  
May 23, 24 25, 1997  
Harrison, Idaho**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE(S): \_\_\_\_\_

Call Susan Weller 208 682-3413 or Shirley Sturts 664-5318 for prices.

LODGING Friday May 23 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

LODGING (Sat. night) and MEALS Sat.-Sun. May 24-25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Price includes all meals, all meals provided except on Friday)

FOOD: (Mark preference) VEGETARIAN \_\_\_\_\_ MEAT \_\_\_\_\_

(There will be a \$10 per day fee for participants not staying at the lodge.)  
(check with Susan or Shirley to see if there is an additional charge for meals)

Saturday \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

\*Mail completed registration form and check to:

Idaho Audubon Council  
c/o Corrine Cameron, Treasurer  
Box 361  
Coeur d'Alene ID 83706

For questions or more information contact:  
Susan Weller, President IAC  
27955 Canyon Road  
Cataldo, Idaho 83810  
Phone: (208) 682-3413

## SPIRIT LAKE - SANDPOINT FIELD TRIP

Gordon Comrie

On Feb. 16 eight determined birders gathered at Rosaeurs Parking Lot and ventured north to see if early spring migrants were arriving to herald the end of this miserable winter. Included in the group were Bill Gundlach, Shirley Sturts, Kris Buchler, Pam Comrie, Marilee Benson Lynn Sheridan, Sandy Kolvig and the author.

Although many lakes were still frozen we enjoyed an excellent birding adventure with the following highlights.

Twin Lakes Provided a good view of 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Steller's Jay and several Red-winged Blackbird (can spring be far behind).

At Spirit Lake we were treated Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak. On our Northern Route we also stopped at Blanchard Lake but were unable to get near the lake due to snow cover. It should be noted that this has been a very productive area for waterfowl in the past.

We continued north on Highway 41 until reaching Oldtown and then began heading southeast toward Sandpoint. First we checked Albeni Falls which produced Bufflehead and some Common Merganser. At Priest River we crossed the Pend Orielle River and headed toward Sandpoint on River Road. Although the author has birded the river many times from the north shore I found this new view far more satisfying with much better and more frequent viewing areas. Highlights along the river were Pied-billed Grebe, Tundra Swan, Hooded Merganser, Bald Eagle, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback and thousands of Redhead. John Shipley once told me that this is one of only two spots in North America where Redheads can be seen in these numbers during winter.

We finally made it to Sandpoint and the city beach where we saw probably the best bird of the day. Sitting on the ice with about a dozen Ring-billed Gulls was a Mew Gull. This was a life bird for several of our members and an exciting way to end a good day of birding.

## MICA BAY SURVEY

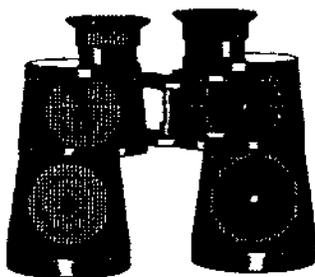
Observers: Kris Buchler, Corinne Cameron, Pam Comrie, Bill Gundlach, Jerry Hanson, Theresa Potts, Shirley Sturts

	Feb. 3	Feb.17
Great Blue Heron	-	1
Canada Goose		16
Wood Duck	-	1
Green-winged Teal	-	2
Mallard	50	48
Northern Pintail	-	1
Common Goldeneye		5
Common Merganser	-	4
Bald Eagle	-	1 imm.1 adult
Ruffed Grouse	1	-
Downy Woodpecker	2	2
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1
Steller's Jay	-	1
Black-billed Magpie	1	1
Common Raven	3	2
Black-C Chickadee	23	12
Mountain Chickadee	3	1
Chestnut-b Chickadee	2	2
Red-b Nuthatch	3	2
Winter Wren	2	1
American Robin	-	30+
Northern Shrike	1	-
Song Sparrow	1	-
Red-winged Blackbird	-	8

## BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

Kris Buckler met Corinne and Cliff Cameron, Pam Comrie, Bill and Joan Gundlach, Lynn Sheridan, Shirley Sturts and Lisa Woolford at the Cove Bowl parking lot at noon. We birded the pond by the Golf Course on Coeur d'Alene Lake Drive, Silver Beach and Bennett Bay for about an hour. Birds included Mallard, Bufflehead, American Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, and Common Goldeneye. Some in the party saw a Clark's Nutcracker on the drive up to Kris's home on Potlatch Hill. For some unknown reason birds have been scarce at area feeders this week - including Kris's. We only saw a few House Finch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, three species Chickadees and a Hairy Woodpecker. After eating home made bread, a couscous/pine nut/cranberry dish and fruit salad provided by Kris and Joan we played "Gone Birding", a bird identification video game.

## OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Ed Buchler (EB), Kris Buchler (KSB), Cliff Cameron (CLC), Corrine Cameron (CC), Gordon Comrie (GC), Pam Comrie (PAC), Bill Gundlach (BG), Gertie Hanson (GH), Wallace Keck (WK), George Saylor (GS), Katie Saylor (KS), John Shipley (JNS), Shirley Sturts (SHS), Lee and Cliff Strelz (LCS), Susan Weller (SDW)

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. Red-necked Grebe 1 off Tubbs Hill point Feb. 27 (BG)
2. Great Blue Heron 1 on a pond by CDA Lake Drive several times in Feb. (KSB)
3. Northern Pintail 1 Silver Beach, Coeur d'Alene Lake Feb. 11 (BG)
4. Barrow's Goldeneye 1 Coeur d'Alene City Beach Feb. 9 (JNS): 1 Ponderosa Golf Course (on a pond) Feb. 18 (BG) - probably the same one seen there on the Christmas Bird Count
6. Redhead 1 Coeur d'Alene City Beach Feb. 9 (JNS)
7. Hooded Merganser 1 male Wolf Lodge Bay, Coeur d'Alene Lake Feb. 27 (CC)
8. Bald Eagle 1 Potlatch Hill Feb. 6 (KSB): 1 Cougar Bay in Feb. (GH)
9. 1 imm Wolf Lodge Bay, Coeur d'Alene Lake (CC)
10. Red-tailed Hawk 2 Rathdrum Prairie north Atlas Road March 1 (SDW,WK)
11. Rough-legged Hawk 1 Rathdrum Prairie Feb. 13 (GS)
12. Gray Partridge 2 Rathdrum Prairie end of Hayden Ave. Near ID/WA line Feb. 9 and 6 Rathdrum Prairie on Atlas north of Hayden Ave. Feb. 10 (JNS) and 2 March 1 (SDW,WK)
13. Ring-necked Pheasant 2 Rathdrum Prairie on north Atlas March 1 (SDW,WK)
14. Mew Gull 1 Coeur d'Alene City Beach March 2 (GC,PAC)
15. Thayer's Gull 1 (2nd winter) Coeur d'Alene City Beach Feb. 4 (PAC,SHS)
16. Glaucous-winged Gull 2 (1st winter) Coeur d'Alene City Beach Feb. 4 (PAC,SHS)
17. Great Horned Owl 2 heard off and on all Feb. (GH)
18. Snowy Owl 1 immature Rathdrum Prairie east of Meyer Feb. 10 and 1 adult Rathdrum Prairie north Atlas Road Feb. 11 (JNS) and 1 Feb. 12 and 23 same area (BG,GKS)
19. Northern Hawk Owl 1 Cheney EWSC campus area Feb. 8 (GC,PAC,EB,KSB)
20. Hairy Woodpecker 2 Arrowhead Road, Coeur d'Alene Jan. 14 and 1 same area Jan. 28 and Feb. 8 (TP): 1 11th and Ash Coeur d'Alene Feb. 15 (GS) Also coming to several area feeders daily all winter.
21. Northern Flicker 1 11th and Ash Coeur d'Alene Feb. 15 (GS); 6 Hayden Lake Feb. 9 (JNS at feeder of CLS)
22. Northern Flicker (Yellow-Shafted) 1 Hayden Lake (JNS at feeder of CLS)
23. Pileated Woodpecker 1 Hayden Lake Feb. 6 (JNS feeder of LCS): 1 4th of July Pass March 2 (SDW)
24. Horned Lark 2 Rathdrum Prairie north Atlas Road March 1 (SDW,WK)
25. Blue Jay 3-4 still coming to feeder north of Hayden Lake as of Feb. 9 (LCS)
26. Clark's Nutcracker 1 Potlatch Hill Feb. 24 and 25 (KAB,PAC,SHS,CLC,CC)
27. White-breasted Nuthatch 1 Post Falls Feeder Feb. 6 (JNS)
28. Pygmy Nuthatch Several at feeders Coeur d'Alene (City), Post Falls and Fernan Lake all Feb. (GC,PAC,JNS,SHS)
29. Brown Creeper 1 Arrowhead Rd. Coeur d'Alene Jan. 12 (TP): 2 Tubbs Hill Feb. 27 (BG)
30. Golden-crowned Kinglet 4 Beauty Creek Bay Feb. 12 and several Tubbs Hill Feb. 27 (BG)
31. Bohemian Waxwing 70+ Indian Meadows west of Atlas Road Feb. 9 (JNS)
32. Northern Shrike 1 Rathdrum Prairie (north end of Atlas Rd.) Feb. 10 (JNS)
33. Red-winged Blackbird 1st returned to Squaw Bay, Coeur d'Alene Lake Feb. 18 (BD)

# Board of Directors

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664-5318, **Board Member** - George Sayler 664-2787

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

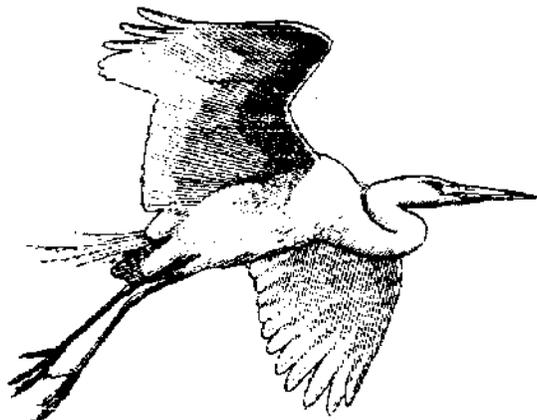
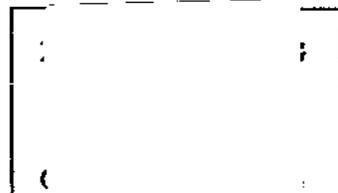
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Introductory membership is \$20.00 for individual or family. Members receive 6 issues of Audubon magazine and the chapter's local newsletter. Please make check payable to the National Audubon Society and mail to Jan Severtson, Membership Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter, P.O. Box 361, Coeur d'Aene, ID 83814

Subscription to the The Fish Hawk Herald newsletter only is \$10.00. Please make checks payable to the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter and mail to Jan Severtson, Membership Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter, P.O. Box 361, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

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



**GREAT EGRET**  
*Ardea alba*