

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society

Editor: Shirley Sturts - E4615 Fernan Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 -664-6318

MAY 1999

VOLUME 8 No 9

PAGE 1



CALENDAR CHECK

NOTICE!!

This will be the LAST NEWSLETTER of this season. Look for us next September

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MAY 10 MONDAY BOARD MEETING

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Home of Janet Callen
1392 Ocean Ave.

MAY 17 MONDAY REGULAR MEETING:

Where Have The Honeybees Gone?

Time: 6:30 p.m. Social Time
7:00 p.m. Program

Place: First Presbyterian Church
521 Lakeside - Annex building

Program: Howard Winkelmann is a master beekeeper who operates Timberlyne Apiary and Service Laboratory in the Spirit Lake area. Although Mr. Winkelmann's employment background is in law enforcement, he has been an apiculturist more than forty years. This interest has led to his current work. His laboratory does research and development work about honeybees and performs the evaluation of a honeybee colony for pathogens and disease problems.

JUNE 21 MONDAY MICA BAY PICNIC

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Mica Bay, BLM boater's campground. You can boat across or walk on short trail from Loffs Bay Road.

Activity: Come earlier to bird/canoe. Bring something to cook over the fire and a dish to share. Also bring your own dishes and drink.

JUNE 17-20 THURSDAY-SATURDAY NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Location: Great Falls, MT

Activity: Meet bluebirders from the U.S. and Canada. Enjoy two-day activities, including tours of nearby bluebird trails, video and slide presentations, discussion groups, banquet and speaker.

Information: Write: Mountain Bluebird Trails, P.O. Box 794, Ronan, MT 59864 or Phone: 406-676-0300
Visit their website: "Mountain Bluebird Trails"
<http://www.msla.com/bluebirds>

FIELD TRIPS

Please register for the field trips. It helps the leader to plan the trip and call participants if the time and location needs to be changed.

MAY 8 SATURDAY MIGRATORY BIRD DAY CENSUS

Leader: Susan Weller 682-3413

Activity: This is a continent-wide bird census conducted under the sponsorship of Partners In Flight. The purpose is to measure the migration of the so-called "neotrops" - those birds that are with us during their summer nesting season only.

To take part in your local census call Susan Weller 682-3413.

Continued on Page 2

FIELD TRIPS

Continued from page 1

**MAY 12 and 26 - WEDNESDAY
MICA BAY SURVEY****Time:** 8:00-11:30 a.m.**Meet:** Fairmont Loop Road turn off**Leader:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318**Activity:** Notice the earlier time of 8:00 a.m.. On May 12 at 10:30 some 3rd grade classes are coming to Mica Bay on a field trip. Kris Buchler has asked us to help these students identify the birds.**MAY 14 - FRIDAY
MAY 24 - MONDAY
JUNE 4 - FRIDAY
BLUE BIRD TRAIL****Time:** 9:30 a.m.(time and day could change)**Meet:** East side of Rosauers Parking Lot**Leader:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318**activity:** We will check nesting activity along the Gertie Hanson Blue Bird Trail.**MAY 18 - TUESDAY
BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG:
BLACKWELL ISLAND****Time:** 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.**Meet:** Blackwell Island entry sign**Leader:** Cynthia Langlitz 762-0690**Activity:** We will take a leisurely walk around the island. Some of our summer residents should have returned to us by this time. Come help us find warblers and vireos in the bushes along the canal.**MAY 23 - SUNDAY
McCROSKY STATE PARK****Time:** 7:00 a.m.**Meet:** East side of Rosauers Parking Lot**Leader:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318**Activity:** This oldest of state parks contains several forest habitat types as well as Palouse Prairie remnants. Bring a lunch and water. We should return home by early afternoon.**MAY 31 - MONDAY*
CENTURY COUNT**

*(Memorial Day Week-end. Exact day not set yet)

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318**Activity:** We will bird from dawn to dusk. Our goal will be to count 100+ species. Birders of all abilities are welcome. The only requirement is stamina to withstand nonstop birding. Those interested will meet a few days before to plan our strategy over coffee. Please register by the 24th.**SUMMER BIRDING**

We will continue to survey Mica Bay twice a month during the summer. We will be checking the Gertie Hanson Blue Bird trail every 10-12 days during the nesting season. If you are interested in participating, call Shirley at 664-5318 to get on a phone tree for dates and times.

COUGAR BAY BIRD SURVEY

As you may know, the Nature Conservancy of Idaho purchased 88 acres located at Cougar Bay in May of 1998.

This property is now Idaho's 19th Nature Conservancy preserve. The Nature Conservancy would like to perform a thorough bird survey of the Cougar Bay Preserve in the spring and early summer of 1999. The Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society has indicated an interest to help with the survey and numerous individuals have volunteered their services, so far. If you would like to be part of this survey, please contact Janet Callen who is developing a list of names. Also, if you would like to donate to the Cougar Bay Campaign, which is raising funds for paying off the loan debt, developing trails and an interpretive center, and creating a management endowment, please contact your local Nature conservancy office at 424 Sherman Ave., Suite #107, Coeur d'Alene, ID 82814. Phone 676-8176, Fax 676-9176.

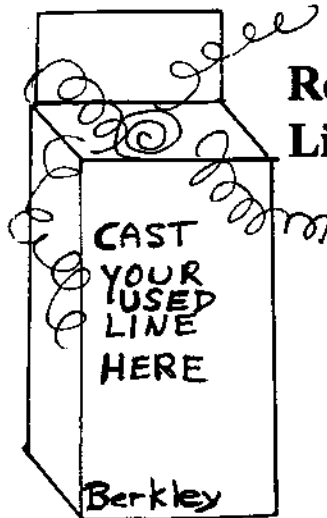
**OWLS & TRAILS
(SUMMER PROJECTS)**

Ronald Dexter will tell us about the newly organized Inland Empire Owl Club and Barn Owl Recovery Program at the May 10th Board Meeting. If you are interested in learning more, call Ronald at 509 468-2555 or ask a board member.

Our Chapter has submitted a proposal to the Fish and Game Department for the construction of a trail and viewing platform in Mica Bay. Money for the materials is coming from the Gertie Hanson Memorial Fund. Trail construction and building of the platform will be done by volunteers. Anyone wishing to help with the project call Roger Young 664-4179 or Shirley Sturts 664-5318.

FISH LINE A DANGER TO BIRDS

Shirley Sturts



Recycle Used Lines & Spools

Berkley has re-cycled more than 7,000,000 miles of fishing line since 1990. Send any use mono line and spools to:

Berkley Recycling
1900 16th Street
Spirit Lake, IA 51360-1099

Kris Buchler and I were surveying birds by canoe for the Nature Conservancy in Cougar Bay on April 16th. We noticed an Osprey sitting on a log boom that appeared to be caught on something. It kept trying to take to the air but couldn't. As we got closer we could see the problem. One leg was entangled in some fishing line. To add to the Osprey's problems there was an American Crow hopping around pecking at it. We didn't have the right equipment with us for freeing this Osprey so we went for help. We returned with a rescue crew consisting of Ed and Diane Haglund, Dave Larsen and ourselves. It was gone when we got back. We had mixed feelings about it regaining freedom on its own. Handling an Osprey can be rather dangerous if not done correctly. Kris told us that raptor rehabilitators hate working with Osprey because they are very aggressive. However, we didn't see any fishing line attached to the log. That means it could possibly still be attached to the leg of the Osprey and he/she could become caught on something again.

Fish Line is real hazard to birds. When I'm out jogging or walking around Fernan Lake I often come home with a pocket full of fish line. I see fish line dangling from limbs along the shore, signs of a fisherman catching branches instead of the intended fish and then in turn losing his/her hook and line. In many cases the branch is out of reach making it difficult to retrieve without a ladder or boat. Unfortunately it is not out of reach for the birds that may use this same branch as a perch. Even fish are in danger if the line gets broken under the water. While snorkeling, I once found a large bass with a hook in its mouth and the fish line attached to it was caught on an underwater log.

Like birdwatchers, most fishermen appreciate a clean wholesome environment in which to enjoy the out-of-doors. I see a group of them picking up the winter accumulation of litter around Fernan Lake every spring. However, the day after the cleanup the litter bugs of our community are back out dropping their lunch bags, pop and beer cans and leaving their fish line and bait styrofoam cups along the shore. They appear to be oblivious to the beauty of the lake they have come to enjoy.

One day, I discussed the problem with some friendly fishermen who I saw along the lake. They told me that the Fins & Feathers Tackle Shop at 1816 1/2 Sherman Avenue collects fishing line for recycling. I visited the shop to get more information. Fins & Feathers participates in a national recycling program sponsored by Berkley Trilene, a producer of monofilament fishing line. Berkley has recycled more than 7,000,000 miles of fishing line since 1990. You have to agree. That's impressive!

We owe it to our feathered friends to get the word out about this recycling program and encourage people to keep our lakes free of discarded fishing line. The proper disposal of fishing line would be an important addition to the curriculum of outdoor education programs in our community. Let the Fish and Game Department know you are concerned about this problem. If you drive by the Fins and Feathers Tackle Shop stop in and let them know you appreciate their participation in the Berkley recycling program.

"Spring"

"The first sparrow of spring! The year beginning with younger hope than ever! the faint silvery warblings heard over the partially bare and moist fields from the bluebirds, the song sparrow and the red-wing, as if the last flakes of winter tinkled as they fell! What at such times are histories, chronologies, traditions and all written revelations?"

Henry David Thoreau. Walden



A "HOLE IN ONE" for AUDUBON

Susan Weller

For the last couple of months, I've been working with Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course superintendent John Anderson to enhance and create wildlife habitat on the golf course. Varsity and Explorer Scouts built a number of bird houses for us after listening to my presentation on cavity nesters. Senior patrol leader Jeremy Alspaugh accepted a book on cavity nesting species and will share it with his group.

In early April, advisors to Troop 209 Tyler Anderson and Mark Monson, along with Audubon recruit Mike Ferguson and his daughter Brittany, dodged golf balls while helping to hang the boxes on a variety of trees and posts on the course. An American Kestrel box was hung on the 10th fairway and Wood Duck boxes were hung along Fernan Creek. Common Goldeneye, Hooded and Common Mergansers may also use the woody boxes. (Not to mention a variety of mammals).

Numerous chickadee boxes were also erected in a great ponderosa pine habitat adjacent to the lake. All three chickadee and nuthatch species may utilize the chickadee boxes, as well as the Brown Creeper. We were poised to hang a Northern Flicker box on a snag when we were informed by the current residents that they were already inhabiting a cavity on the snag.

The Blue Bird boxes we hung will more than likely host Violet-green Swallows, but you never know. Besides the flicker, other birds observed on the golf course include Ring-billed Gull, Downy Woodpecker, Common Crow, Spotted Towhee, European Starling, Winter Wren, Osprey, and Black-capped Chickadee.

John should be commended for improving habitat on a number of other golf courses in Oregon and Montana. Coeur d'Alene Audubon is pleased to help him in any way we can to improve habitat on the resort course. John seemed to like the idea of creating a small woodland pond in the midst of a birch grove. I also recommended that he take out some Douglas Fir growing on the site in favor of planting more birches. A

deciduous grove would create another habitat type on the golf course and increase the diversity of bird species. I also advised him to cull the Doug Fir from the mature Ponderosa Pine forests along the lake to prevent the spread of disease and insect pests.

As soon as the spring migrants return, I'll help John develop a list of all the species present on the resort course.

THE APRIL PROGRAM

Lynn Sheridan

The Idaho Humanities council helped to bring a very interesting program to Coeur d'Alene on April 19, 1999. Held in the Elegant meeting room of the "Spokesman Review" Building, 80 enthusiastic nature lovers listened to William C. Johnson, poet/writer/professor from Lewis-Clark State college. He explained and brought to life Henry David Thoreau's fascinating 19th century writings, and their relevance to us today. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this evening possible.

(Also printed in the Spokesman Review Letters to the editor April 24, 1999)



"Let the chips fall where they May"

Cindy Langlitz

Shirley Sturts, Cindy Langlitz, Ron and Anna Goodwin, and Peggy Schnell got together Saturday morning the 24th of April for a field trip to Q'emiln Trails in Post Falls along the Spokane River. It is still a little early for some spring migrants but we saw some interesting birds. Among the birds we saw, the highlight and inspiration for the title from Anna was a Pileated Woodpecker. He was on the backside of a tree as we approached, and all we could see was bits and pieces of bark flying to and fro as he busily hammered away at the Ponderosa Pine. We stood and watched him for several minutes and we were amazed at the way he used his whole body to pound the bark. He would get under a piece of bark after pecking away at it and find a delectable insect. His long barbed tongue would suck it into his mouth. He would call to his mate who was not too far away. It sounded like insane laughter echoing through the trees.

We saw an Osprey carrying sticks to an unseen nest and Violet-green Swallows catching insects among the rocky cliffs below the dam. We ended with a list of 16 species.



MICA BAY SURVEY

BIRDING ON THE WEB

Participants: Janet and Pat Allen, Kris Buchler, Bill Gundlach, Jerry Hanson, Peggy Schnell, Shirley Sturts, Judy Waring, Roger Young,

reprinted from "The Prairie Owl" April/May 1999

Most internet users probably know that there are many sources of birding information on the web. Now birders with internet access in the inland northwest can chat with other area birders, keep up with local and regional birding opportunities, report rare or interesting sightings, find out about field trips and programs, and get information about bird feeding and just about anything else related to birding by joining inland-NorthWest-birders. To join follow these simple directions: subscribe inland-mw-birders (in the body of your email message)

to:majordomo@uidaho.edu

You will receive 2 messages in reply. One of them will ask you to respond with a confirmation number to confirm that you have a valid email address. Reply to that message with the confirmation number as instructed. After this you will receive a message that you have been subscribed. Save or print this message as it has instructions on how to send messages and unsubscribe from the group. Contact me, Charles Swift, at: charless@umich.edu if you have any problems joining and feel free to pass this message on to others who might be interested.

Species	April 6	April 23
Common Loon	-	1
Red-necked Grebe	4	7
Great Blue Heron	-	2
Canada Goose	4 pr on nests	5 pr on nests 42+
Wood Duck	9	2
Mallard	43	11
American Wigeon	15	2
Common Goldeneye	-	3
Bufflehead	1	1
Common Merganser	1 pr	-
Osprey	2	2
	Building new nest	
Bald Eagle	1	1
Northern Harrier	-	1
Red-tailed Hawk	-	2
Wild Turkey	-	1
American Coot	-	1
Killdeer	-	-
Common Snipe	-	1
Ring-billed Gull	2	-
Belted Kingfisher	2	1
Downy Woodpecker	-	2
Northern Flicker	2	1
Steller's Jay	-	1
Common Raven	-	1
Tree Swallow	4	11
Violet-Green SWallow	-	4
Common Raven	2	1
Black-C Chickadee	4	7
Mountain Chickadee	1	-
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	6	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	1
European Starling	2	5
Western Bluebird	-	2pr
American Robin	3	10
Spotted Towhee	1	-
Song Sparrow	5	6
Dark-eyed Junco	1	1
Red-winged Blackbird	4	20
House Finch	-	9

BIRD SEED FOR SALE

A FUND RAISER FOR AUDUBON

50# Black Oil Sunflower \$16.00

Tax included

Niger (Thistle) \$1.40 a pound

(available at meetings)

Tax included

All proceeds go to the Coeur d'Alene
Audubon Chapter

Call Janet Callen at 664-1085

OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Janet Allen (JALL), Kris Buchler (EBUC,KBUC), Janet Callen (JCAL), Corinne Cameron (CCAM), Bill Gundlach (BGUN), Ed Haglund (EHAG), Cynthia Langlitz (CLAN), Stephen Lindsay (SLIN), Kristen Philbrook (KPHI), George Sayler (GSAY), Herb and Jan Severtson (HSEV,JSEV), Lynn Sheridan (LSHE), Shirley Sturts (SSTU), Jenny Taylor (JTAY) Roger Young (RYOU)
 RBA Rare Bird Alert for Northern Idaho - Eastern Washington - Northeastern Oregon Phone (208) 862-6195
 or Internet-Web Site: <http://pimacc.pima.edu/~cwilliamson/index.html>

1. Common Loon: 1-2 Fernan Lake April 11 still around as of April 22 (SSTU,BGUN); 1 Spirit Lake April 17 (JTAY); 2 Coeur d'Alene Lake April 17 (CLAN); 1 Wolf Lodge Bay, CDA Lake April 17 (SLIN)
2. Horned Grebe: 2+ Cougar Bay, CDA Lake April 16 (KBUC,SSTU); 2 Spokane River(NIC Beach) April 13 (BGUN)
3. Red-necked Grebe: 1 Hope April 10 (LSHE)
4. Turkey Vulture: 2 Hoo Doo Valley April 12 (JSEV,KBUC,SSTU)
5. Tundra Swan: 1 Hoo Doo Valley April 12 (KBUC,JSEV,SSTU)
6. Canada Goose: 1 pr w/7 newly hatched young Cougar Bay, CDA Lake (KBUC,SSTU)
7. Wood Duck: 4 Cougar Bay, CDA Lake Apr.8 (SSTU,KBUC); 3 Fernan Lake Apr.17 (SSTU,JWAR)
8. Cinnamon Teal: 1st arrival Kelso Lake April 18 (SLIN)
9. Harlequin Duck: 1 still on the Spokane River (NIC Dike Road) April 18 (LSHE)
10. Bufflehead: 2 with the Harlequin on the Spokane River April 18 (LSHE), Several still on area lakes as of April 20 (SSTU)
11. Osprey: 1st Cougar Bay, CDA Lake March 18 (EHAG); 2-3 McKuen Field March 18-19 (LSHE)
12. Northern Harrier: 1 Hoo Doo Valley April 12 (JSEV,KBUC,SSTU)
13. Red-tailed Hawk: 1 flying over Armstrong Hill, CDA April 18 (KBUC)
14. Prairie Falcon: 3 Farragut State Park April 17 (SLIN)
15. Ruffed Grouse: 2 Armstrong Hill, CDA March 10 (KBUC)
16. Gray Partridge: 2 near CDA Airport April 19 (CLAN)
17. California Quail: 8+ Fernan Village and 2 Fernan Lake (at feeder) April 19 (SSTU)
18. Common Snipe: 1+ Hoo Doo Valley Apr.12 (SSTU,KBUC,JSEV); 1+Fernan Cr. Apr.17 (JWAR,SSTU); 1+ Kelso Lake April 18 (SLIN)
19. Long-billed Curlew: 1 in with 100+ Ring-billed Gulls Post Falls area April 9 (SLIN)
20. Mourning Dove: 1 Highway 95 near Jct. with Highway 53 April 17 (CLAN)
21. Calliope Hummingbird: 1 Blackwell Hill Apr.19 (JSEV,HSEV); 1 Fernan Hill Apr. 21 (RYOU)
22. Rufous Hummingbird: 1 Fernan Hill April 19 (RYOU)
23. Belted Kingfisher: 1 Cougar Bay, CDA Lake April 8 (SSTU,KBUC)
24. Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Tubbs Hill March 20 (BGUN)
25. Hairy Woodpecker: 1 pr CDA 11th/Ash April 11 (GSAY)
26. Downy Woodpecker: 1 Hauser Lake April 17 (JALL)
27. Red-naped Sapsucker: 1 Kelso Lake April 18 (SLIN)
28. Violet-Green Swallow: 12 1st seen on Cougar Bay, CDA Lake March 10 (EHAG)
29. Steller's Jay: 3 Blackwell Hill Apr.8 (JSEV,HSEV), 7 Fernan Lake Apr.17 (JWAR,SSTU)
30. Black-capped Chickadee: 1 pr. at nest hole Cougar Bay, CDA Lake (SSTU,KBUC)
31. Winter Wren: 9 Cougar Bay, Coeur d'Alene Lake April 8 (KBUC,SSTU)
32. Townsend's Solitaire: 1 Blackwell Hill April 6 (JSEV,HSEV); 2 March 30-April 7 11th/Ash, CDA (GSAY); 1 Tubbs Hill April 13 (BGUN)
33. Western Bluebird: 2-3 pair Gertie Hanson Blue Bird Trail April 12 (JSEV,KBUC,SSTU)
34. Mountain Bluebird: 2-3 pair Gertie Hanson Blue Bird Trail April 12 (JSEV,KBUC,SSTU); 2 flocks 12 and 20 Rathdrum Prairie (seen several last 2 weeks) April 13 (SLIN)
35. Varied Thrush: 1 Armstrong Hill, CDA March 23 (KBUC)
36. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1st arrival Cougar Bay, CDA Lake April 16 (KBUC,SSTU)
37. White-crowned Sparrow: 2+ near Atlas Road April 19-22 (CCAM)
38. Savannah Sparrow: 3+ April 13 Rathdrum Prairie (CLAN); 1+ Kelso Lake April 18 (SLIN)
39. Spotted Towhee: 1-4 Several Locations in the CDA area (JSEV,HSEV,BGUN,SSTU,KBUC,LSHE,GSAY,RYOU,CLAN)
40. Cassin's Finch: 2 Armstrong Hill, CDA April 17 (KBUC)
41. American Goldfinch: 1 pr Blackwell Hill April 18 (HSEV,JSEV)
42. Pine Siskin: 1 11th/Ash Coeur d'Alene April 19 (GSAY)
43. Evening Grosbeak: 5 Blackwell Hill (JSEV)

Board of Directors

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Secretary/Publicity: Lynn Sheridan 765-1345 (MTThF)

Field Trips: Cynthia Langlitz 762-0890

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Conservation: Susan Weller 682-3413

Membership: Jan Severtson 667-6209

Newsletter: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Board Member: Lisa Woolford 762-5506

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).

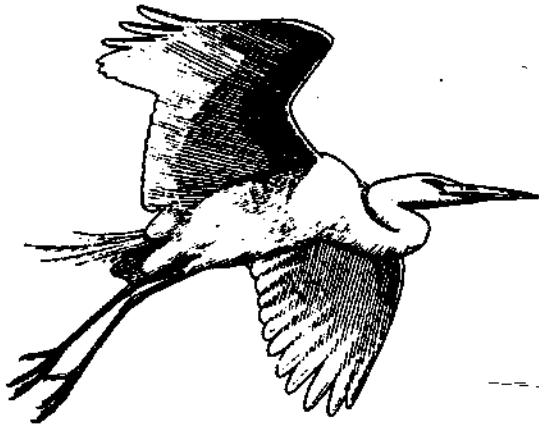
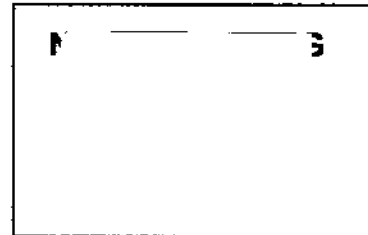
Name _____ Phone _____

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 83816

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 83816

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



GREAT EGRET

Ardea alba