Audubon members in North Idaho have been asked to be on the lookout for Trumpeter swans in our area this winter. Aquatic plant foods at the swan's primary nesting site at Harriman State Park in the Greater Yellowstone are scarce; wildlife managers believe there is enough food to successfully winter about 100 swans. During a year of high water flows the park can traditionally winter about 700 swans. Trapping and hazing will be used in an attempt to discourage swans from wintering at the park, which will hopefully prevent an episode of starvation.

As a result, Trumpeter swans may wander to North Idaho in attempts to locate new wintering grounds. Trumpeter swans are larger than the Tundra swans we are familiar with, and they have a more swan-like neck. A couple of helpful identification tips have also been provided: re-located swans will be sporting a neck-band with a unique code; swans will also be color-dyed yellow on their plumage. A hand-out on swan identification prepared by the Trumpeter Swan Society will be available at the November meeting. In the meantime, if you spot any Trumpeter's please call me at 682-3413. I will forward your information to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

TUNDRA

TRUMPETER
This month our meeting day was moved up one week to prevent a conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday. Next month, our meeting day should resume on the third Wednesday of December. On November 14, ecologist Ken Lustig, with the Panhandle Health District, will present a program on wetland ecology. Ken's philosophy is that in order to get someone to care about the environment, you need to teach them how the system works. If you already care about the environment, knowing "how the system works" helps to qualify your concerns and values.

Your ideas from the work groups at the October meeting indicate you care as deeply as I do about preserving Idaho's wetlands. Knowledge is a step we take towards understanding something we care about. Come hear Ken Lustig on November 14, at the Security Pacific Bank in Hayden Lake. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. If there is time, I will present a brief slide show on wetland bird species accompanied by their unusual calls.

Work Group Results

The folks at our October meeting broke up into three work groups to discuss and define our chapter objectives and important issues, and to decide on desired programming.

Your ideas seemed to fall into the following three categories:

**Programs**
- loons
- raptors
- bird identification
- habitats
- wildlife

**Field Trips**
- Turnbull
- McArthur
- Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge
- Creston, B.C.

**Objectives**
- Re-establish fence rows and brushy areas in farmlands to encourage bird production.
- Publish bird viewing lists complete with locations and possible species.
- Develop education programs for schools and produce audio-visual programs on wildlife and their habitats.
Issues
Wolf re-introduction to Yellowstone National Park
General wildlife preservation
Wetland's preservation
Hunting controls
Old-growth preservation

Many of these items merit further discussion and I will attempt to provide programs relevant to your interests and concerns. The better informed we are about issues of interest to us, the better we'll be able to meet our Chapter objectives of Education and Preservation.

DUCK NUMBERS ARE STILL LOW

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that the number of breeding ducks in the U.S. and Canada increased slightly this year but still remains at low levels. The breeding population for all areas surveyed totaled 31.3 million, up 1 percent from last year's 30.9 million. The 1990 count is the third lowest on record after 1985 and 1989. According to John Turner, director of USFWS, "The status of ducks is a warning signal for wetlands and the many fish and wildlife species that depend on them. These numbers should be of concern not only to waterfowlers and birds-watchers, but to everyone who cares about wildlife and the environment." From the Outdoor News Bulletin, Wildlife Management Institute.

The Field Trip

Thirteen Auduboner's had a blast bird watching at Medicine and Cave Lakes on Saturday, October 27. Who was there? Roger & Donna Young, Phil & Judy Waring, Chuck and Bee Finne, Kathy LeFrancis, Susan Weller, Betty, Mary, Jean, and Judy & Hal. What did we see?

Red-tailed hawk  Tree sparrow  Stellar's jay  Mallard
Great-blue heron  Kingfisher  Common loon  Tundra swan
Bohemian waxwing  Pied-billed grebe  Northern Shoveler
Wood duck  Ring-billed duck  Canada goose  Common goldeneye
Common merganser  California gull  Common crow  Red-shafted flicker  Black-capped and Mountain chick-a-dee.
Particularly interesting was an accommodating American tree sparrow who sat eating along the roadside. He let us all get several looks at him through the spotting scope, and then he stuck around while we analyzed his diagnostic features. He was looking a little pale in his winter plumage, but the dark spot on his breast was clearly visible. The bird's crown of rufous feathers--thick and bushy during the breeding season--was split down the center by a gray stripe. One of two white wing bars was prominent, and his notched tail was also visible. We were even close enough to see that the upper mandible of his bill was black, the lower mandible yellow.

Then a pick-up truck pulling a trailer came over the hill and scared our tree sparrow away.

**Shirley Sturts to Lead Local Outing**

Shirley Sturts will lead Audubon's on a field trip to Cougar and Mica Bays on Saturday, November 17. Besides being an accomplished birder, Shirley also compiles bird data for several different agencies and organizations. Shirley compiled the bird list for the 1897 brochure _Vertebrates of the Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management area_.

Shirley will meet fellow field-trippers between 8 & 9 a.m. at the Rosauer's coffee shop. Dress in warm layers, wear walking-shoes, and bring a lunch.

**This Idaho Department of Fish & Game brochure will be available at the November meeting.**
Pine Siskin Population Soars

According to Erica Dunn of Project FeederWatch, a continent-wide survey of birds at backyard feeders sponsored by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the Long Point Bird Observatory, one of the most abundant feeder birds during the 1989-90 season was the Pine Siskin. This "boom or bust" species of the boreal forests of Canada invaded 64 percent of feeders throughout the continent, compared to only 30 percent the previous year. Another bird showing a big jump in feeder attendance was the Red-breasted Nuthatch with twice as many visitors as the previous year. Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls showed significant gains in northern regions while Purple Finches were abundant in the South. The most widespread feeder visitor last year was the Dark-eyed Junco, seen at 83 percent of all FeederWatch sites.

(From Birder's World. Vol.4, No.6)

BIRD SIGHTINGS

I have had a nice variety of birds at my feeders, however, I expect the variety and quantity of birds will rise gradually in accordance with cooler temperatures. The chick-a-dees, nuthatches, and Stellar's Jays are already grateful for the suet, and have begun to store food for the coming winter.

Red-breasted Nuthatch  American Goldfinch
White-breasted Nuthatch  Cassin's Finch
Mountain Chick-a-dee  Stellar's Jay
Black-capped Chick-a-dee  Pine Siskin
Chestnut-backed Chick-a-dee

Please share your bird sightings with me so I may print them in the newsletter. Be thinking about an official name for our Chapter newsletter so we may discuss them at the November meeting. See you there!

Susan Weller
President

NOV 1990
I would like to extend an invitation to you to become a Charter Member of the newly formed Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

The National Audubon Society is a powerful force for the conservation of wildlife and natural resources. The power behind Audubon is generated at the grassroots level through over 500 local chapters, totaling more than half-a-million members.

The bottom line of Audubon's effectiveness is people: people who are concerned about the environment; people who are aware of interconnectedness of all life; people who are aware of the cumulative impact of humankind's activities on the health of the earth's life support systems -- air, water and land.

THE AUDUBON CAUSE

- Conserve native plants and animals and their habitats.
- Protect life from pollution, radiation and toxic substances.
- Seek solutions for global problems involving the interaction of population, resources and the environment.
- Promote rational strategies for energy development and use stressing conservation and renewable energy resources.

The newly formed Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter already has ninety members who have been enjoying monthly meetings, field trips and other activities. We meet on the third Tuesday night of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the public room in the Security Pacific Bank, 162 W. Hayden Avenue, Hayden Lake, Idaho.
Some of the topics we've already discussed include:

* Wetlands/Clean Lake Management
* Old Growth Forests
* Nongame Wildlife
* Woodland Caribou
* Bird Identification

Join us in the coming months to learn more about Grizzlies, Peregrine Falcons, bird identification and more. Please help us today in our efforts to promote conservation and education about North Idaho's wildlife and natural resources by becoming a Charter Member of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter.

The cost for a new membership is only $20 for the year which includes a subscription to six bimonthly editions of the beautiful Audubon magazine. All you need do is fill out and send in the enclosed card.

You cannot make an investment that will be so much fun and does so much good all at the same time.

Sincerely,

Susan Weller, President
27955 Canyon Road
Cataldo, Idaho 83810
Phone 682-3413