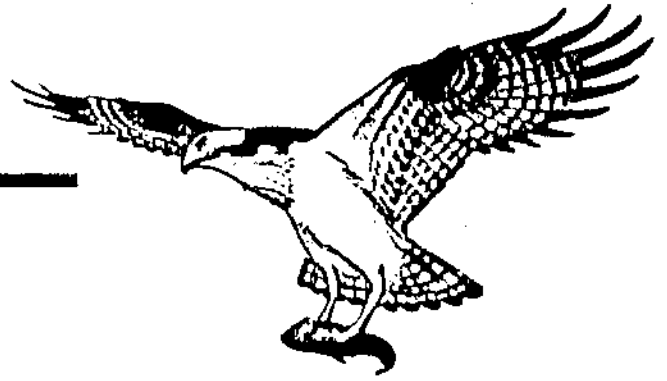


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society

Pam Gortz, Editor
4301 N. Ramsey Rd., #A2-14
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
765-1115-h 773-4516-w

November 1991

Volume 1, No. 10

CALENDAR CHECK! -

NOV. 19,
1991
5:30 PM

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING - will be held just prior to the regular meeting on November 19, 1991 at the same location: basement of the Security Pacific Bank in Hayden Lake.

NOV. 19,
1991
7 PM

NOVEMBER MEETING - location: basement of the Security Pacific Bank in Hayden Lake. Fish and Game biologist Frances Cassirer will present a program on Harlequin Ducks. Frances has been conducting field research on Harlequins for several seasons in Idaho, and has some surprising things to tell us about these beautiful ducks.

NOV. 25,
1991

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for submitting articles, etc.

Note: I have moved the newsletter deadline up a few days so that we can have sufficient time to get it printed and mailed.

DEC. 14,
1991

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT!! Details in next newsletter!

DEC. 17,
1991
7 PM

DECEMBER MEETING - location: basement of the Security Pacific Bank in Hayden Lake. Ric Bailey from Hell's Canyon Preservation Council will show the video "The Hell's Canyon Country: America's Next National Park or a Lost Legacy."

OUR APOLOGIES!!

We would like to apologize to those people who did not get their newsletter prior to the October meeting. Due to our rapid growth, we have started mailing our newsletters under our non-profit status. This last mailing went out third class. We were not aware that it would take more than a week for third class mailings to get to destinations outside Coeur d'Alene. We are extremely sorry if this inconvenienced you in any way and we hope to have solved this problem in this mailing.

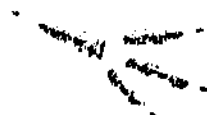
RECYCLE: Let's Make "Tracks" to Preserve OUR Habitat -- Don't Throw it Away!



There are many good reasons to recycle like saving our trees and cleaning up our environment. But here is another good reason -- to help our local Audubon Chapter. An account has been set up with Panhandle Recycling Products, 4855 Industrial Way (off Atlas Road in the Industrial Park), in the name of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society. Their hours are Mon. thru Fri.- 8:30am to 5:00 pm and Sat.- 9:00am to 4:00pm.



Save those newspapers and aluminium cans, turn them into Panhandle Recycling Products, and ask them to apply them to the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society account. The money, in turn, will be forwarded to our Audubon Chapter. So let's make our mark in preserving our habitat and at the same time help the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter!



ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT . . . ENDANGERED?



At the MT/ID Council Meeting held in Hamilton, MT, Randy Snodgrass, Director of Wildlife Policy for the National Audubon Society (D.C. office), discussed the Federal Endangered Species Act and the fact that it will come up for reauthorization before Congress next year. "The Act," he said, "is going to be under seige." The opposition will come from a number of directions. There are groups such as home builders, water barons, and the mining, timber, and fishing industries who will try to undermine and "gut" the Endangered Species Act (ESA). What does it mean that the ESA is up for reauthorization? It doesn't mean that the laws themselves expire, but that the funding ceiling expires.

Two principal amendments to come up against the present ESA are:

- (1) A bill called the Human Protection Act of 1991 has been proposed by Congressman Jim Hanson of Utah along with 13 other Republican congressman. This bill requires economic considerations be included in the listing process. Using this economic impact criteria would literally bring the listing of endangered or threatened species to a virtual halt. This may not be an easy bill to battle as Speaker of the House Tom Foley has already expressed his concern that the ESA does not give economic considerations in the listing process.

The act now states that to list a species you must consider biological factors -- current populations, population trends, habitat destruction, etc.. It does not consider economic impact.

- (2) The second possible amendment to come before Congress will be more difficult to defend. It is expected that some opposition may try to amend the ESA so that subspecies will not be given protection under the Act. Subspecies like the Grizzly Bear and Spotted Owl could not have been listed under this type of restriction.

They do not believe this type of opposition would be retroactive on species already listed, but it would put certain species at risk for potential listing. This restriction would be especially detrimental to the listing of songbirds.

The "Fly in for Freedom" group which is opposing the ESA has already "hit the hill" with its brochure and fact sheets singling out every issue that is important to us -- wetlands, endangered species, ancient forests, etc. The environmental community has countered these brochures with their own entitled The "Wise" Disguise with a theme that protecting the environment is patriotic.

The environmental community is mounting a major offensive campaign. Their hopes are to strengthen the ESA. One proposal is to increase funding and upgrade underfunded wildlife programs. Right now the act is saving one species at a time and there are species on the brink of extinction or soon to be. In the past 20 years we've lost 34 species which never made it to the endangered species list. There are 3800 species awaiting the listing process and they just don't have the money to consider these species. The President's Council on Environmental Quality, 1991 Report, states that more than 9,000 species are at risk.

Another way they propose to strengthen the ESA is to make the act more preventative. It is the environmental community's belief that better funding the Endangered Species Act to make it more preventative by focusing on protecting the habitat and ecosystems that put these species in an endangered situation, will keep these species from getting to the point where they are "on the brink" of extinction. This proposal of taking preventive measures may keep future volatile "Spotted Owl" situations from happening.



Audubon is now in the process of creating education tools in the form of a video, tool kit, colored poster, and a slide show on endangered species to better inform the public. The Audubon Convention next year in Washington D.C. (June 13-18, 1992) will highlight endangered species. Their theme will be "Act for Wildlife in '92, Endangered Species Need You".

There will be a time when letters and phone calls will be needed to "shore up" the environmental communities' position before Congress. Audubon will activate the network and, when that time comes and information is received, we will pass on to you the proper timing when your letters and phone calls will be needed.

[-Pam Gontz]

BIRD NOTES --

- Surf Scoter - male seen on Rose Lake on 10/19/91 by Pam Gontz [Note: this is a Sea Duck which is seen occasionally in our area. Since this duck was seen after the "storm", it is possible that he was misplaced by the storm.] Seen again on 10/26/91 at Rose Lake in same area.
- Wild Turkeys - 10 [mated pair with 8 young] in Susan Weller's backyard in Cataldo
- Snow Geese - 2 mat./2 imm. seen at Cd'A Wildlife Management Area on 10/19/91 by Pam Gontz -- resting with the Canada Geese
- Tundra Swans - 6 flying over Cd'A Wildlife Management Area and later on Thompson Lake, seen on 10/19/91 by Pam Gontz
- Common Loons - 13 [in two groups, one group of 4 and one group of 9], seen in Gotham Bay, Cd'A Lake, on 10/19/91 by Walt & Roberta Knoles and Pam Gontz
- Great Horned Owl - spotted in a field, SE corner of Hanley & Ramsey Roads on 10/29/91 by Pam Gontz
- Merlin - female seen on Poleline Rd., E. of Hwy 41, on 10/22/91 by Pam Gontz
- Northern Shrike - seen on Poleline Rd., E. of Hwy 41, on 10/22/91 by Pam Gontz
- Sharp-shinned Hawk - checking out the birds at Pam Gontz's feeder on 10/27/91
- Peregrine Falcon - seen by Dr. Jim Cook on the Rathdrum Prairie



EVER HEARD OF THE ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL PROGRAM?

In one recent year, under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture over 133,000 mammals and over 4 million birds were killed at a cost of \$25.6 million to taxpayers. The "pests" were trapped, snared, poisoned, shot from planes or helicopters, chased down with dogs or burned out of their dens. Other animals, including domestic cats and dogs, often fall prey to traps and poison intended for the "targeted" animals. ADC primarily serves ranchers, many of whom graze their livestock on public lands and pay fees far below "fair market" value. ADC's own body count for fiscal year 1989 included 86,626 coyotes, 11 armadillos, 43 otters, 9166 skunks, 137 deer, 1300 badgers, 9703 beavers, 269 muskrats, 2317 gophers, 3675 raccoons, 502 prairie dogs, 7815 ravens, 3749 opossums, 1220 bobcats, 49 minks, 7151 fox, 80 wolves, 1858 porcupines, 331 squirrels, 506 mountain lions, 236 black bears, and over 2 million blackbirds. These numbers include only the animals killed by direct control efforts of ADC employees!

[Ellen Scriven]

FIELD TRIP REVIEW FOR 10/26/91--

This was truly a trip for the hard core birders. But those who ventured out on this cool Saturday were not to be disappointed. After breakfast we headed out to the Rainey Hill area and were surprised to see the number of waterfowl on Medicine and Cave Lakes -- Wood Ducks, Canada Geese, Buffleheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes, American Coots, Common Loons, American Wigeons, Mallards, Green-winged Teals, Blue-winged Teals, Gadwalls, Canvasback and Redhead Ducks, Tundra Swans, Western Grebes, and Common Mergansers. Other bird species seen in the area were Steller's Jay, Raven, Northern Harrier, Ring-billed Gulls, Bald Eagle and Great Blue Heron. On the Black Lake Road we picked up Black-capped Chickadees, Goldfinches, and Pine Siskens.

The special treat for the day was the Common Loon call we heard at Medicine Lake [good medicine!]. This was also a great birthday gift for Susan as it was the first time she had heard a loon call in the wild. **Happy Birthday, Susan!** We had a wonderful outing even though the weather was quite variable. Actually birding is generally quite good in fowl weather. Maybe we should adopt the motto -- "Through rain, snow, sleet or hail!". Oh that's right -- it's already taken!

WOLF CREEDO--

Respect your Elders
Teach the young
Cooperate with the Pack

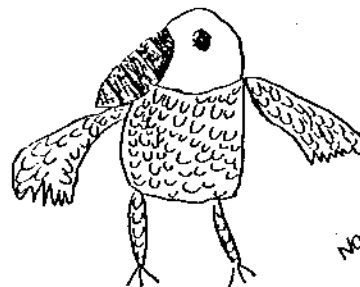
Share your affections
Voice your feelings
Leave your mark.



Play when you can
Hunt when you must
Rest in between



[Int'l Wolf Center, Ely, MN 9-14-90]



Mark Couser

"Puffin" drawn by our youngest Audubon member!

WETLAND REDEFINITION & ANCIENT FOREST UPDATE --

Thank you to all who wrote letters on the Wetlands Redefinition and Ancient Forest issues. If you want to do a little more for the Ancient Forests, send copies of your letters asking for cosponsorship for SB 1536 and HR 842 to any of the following important congressional leaders: Rep. Tom Foley, Speaker of the House; Rep. George Miller, Chair, House Interior Committee; Rep. Kika De La Garza, Chair, House Agriculture Committee; Sen. Patrick Leahy, Chair, Senate Agriculture Committee.

Another important thing you could do is to ask friends and relatives in other states (especially eastern states) to write their representatives and senators. After all, the Ancient Forests are as much "theirs" as "ours".

Here are a few more important bills which need additional cosponsors and support:

HR 1969 -Forest Biodiversity and Clearcutting Prohibition Act -- would stop clearcutting and even-aged management on all federal timber lands

HR 2501 &

SB 1334 - National Forest Timber Lost Recovery Act -- would eliminate forest service money-losing sales

HR 2274 -National Forest Redwoods Act -- would create a new Redwood Wilderness and transfer 210,000 acres of redwoods from private to National Forest Management

And one more bill to write to our Senator about. This time to ask him to oppose . . .

S 1220 - The Johnston-Wallop National Energy Security Act -- would open up the Arctic National Refuge to oil and gas leasing and developments. It would also severely restrict citizen and state participation on the siting, licensing and oversight of new nuclear power plants. Tell Senator Craig that you support a sound energy policy, focused on conservation, renewable energy resources and fuel efficiency -- and no drilling in the Arctic!

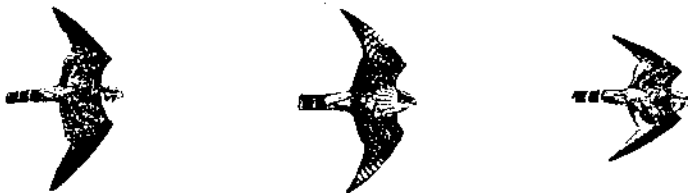
[Ellen Scriven]

OLD GROWTH FORESTS OF THE SOUTHWESTERN U.S. UNDER INCREASED THREAT OF LOGGING --



Less than 15% of the original forest remain, almost exclusively on National Forest Lands. In the Southwest, old-growth forests range from undisturbed riparian habitats, to 1,000 year-old juniper woodlands, to stately ponderosa pine forests with giant 500 year-old trees, all the way up to lush forests of fir and spruce. The timber industry of the Southwest produces less than 7% of the nations wood product supply and accounts for only one half of one percent of the total jobs of Arizona and New Mexico. Numerous species are believed to prefer or require old growth forests for their habitats and survival. The Mexican Spotted Owl inhabits old-growth forests of the Southwest. This creature is believed to be three times rarer than the much publicized Northern Spotted Owl. Biologists state that these species are old-growth obligates, that is, if logged, these birds will become extinct. In addition to the spotted owl, the goshawk, Flammulated Owl, Sacramento Mountain Salamander, Arizona Montane Vole and the Mt. Graham Red Squirrel are but a few of the species considered to be dependent on old-growth. You could write Michael Spear, Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87102) urging that the Mexican Spotted Owl be protected under the Endangered Species Act and you could write David Jolly, Regional Forester, USFS (517 Gold Ave. S.W., Albuquerque, NM 87102) urging the Forest Service to protect all remaining old-growth forests in the Southwest.

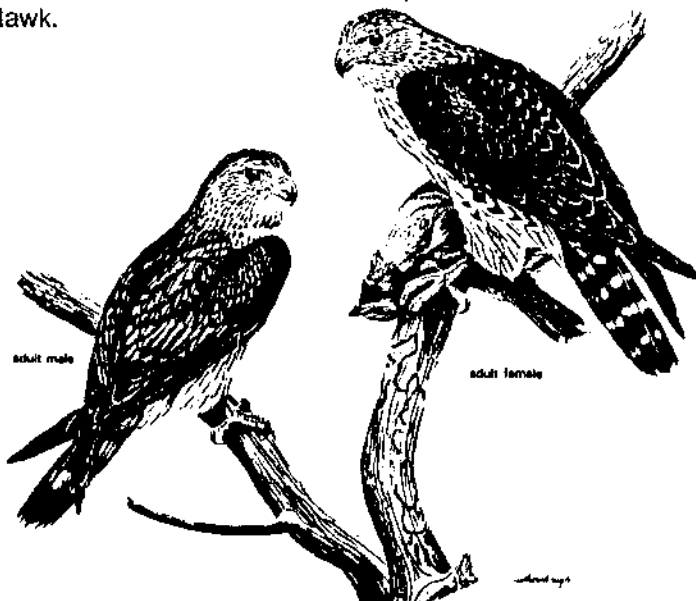
[Ellen Scriven]

FEATHERED FACTS --MERLIN [Falco columbarius]

The Old English term *marlin*, *marlion*, "**merlin**", used in the days of falconry, was the term for the female bird. *Falco* is Low Latin for "falcon". *Falco* is also taken from Latin word *fax* meaning "sickle" after the shape of the talons and the beak. *Columbarius* is Latin for "a pigeon keeper". In modern latin, *columbarius* means "pidgeon", an adjective - *columbia* = "a dove" plus *-arius* = "pertaining to". These are references to the bird's reputation as an occasional pigeon snatcher. The Merlin was formerly called Pigeon Hawk.

DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES:

- males are blue-gray to dark blue above and pale rufous to buff-colored below with dark streaking or barring
- females are brown above and creamy to rufous below with darker streaking
- juveniles of both sexes resemble females, but are sometimes darker
- tail is barred dark with gray to white and exhibits a dark subterminal band
- the eye is dark brown and feet are yellow
- wingtips do not reach tail tip on perched birds
- lacks bold mustache marks like most other falcons
- 10 to 12 inches in length with a wingspan of 19-24 inches
- females are slightly larger than males



SIMILAR SPECIES: Merlins are significantly smaller than gyrfalcons, prairie falcons, and peregrine falcons. In flight the strongly barred tail of the Merlin distinguishes it from the much larger Peregrine and Prairie Falcons. Both the male and female merlin are more uniform in color than the brightly colored American Kestrel. Underparts and underwings are darker and head larger than in kestrels -- does not hover like the kestrel. Immature merlins resemble immature sharp-shinned hawks, but have pointed wings and dark eyes, instead of the short, rounded wings and yellow eyes of the sharp-shin.

BREEDING HABITAT AND NESTING: Merlins nest in open habitats, primarily open woodlands and wooded prairies, but occasionally nests in urban areas. They often use abandoned nests of crows, magpies, and hawks and occasionally reline them with twigs and feathers. Merlins, like other falcons, do not build their own nests. They will also use a tree cavity, a cliff, or a scrape on the ground in treeless country. The male arrives on breeding grounds before females, usually returning to the same area each year. Males do all the hunting from courtship through incubation and sometimes through nesting period. Occasionally yearlings, especially males, serve as helpers in territorial defense and feeding of females. Clutches of 3 to 5 eggs are laid from mid-April to early June and are incubated for 30 days. Eggs are white, marked with reddish brown -- some are nearly unmarked. The young fly at about 40 days old, but may remain near their nest for up to a month afterwards. Merlins in the wild live to be about 8 years old.

DIET: Merlins primarily eat small birds such as sparrows, finches and waxwings up to the size of flickers but will also take small rodents. Young Merlins may take larger insects such as grasshoppers and moths. Females take heavier prey than the males. Seasonal changes in diet correspond to prey availability. The Merlin will often take its prey in fast, low horizontal flight -- overtaking its prey rather than stooping.

[Sources: The Birder's Handbook, by Ehrlich, Dobkin & Wheye; Peterson Field Guides - Hawks, by Clark & Wheeler; Hawks in Flight, by Dunne, Sibley & Sutton; Field Guide to the Birds of North America, National Geographic Society] - Pam Gontz

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THANKS
TO:



The Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society would like to thank ALPINE PRINTING for their donation to our newsletter. Please support ALPINE PRINTING, 205-F East Seltice Way, Post Falls, with your patronage.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY



CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YES, I'd like to join. Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send the Audubon magazine and my membership card to the address below. My check for \$20 payable to the National Audubon Society is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send this application and your check to
National Audubon Society
 Chapter Membership Data Center
 P.O. Box 51001
 Boulder, CO 80322-1001

Local Chapter
 Coeur d'Alene G06

Local Chapter Code
 7XCH8

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