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 AND EVENTS

NOVEMBER 16 MONDAY
REGULAR MEETING: MARY MINERVA MCCROSKEY STATE PARK

Time: 6:30 p.m. Social Time
7:00 p.m. Meeting
Place: First Presbyterian Church, 521 Lakeside Ave.
(Annex building)
Program: Mary Minerva McCroskey Memorial State Park is one of Idaho's oldest state parks. Randall Butt, the park manager, will talk about the unique history and background of the area. Minerva McCroskey contains several forest habitat types as well as Palouse Prairie remnants.

NOVEMBER 14-21 FRIDAY
First day of Project Feeder Watch sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. For information call: Shirley Sturts 664-5318 or Kris Buchler 664-4739

NOVEMBER 26 THANKSGIVING
Set aside 1 hour of your day to count the birds at your feeder. If you have not done this before and need a participation form you can pick one up at the Nov. meeting or call Jan Severtson 367-5209

FIELD TRIPS

NOVEMBER 12 THURSDAY AND NOVEMBER 24 TUESDAY
MICA BAY SURVEY

Time: 8:30-11:30 a.m.
Meet: Fairmont Loop Road turn off
Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318
Activity: Beginner bird watchers are welcome. One of the ways to improve our birding expertise (on all levels) is to share our hobby with others.

NOVEMBER 17 TUESDAY
BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

Time: 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.
Meet: Wolf Lodge Bay boat launch
Leader: Cindy Langlitz 762-0890
Activity: We will look for Bald Eagles returning for the winter to feed on the Kokanee - Dress Warmly -

NOVEMBER 22 SUNDAY
SANDPOINT CITY BEACH - ODEN BAY ON LAKE PEND OREILLE

Time: 9:00 a.m. - all day trip
Meet: East side of Rosauers Parking Lot
Leader: Cindy Langlitz 762-0890
Activity: We will look for uncommon gulls, Bald Eagle, loons and waterfowl. Bring a lunch or money for lunch. Be sure to dress warm and layer.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS COMING SOON
December 20, Coeur d'Alene D'Alene
Compiler: Susan Weiler 682-3413
December 27 Indian Mountain
Compiler: Don Heidkla 689-3347
January 3 Spirit Lake
Compiler: Shirley Sturts 664-5318
FISH HAWK FOCUS

"AUDUBON ADVENTURES"

"Audubon Adventures" is a national education program enriching school science curricula. It has grown over the years and currently includes several student newspapers/worksheets, an educational video, and a conservation project resource manual.

Topics for 1996-1999 include: "Nature Goes to School" (habitats), "Home Sweet Home" (cavities, burrows and nests), "Mississippi River" (and other river systems of the U.S.), "Colonial Nesting Water Birds", an educational video and a "Migration/Conservation Project".

Kris Buchler, Education Chairman for our Chapter, contacts superintendents or curriculum directors of districts and obtains mailing information and teacher lists for all third and fifth grade classes. The school districts served are Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls, Lakeland, Plummer/Worley, Kootenai, Mullan, Wallace and Kellogg. After the information is processed and forwarded to the national organization, 129 classrooms will receive the "Audubon Adventures" materials.

The Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society is fortunate to have a benefactor, Scott Reed, who funds this program through the Margaret W. Reed Foundation. Without his support, we could not supply the number of classrooms that we do. Also, through this contact with the school systems, we have made it known that our local chapter is available as a resource for teachers.

Without the support of Scott Reed and the hours Kris Buchler spends on the phone and in filling out forms this wouldn't be happening. Give them a pat on the back when you see them.

The Fish Hawk Focus will be a regular column in the Newsletter. The purpose of the column is to focus on the contributions chapter members are making to help us fulfill our mission: "to promote, perpetuate and protect Idaho's wildlife-particularly birds and endangered species - while preserving and enhancing their habitat through environmental education and activism."

EDUCATION REPORT

September was a busy month for Lori Frank's Advanced Biology/Forestry Class at Coeur d'Alene High School. Education Chair, Kris Buchler, presented a slide/audio program to introduce students to bird species they should encounter on their forest plot fall and spring. The following week Audubon members George Sayler, Ron Goodwin and Kris accompanied the class into the field. There they surveyed plots for snags and used instruments to determine diameter and height. Species of the snags were noted and the students should be able to correlate their data with other studies showing preferred species, diameter of snags and preferred height for nesting holes of various species of cavity-nesting birds. Audubon members are only a few of the professionals who will help the students formulate a forest management plan.

Susan Weller introduced sixth grade students at the Seventh Day Adventist School to "Migration". Through slides and activities fifteen students now have some knowledge of how birds migrate, as well as how to use star charts.

The Coeur d'Alene Christian Women's Club invited Kris Buchler to their monthly luncheon and to speak about bird feeding and winterizing bird houses. The meeting was held at the Coeur d'Alene Resort and had a "Birdhouse" theme. Interest of the members indicates some birds will be cozier and better fed this winter!

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
The birders outnumbered the birds on our trip to Silver Beach and along the Centennial Trail. We had only 4 species of birds, which one could say wasn't very exciting birding. However, the small numbers didn't dampen our spirits and we had a great time admiring our feathered friends and improving our birding skills.

We were entertained by 2 Red-necked Grebes, viewed from the first parking lot on the Centennial Trail while the group gathered for their hour of birding. The question came up as how to tell Red-necked Grebes from the Horned Grebe in winter plumage. The Red-necked has a grayish neck and a white crescent on the face. The Horned has a white cheek patch contrasting sharply with a black cap at eye level and the white extends down the neck. If you see them together you will notice a difference in size. The Horned is 12-15 inches while the Red-necked is 19-20 inches.

At the Silver Beach Marina there are often 2-3 species of ducks present but today there was only one Mallard female (possibly one of the Hybrids that like to hang around where people will feed them). We took a special interest in this duck since it was burdened with some kind of growth bulging out from the area around its right eye. Bill had seen this bird before and noted that the growth was getting larger.

The rest of our hour was spent chasing down Loons and Gulls. It was hard to get a good look at the Loons because of distance and sun glare. The expected loon species is the Common Loon but one always hopes for a Pacific, Yellow-billed or Red-throated (all of which have been observed on CDA Lake). We had a good lesson in Loon identification - reading over what field marks to look for and studying both the 3 loons in the scope and the loon pictures in our various field guides. We worked really hard at checking out the field marks but couldn't come up with anything but Common Loons.

Beware! If you don't want to be recognized as a beginner birder don't let the term seagull pass your lips. There is no such thing as a seagull. There are Ring-billed Gulls, California Gulls, Herring Gulls, Mew Gulls, Glaucous and Glaucous-Winged Gulls, Bonaparte's Gulls etc. If you see gull on Coeur d'Alene Lake it will most likely be a Ring-billed Gull. The adults have yellowish legs, a light gray mantle and a black ring around a yellow bill. California and Herring Gulls (winter) are next most likely. If it isn't one of those three you have something to get excited about. Dan Svingen, a devoted gull watcher, saw the first Mew Gull in the Coeur d'Alene area on Dec. 17, 1994. It has shown up here every winter since. This fall a first wintered plumage Mew Gull was reported in Spokane Valley Oct. 8 and a flock of 11 Bonaparte's Gulls were on the St. Maries sewage ponds on Oct. 10.

Where was I? Oh yes, back to our birding trip. Of course we saw gulls. One usually does if your birding along the shores of Coeur d'Alene Lake. We saw three gulls, we checked their field marks out, and as expected all three were Ring-billed Gulls.

By this time it was 1 p.m. and our field trip officially ended. Theresa and I didn't want to give up yet. We thought surely there must be a Pacific Loon or a Mew Gull just waiting to show off its feathers to some dedicated bird watchers. We continued on to the boat ramp at Higgins Point for another half an hour and added 1 more Common Loon, 9 more Red-necked Grebe, a Song Sparrow and an assortment of fishing boats to the list.

Enjoying the sunshine and companionship of fellow birders were Bill Gundlach, Theresa Potts, Jan Severtson, Elaine Swarthout, David and Barbara Zimmer and myself.
AND THE WEATHERMAN
PREDICTED RAIN...

Heyburn State Park October 24
Lisa Woolford

The three of us departed in a blanket of fog. 
Discussing our option of three possible routes to our destination, we chose the White Pine Scenic Byway (hwy 3) to dabble in some lake-bopping before reaching Heyburn. A 4-mile dirt road took us into Killarney Lake, where we saw 1 Belted Kingfisher, 1 G.B.Heron, 5 Coot, 18 gulls (forgive us, we are not gull experts), and 2 Northern Harrier hunting (quite exciting!). Further along we encountered a Red-tailed and a Rough-legged Hawk.

No marked turnoff to Medimont Lake, (at least we think that's what the lake is called) but that did not stop this driver from intuiling a good location and turning around to head down Rainy Hill Road. Wah-lah, an adorable flock of 26 Bufflehead awaited us! Two Kingfisher gave us a close view of themselves and shared two different calls. After spending more time than we care to admit trying to identify 2 female ducks who turned out to be Mallard, we pined for a spotting scope! Those Mallard were across the lake, don't you know, and anyway, we all agreed female Mallard sans their drakes are now indelibly etched in our minds and we are the wiser.

One Black-billed Magpie, 2 Red-necked Grebe, and another Great Blue Heron completed the side trip.

Thanks to a fast traveling Jeep wagoner (no, no, it wasn't Kris...), we pulled over at Waterfowl Heaven. You see, hunters were out on the lakes. Apparently, Cave Lake-by-the-Byway is off limits to hunters, and our feathered friends knew it. We saw 400+ Am. Coot, 15 Pied-b. Grebe, 50+ Mallard, 1 Bufflehead, and get this, 65+ Western Grebe - oh what a sight these majestic birds are in mass!!! Enjoying our lunch in the sunshine and overlooking Cave Lake, we heard honking and located an airborne flock of 26 Canada Geese. We could not have ordered a more beautiful fall day. The sun shined in the brilliant blue sky. The waters were still and perfectly reflected the yellow, orange and red colors of mature cottonwoods, aspens and others standing guard at shoreline. If we never reached Heyburn, the day had already been glorious.

On the levy road into St. Maries we encountered Hawk Heaven. We had to pass by 3 Red-tailed Hawk soaring (horrors!) as that road is too damn narrow and busy for a pull-over. Not ones to miss such a hawking opportunity, we scooped out a little dirt farm road pitching us off the levy. There we remained mesmerized for who-knows-how-long watching a Rough-legged Hawk ride the upper air currents, a Red-tailed Hawk perched in the bare tree in front of us, and 4 brown-colored and 1 grey-colored Northern Harrier hunt the field. A spotting scope or an expert birder would have identified a small raptor which did not appear to be a Kestrel or Merlin???

On down the levy at the water treatment pond we logged another 20 Bufflehead, 20 Common Goldeneye and 30 Mallard, at least! On Hyw 5 from St. Maries to Heyburn we pulled over for a fine show by a pair of Ruffed Grouse. Arriving at Heyburn with little time to spare before returning to CDA, we explored the wetlands interpretive area, seeing only a Brown Creeper, as the marsh was so overgrown there was only the sound of bird activity to verify their presence on the water. As we headed further into the park, I told my two companions, Lynn Sheridan and Janet Callen, about the loon pair I watched from the Chatcolet docks during the two years I lived at Heyburn. The moment we parked the car at Chatcolet, guess who was there to greet us, just a hundred yards or so from shore...the Loon!!! And what a view, why, we could see the black striping at the base of its neck, as white winter plumage had not completely taken over. We watched it fish its way out of view. What a way to end a fantastic day! As dull as this now sounds, we also saw a Red-necked Grebe at this site, 4 Common Goldeneye, 1 Bufflehead, several Pied-billed Grebe, 1 Downy Woodpecker and another 500+ American Coot. Rats, we needed the spotting scope again to identify another long raft of waterfowl with quite a bit of white that was way too far away for any kind of positive ID. Could it have been several hundred Bufflehead?? More than completely satisfied, we settled into the car for the ride home. HA!...and the weatherman predicted rain!
CATSindoORS!
THE CAMPAIGN FOR SAFE BIRDS & CATS

This campaign was initiated by the American Bird Conservancy ABC but it belongs to all individuals and groups who want to address this issue. (Address/phone/e-mail see Oct. Newsletter)
Our newsletter will be featuring reprints of articles from the educational kit they have developed.

COMMONLY ASKED
QUESTIONS ABOUT
OUTDOOR CATS
2nd in our series of articles

Q. My cat has enjoyed being outside for many years. How can I bring him in now?

A. You can help your cat make the adjustment gradually by keeping him inside for longer and longer periods of time. Or you can bring him in and not let him outside again. Either way, the trick is to give your cat lots of attention and play time, and the ability to look out of windows without knocking over plants or breakables. Provide your cat with cat condos or other appropriate places to lounge, play and scratch. You may want to consult your veterinarian or local animal shelter for tips. The article in December Newsletter will be “How to Make Your Outdoor Cat a Happy Indoor Cat.”

Q. It’s not natural for cats to be inside all of the time. How can I deny my cat the pleasure and stimulation of being outdoors?

A. Cats are domestic animals who do not need to be outside to be contented pets. In addition there are many hazards to being outdoors that may shorten your cat’s life or cause your cat to become seriously injured or ill. Indoor cats can get plenty of pleasure and stimulation if they are regularly played with and receive a lot of affection. If you still want your cat to

experience the outdoors but without the risks, you can train your cat to walk on a leash, build a cat run, or install cat-proof fencing.

Q. I put a bell on my cat so she doesn’t kill birds or wildlife. Why should I keep her inside?

A. Scientific studies have shown that cats with bells on their collars do kill wildlife because they can learn to silently stalk their prey. In addition, bells do not necessarily warn birds or small mammals of danger, and bells on collars offer no protection to helpless young birds.

Q. My cat is well fed so he doesn’t hurt when he goes out. Why should I keep him inside?

A. Scientific studies have shown that well-fed cats do kill wildlife because the hunting instinct is independent of the urge to eat. In one study, researchers presented six cats with a live small rat while eating their preferred food. All six cats stopped eating the food, killed the rat, and then resumed the food.

Q. I have a “working” cat. He kills rats and mice in my barn and on my rural property. Why should I keep him inside when his job is outside?

A. One study has shown that cats do not prey on rats over 7 ounces and there is other documentation that cats are not very successful in controlling rat populations. Mice can live in small places where cats cannot follow, so cats do not eliminate mice in outbuildings either. Taking steps to reduce grain spillage and close holes in outbuildings may be more efficient ways to rid your farm buildings of rats and mice.

Q. My cat is so old, I know she doesn’t hunt. Why should I sacrifice her freedom?

A. She may die sooner if you don’t move her indoors. Elderly cats who live outdoors are even more susceptible to feline diseases and to injuries from other cats, wildlife, or dogs. Even if she doesn’t hunt, move her in for her own safety. She’ll Live longer. (Editors note: “If I had done this for my older cat we would probably still be enjoying his company.”

Continued on Page 6
Q. My vet told me that it's O.K. to let my cat out for long periods of time. Surely, my vet isn't wrong?

A. Many veterinarians as well as animal welfare organizations advocate keeping cats indoors for their own safety as well as to prevent them from killing wildlife. If your cat is gone for long periods of time, you may not find out if he's lost, stolen, or injured until it's too late. Many veterinarians encourage owners to take their cats outdoors only under close supervision.

Q. What if my outdoor cat sprays inside?

A. A small percentage of cats will continue to spray when moved inside. Consult your veterinarian or animal behaviorist for advice on how to diminish this behavior. A long-range water pistol or shake can are harmless ways to curb a cat from undesirable behavior.

Q. Don't cats kill just diseased or old birds?

A. No! Cats kill the young of many species of birds, and kill birds who nest or feed on or near the ground. Cats even climb trees and prey on helpless young birds in their nest.

Q. I'm afraid my outdoor cat would cause damage to my furniture, carpets and drapes if I kept her inside. Should I have her declawed?

A. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) opposes declawing as a painful and unnecessary operation that removes the last digit of a cat's toes. Instead, the HSUS recommends trimming a cat's claws every one or two weeks and training cats to scratch in designated places.

Q. What should I do about the stray cat who shows up on my doorstep?

A. Do not feed stray cats without an intent to adopt and keep them inside. Feeding a free-roaming cat without making a commitment to giving or finding a permanent home is not fair to the cat, local wildlife, or your neighbors.

In the December Newsletter: "How to Make Your Outdoor Cat a Happy Indoor Cat"

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**MICA BAY SURVEY**

Participants: Janet Allen, Kris Buckner, Dick Case, Bill Gundlach, Theresa Potts, Jan Severtson, Lynn Sheridan, Shirley Sturs, Roger Young

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OBSERVATION POST

Observers: Kris Bucher (KBUC), Janet Allen (JALL), Corrine Cameron (CCAM), Cliff Cameron (CLCAM), Bill Gundlach (BGUN), Cynthia Langliz (CLAN), Theresa Potts (TPOT), Romm and Roberta Rich (RRIC), George Sayler (GSAY), Jan and Herb Severtson (JSEV,HSEV), Lynn Sheldon (LSHE), John Shipley (JSHI), Don Stoecker (DSTO) (from Montana), Shirley Sturts (SSTU), Gladys Tester (GTES), Susan Weller (SWEL)

RBA Rare Bird Alert for Northern Idaho, Eastern Washington, and Northeastern Oregon

Phone (208) 882-6195 or Internet-Web Site: http://pimucc.pima.edu/~cwilliamson/index.html

1. Common Loon 2 Fernan Lake mid-Oct. (SSTU); 5 Idlewilde Bay, Lake Pend Oreille Oct. 23 (KBUC); 28 CDA Lake several locations Oct. 22 (JSEV,HSEV); 18 Wolf Lodge Bay and 1 Carlin Bay CDA Lake Oct 24 (KBUC/bird watching class)

2. Pied-billed Grebe 4 Mica Bay, CDA Lake Oct. 6 (SSTU,DSTO); 3 Thompson Lake and 3 in Carlin Bay, CDA Lake Oct.24 (KBUC/birdwatching class)

3. Red-necked Grebe 5 Mica Bay, CDA Lake Oct. 6 (SSTU,DSTO); 8 Carlin Bay 2 Wolf Lodge Bay Oct. 24 (KBUC/birdwatching class)

4. Canvasback 1 Spokane River/Hiway 95 bridge Oct. 6 (SSTU,DSTO)

5. Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 back yard CDA Oct.10 (JWAR); 1 Armstrong Hill, CDA Oct.11 (KBUC)

6. Cooper's Hawk 1 Armstrong Hill, CDA Oct.6 & 1 imm. Oct.16 (KBUC,DSTO,SSTU)

7. Red-tailed Hawk 1 Fernan Creek Oct. 6 (SSTU,DSTO)


9. Great Horned Owl 2 West Eagle Creek CDA National Forest Oct. 24 (CLAN)

10. N.Pyrrh-Owl 1 Armstrong Hill, CDA all Oct. (KBUC); 1 West Eagle Creek Oct. 24 (CLAN)

11. Belted Kingfisher 1 Fernan Creek Oct. 6 (SSTU,DSTO); 1 Fernan Lake all Oct.; 1 Fairmont Loop Oct. 24 (JSEV,HSEV)

12. Pileated Woodpecker 1 Hauser Lake Oct.10 (JALL); 1 south 11th Street CDA 1 (GSAY); Tubbs Hill Oct. 17 (BGUN); 1 Beauty Bay and 1 in Carlin Bay CDA Lake Oct. 24 (KBUC); 13. Northern Flicker 3 N.18th Street CDA Oct. 18 (LSHE); 1 Blackwell Hill (JSEV)

13. Downy Woodpecker 1 Arrowhead, CDA Oct. 8 (TPOT); 1 Fernan Lake Feeder all Oct. (SSTU)

14. American Crow (Alboro) 1 north 17th street CDA Oct. 3 (LSHE)

15. Black-Billed Magpie 1-6 Arrowhead, CDA (TPOT); Fernan(SSTU,DSTO); 4 Blackwell Hill.Oct.17 (JSEV)

16. Gray Jay 2-3 Cedar Mt. area CDA National Forest Sept. 26 (JSHI)

17. Steller's Jay 1 (Steller's x Blue Jay hybrid or possibly a partial albino) it had the dark head of the Steller's but white wing bars like the Blue Jay. West Eagle Creek CDA National Forest (GTES); 1-4 area feeders during Oct. (JSEV,SSTU,LSHE, JALL,KBUC,R & RRIC)

18. Blue Jay 1 West Eagle Creek, CDA National Forest (GTES) Oct. 5-11

19. Red-breasted Nuthatch 1-4+ at area feeders (TPOT,SSTU,KBUC)

20. White-breasted Nuthatch 1 Arrowhead, CDA Oct. 4 (TPOT)


22. Winter Wren 1 Arrowhead, CDA Oct. 19 TPOT)

23. Ruby-Crowned Kinglet 2 Arrowhead (CDA) Oct. 3 (TPOT)

24. Dipper Cataldo CDA Rv.Oct.19 (BGUN); 1 W.Eagle Creek CDA National Forest Oct. 3 (CLAN)

25. Western Bluebird 2 Hoo Doo Valley Oct.4 (CCAM,CLCAM); 12+ Rathdrum Prairie Oct. 13 (CLAN)

26. Mountain Bluebird 8 Hoo Doo Valley Oct. 18 (CCAM,CLCAM)

27. Dipper Cataldo CDA Rv.Oct.19 (BGUN); 1 W.Eagle Creek CDA National Forest Oct. 3 (CLAN)

28. Northern Shrike 1 imm Mica Bay, CDA Lake Oct. 6 (SSTU,DSTO)

29. Chipping Sparrow 1+ at feeder CDA city (16th St.) Sept. 15 (LSHE)

30. Savannah Sparrow 1 seen daily Sept. 1st week in Oct. Hauser Lake (JALL)

31. Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon and Slate-Col.) 1-12+ at area feeders (LSHE,JALL,KBUC,SSTU)

32. Western Meadowlark 20+ Rathdrum Prairie Oct. 13 (CLAN)

33. American Goldfinch 1+ Hauser Lake (JALL)

34. Red Crossbill heard Arrowhead, CDA Oct. 19 (TPOT)

35. Pine Siskin 1+ daily Hauser Lake (JALL)

36. Evening Grosbeak 1+ at area feeders all Oct. (KBUC,SSTU)
Board of Directors

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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'Alene, ID 83816

Subscription to 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