

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

OCTOBER 1996

VOLUME 6 No. 2

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

MEETING DAY AND TIME CHANGED

Our regular meeting this year will be held on either the 3rd Monday or 3rd Wednesday of each month with the possible exception of the December meeting. Be sure to check each month's newsletter for the date of the meeting. We plan to start each meeting at 6:30 p.m. with a short 10-15 minute slide presentation on bird identification. This will be followed by 15 minutes of visit time (Greet new members and guests, say hello to friends, and buy your raffle tickets). The regular meeting will start right at 7:00 p.m..

OCTOBER 16 WEDNESDAY REGULAR MEETING

Time: 6:30 p.m. Bird Identification slides and socializing

7:00 p.m. Meeting starts

Place: Idaho Fish and Game Office
2750 Kathleen

Program: George Saylor will present a program on the Ecology Workshop in the Rockies which he attended this summer.

NOVEMBER 7 THURSDAY BOARD MEETING

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Home of Jan and Herb Servertson
1460 Fairmont Loop Road

NOVEMBER 18 MONDAY

REGULAR MEETING

Time: 6:30 Bird Identification and Socializing

7:00 p.m. Meeting starts

Place: Idaho Fish and Game Office
2750 Kathleen Avenue

Program: At this meeting you will have a chance to learn about the National Wildlife Refuge System and the important role they play in bird conservation. Dan Pennington, manager of the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge, will present a slide program of the refuge system and the future management plans of Kootenai NWR

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

OCTOBER 12 SATURDAY TREE PLANTING ON BLACKWELL ISLAND

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Blackwell Island

Activity: Participate in the BLM tree and shrub planting project on Blackwell Island. Volunteers should bring shovels and lunches, wear appropriate footwear for working near the water's edge and dress appropriately for the weather. In October of 1995 our Audubon Chapter helped BLM plant 1,040 shrubs for wildlife on Blackwell Island. This year BLM will plant another 780 seedlings and wrap woven wire around mature aspen and cottonwood trees to reduce the amount of beaver damage. Please advise either Bill Cook at 769-5042 or Scott Robinson at 769-5048 if you plan to volunteer (They would appreciate a call by October 7th if possible)



CALENDAR CHECK

Continued from page 1

FIELD TRIPS

OCTOBER 19 SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 5 TUESDAY

MICA BAY SURVEY

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop Rd. turn off, south of the Spokane River Bridge-Highway 95

Leaders: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Activity: We will bird the area until 11:00 a.m. so you can plan on being back to Fairmont Loop by 11:30.

OCTOBER 14 MONDAY

BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

2nd in a series of noon time birding

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

Meet: Fairmont Loop Rd. turn off, south of the Spokane River Bridge-Highway 95

Leader: Susan Weller 208 692-3413

Activity: We will look for birds along Fairmont Loop Road and on Blackwell Island. Take a break from your daily routine for some fun birdwatching.

NOVEMBER 16 SATURDAY

HEYBURN STATE PARK

Time: 8 a.m.

Meet: Rosauers Parking Lot (s.e. corner)

Leaders: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Activity: We will hike the 3 mile Indian Cliff Trail and bird along the shores of Chatcolet and Benewah Lake. Bring a lunch, hiking shoes and dress for the weather. We should be home around 3 or 4 p.m..

BROWN BAG BIRDING FERNAN LAKE

Corinne Cameron, Pam Comrie, Bill Gundlach, Shirley Sturts and Susan Weller were joined by new birders Dave and Barbara Zimmer, Cindy Phillips, and Earl Frizzell for an hours birding at the east end of Fernan Lake and along Fernan Creek.

Species observed were Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Mallard, Ring-billed Gull, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Steller's Jay, Common Raven, Dark-eyed Junco, White-crowned Sparrow and Song Sparrow.

MICA BAY SURVEY

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

	Sept. 3	Sept. 17
Red-necked Grebe	2	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	5
Great Blue Heron	1	1
Canada Goose	-	3
Wood Duck	3	10
Mallard	18	1
American Wigeon	15	4
Osprey	1	1
Northern Harrier	-	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	1
Red-tailed Hawk	-	1
American Kestrel	-	2
American Coot	8	2
Killdeer	1	-
Ring-billed Gull	3	1
Mourning Dove	2	-
Belted Kingfisher	2	-
Downy Woodpecker	3	-
Hairy Woodpecker	1	-
Northern Flicker	-	3
Pileated Woodpecker	1	2
Dusky Flycatcher	-	2
Violet-g Swallow	100+	24
Barn Swallow	15+	1+
Steller's jay	1	-
Black-b Magpie	-	1
Black-C Chickadee	9	6
Red-b Nuthatch	2	4
Western Bluebird	-	12
American Robin	30+	70
E. Starling	10+	-
Cedar Waxwing	12	-
Red-eyed Vireo	2	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler	15	1
Song Sparrow	-	8
White-crowned Sparrow	-	1+
Red-winged Blackbird	-	50
House Finch	-	2
Pine Siskin	10	-
American Goldfinch	6	-
Evening Grosbeak	6	-

IDAHO BIRDING HISTORY

Taken from: The Oologist Vol. XI #1 Nov. 1903

"A NESTING DAY IN IDAHO"

By Chas. S. Moody, M.D. (1903)

A zephyr soft as bloom on maiden's cheek sweeps up from the south land and with gentle finger unhooks the icy grip of old King Winter from lake and wood and fell. The ice turns grey under the softening spell, then breaks up, and like some ocean derelict drifts away in immense flotillas down the river. All day and all night is heard the cry of north-bound water fowl and in the early morning the cheerful staccatto of our friend the robin on the fir tree near the door stop drifts into our dreams and the querulous challenge of the jay serves to inform us that spring, with all its manifold possibilities for the oologist, is here.

There is no place more dear to the Nature lover within my ken than North Idaho and especially that part of it bordering upon beautiful Lake Pend'd Oreille. The glimmering waters stretch away sixty miles to the north like a jeweled ear pendent that which gave it the name. Thousands of little bays, rush-bordered and still afford sanctuary for the myriad water, and other fowl that nest here.

A gasoline launch, a row boat, hip boots and industry are absolute necessities to the nest hunting enthusiast in these waters.

But given these and a fair knowledge of the nesting habits of the various feathered citizens, you may collect until visions of despoiled birds rise up and haunt you in your dreams.

I will suppose you with me on a trip that fell to my good fortune last spring.



Just as the sun rose over the eastern mountain tops and made the lake one sheen of burnished silver, we got the "Lady of the Lake" under weigh and sped out across the lake to yon distant point which mark the entrance to a beautiful little cove that rejoices in the rather unpoetical name "Bottle Bay".

Across the mouth hangs a heavy fog as if to guard the feathered inmates beyond from the vandal hand of man.

Just as we near the promontory that is the nearer sentinel the fog is rolled up and swept away as though some Titanic scene shifter had pulled it up with invisible ropes, disclosing to our view a scene of great beauty and grandeur. The bay is about two miles in length, out into the eternal hills that rise fir crowned and vast a thousand feet on either side.

Perfectly calm it reflects the hills and rocks as a mighty mirror, forming a scene of indescribable grandeur and beauty, a picture for an artist to limn upon canvass, but none but a master hand should desecrate a scene so beautiful. But this is not birds.

As we round the point we make out just ahead two birds swimming, that remind one strangely of iron-clad monitors so low do they sit in the water. Your glass is brought to bear and the birds both disappear to emerge from the water several hundred yards further in shore. This time you have plenty of time to inspect them and the pointed bill and feather markings say "Western Grebe". We run in as close as possible and moor the "Lady" getting out the row boat for a push among the rushes that skirt the shore.

We startle thousands of Red-winged Blackbirds and Long-billed Marsh Wrens that circle above us with their startled cries.

Hold? Back water. There is something right under our bow that looks like a mass of dried grass and tules but to the trained eye looks suspiciously like a nest, though if so, it is cunningly covered up. Pushing alongside it and lifting off the top layer we find concealed three eggs, that were they not stained with the rotting vegetation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BIRD QUOTES

There are many memorable quotes and quips about birds. How many can you recognize?

SAYINGS AND SIMILES



"Something to crow about"

"Flighty as a bird."

"Free as a bird."

"Sitting duck"

"A lame-duck President"

"Scarce as hen's teeth."

"Out on a lark"

"Thin as a rail"

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A Nesting Day in Idaho

would be blueish green but the staining renders them dirty yellow. So we have made a good beginning.

In fact we have begun at the start. This is the nest of No. 1 of the A.O.U. check list, the Western Grebe that we saw back yonder at the entrance of the Bay and no doubt the nest of that identical pair of birds. The nest is floating upon the surface of the water moored to the growing tules and composed of such masses of the rotting weeds as the birds could collect around the immediate spot. It looks very much as if it had merely drifted together but there is a certain form and compactness about it that shows to trained eye that is not altogether the work of the elements. Securing the eggs we push on toward the shore.

Editors note: today (to my knowledge) the only nesting site in North Idaho for Western Grebe is in Denton Slough, Pend Oreille Lake. Thirty-five nests were counted by Pat Cole, Id. Fish and Game, on July 17 of this year.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NOV. NEWSLETTER

G a m l i n L a k e Homestead

by Susan Weller

Heron are the only ones hunkered on the homestead now... laying claim with croaks and barks to ruined out-buildings, lonely doors open-jambed with weeds and memories.

Decrepit wheels trellis wild roses, and lilacs, planted with the corner-posts, bloom sweet for swallows in the rafters.

Rusty bedsprings--once sang out the hymns of love, found music in children's laughter, sorrow in grandmother's passing--ticking gone to line another nest, another life.

Cinnamon bear eats his fill of apples, fattening on hips and berries, no mad woman brandishing a broomstick over his well-being.

Summer ripens into harvest--deer browse bounty once forbidden--seeding and re-seeding like future generations, something for those who come after.



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NEWS FROM THE IDAHO AUDUBON COUNCIL

Susan Weller, President

The Greater Sandhill Crane... The Greater Sandhill Crane was in trouble just a few short years ago.



In the 1960's, Idaho's population of Sandhill Cranes numbered only a few hundred birds. Sandhill Cranes are child-sized birds that teach their young migratory pathways. They are long-lived, and mate for life after joining in an elaborate courtship dance. Sandhill Cranes have served as surrogate parents for the endangered Whooping Crane. They are beautiful birds that embody many values that stir the human imagination.

THE PROBLEM

As the population of Sandhill Cranes in the Pacific flyway has increased, lands they have historically inhabited have been eaten up by development causing them to come into conflict with farmers. Farmers have been experiencing crop depredation by Sandhill Crane in eight different geographic locations in southeastern Idaho. One of the most effective ways to reduce damage to crops by Sandhill Cranes is to plant "lure crops".

WHAT IS A LURE CROP?

A "lure crop" is a planting of a crop, either on private, state or federal lands, used to lure wildlife away from commercial crops. Experts state that lure crops are 85-90% effective in reducing damage done by wildlife to commercial crops.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Planting lure crops is an effective way to solve the problem, and you can become part of the solution. Lure crops cost about \$42 an acre to

plant. A study of the Sandhill Hill Crane Work Group estimates that between 600 AND 1000 acres of lure crops need to be planted. A donation to the Sandhill Crane Trust means 100% of your money goes directly into planting lure crops. For every \$42 you donate, one acre of a lure crop will be planted.

THE SANDHILL CRANE TRUST

The Sandhill Crane Trust is an interim program designed to raise funds for lure crops until a permanent endowment is established by the Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Additional donations may be sent to the Sandhill Crane Trust, P.O. Box 361, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, 83816, or by visiting any Idaho branch of the First Security Bank.

COOPERATION IS THE KEY

Conservationists and farmers working together toward a solution is key to preventing crop depredation by Sandhill Cranes. Please support the farmers of southeastern Idaho, and help the Sandhill Crane by donating to the Sandhill Crane Trust.

FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE OR CALL.....

Idaho Audubon Council
Susan Weller (President)
E 27955 Canyon Road
Cataldo, ID 83810-9668
(208) 682-3413

RAPTOR REHAB UPDATE

Applications for those interested in transporting sick or injured raptors will be available at the October meeting or by calling the number below. These may be filled out and turned into Steve Agte, Idaho Fish and Game Office. You will be licensed to transport birds to a local rehabilitator - one of our Audubon members, or to Farragut State Park.

For more information on this and training, call Kris Buchler at 664-4739 or Cynthia Langlitz at 687-2475

"Songbirds, Avian Rites of Spring"- Coming to Our Area Schools!

A Report from Kris Buchler, Education Chairman

Through the generosity of Scott Reed and the Margaret W. Reed Foundation, "Audubon Adventures" educational materials will be available to 125 local classrooms in 8 North Idaho school districts. "Audubon Adventures" consists of 6 units of study, each providing a newsletter/worksheet and resource guide for third and fifth grade students and teachers. Units of study this year are about animal communications, marine mammals, pond life, snakes, songbirds and wildflowers.

This year all materials will be mailed to teachers at one time, allowing them to adapt the units to their planned curriculum.

The CDA Chapter has facilitated this service for several years. Members would like area educators to recognize our chapter as a resource for programming and information. Several members have been active in this capacity. They are:

Shirley Sturts-NIC Birding Classes, Elderhostel and CDA Forestry Class.

Cynthia Langlitz-Americorps, schools, scouts and Elderhostel.

Lisa Kirchhoffer-Americorps, schools, Project Learning Tree.

Susan Weller-Community programs, Migratory Bird Day.

Kris Buchler-Farragut State Park Interpreter, "School Plus" programs, community programs.

Beth Paragamian-Watchable Wildlife spokesperson.

George and Katie Sayler-Teachers at CDA High School. Katie leads the Environmental Club.

Anyone wishing to serve on the Educational Committee may contact Kris Buchler at 664-4739. We welcome ideas and participation at all levels in educating and serving our community.



FIELD TRIP TO HARRISON

by Pam Comrie

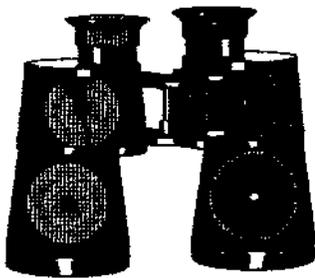
It was supposed to rain on Saturday Sept. 21st, but the weatherman changed his mind and gave us a beautiful day for our first Audubon trip of the season. Gordon and Pam Comrie and Roger Young were joined by first time "tripers" Cathy Dionne and Judy Koppers. We headed down Rt. 97 toward Harrison stopping a couple of times along the way to see Northern Flickers, Violet-Green Swallows, White-Crowned Sparrows, Ruby-Crowned Kinglets, a Belted Kingfisher, Pine Siskins, Evening Grosbeaks and more including a flock of twenty Wild Turkeys.

Thompson Lake is filling up with waterfowl as the migration gets underway. We saw American Coots, Great Blue Heron, Canada Geese, Common Mergansers, Ring-necked Ducks, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal and Lesser Scaup. There were Killdeer, Sanderlings, Short-billed dowitcher and Semi-palmated Plover feeding in mud patches and Forster's Terns feeding from the air. Other birds on our list were Wilson's Warbler, a Northern Harrier, Spotted Towhee, American Goldfinch, Barn Swallows, and Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds.

We came back on Highway 3 and stopped at Killarney lake. There we saw both the Forsters Tern and Common Tern. Other species included Ruffed Grouse, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Steller's Jay, Townsend's Solitaire, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Altogether we saw 51 species. It was a great day and we hope more of you will join us for the next one.

OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Kris Buchler (KSB), Janet Callen (JC) Corrine Cameron (CC), Cliff Cameron (CLC), Pat Cole (PC), Gordon Comrie (GC), Pam Comrie (PAC), Cathy Dionne (CD), Stan Kvern (SK), Rick and Cynthia Langlitz (RCL) Wyatt Luce (WL), Herb and Jan Severtson (HJS), John Shipley (JNS) Shirley Sturts (SHS), 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. Common Loon 16 Pend Oreille Lake - Clark Fork Delta area Sept. 7 (CD,WL); 1 between Carlin Bay and Loffs Bay, CDA Lake Sept. 25 (HJS)
2. Red-necked Grebe 1 adult with 2 young Mica Bay, CDA Lake Sept. 20 (JNS)
(Great Sighting! we failed to see young on the Mica Bay Surveys and were thinking the nesting we had observed had failed)
3. Western Grebe 36 between Carlin Bay and Loffs Bay, CDA Lake Sept. 25 (HJS)
4. Sharp-Shinned Hawk 1 Copland Ferry Road north of Bonners Ferry Sept. 7 (GC,PAC,JNS,SHS)
5. Cooper's Hawk 2 just north of Kootenai NWR Sept. 7 (GC,PAC,JNS,SHS)
6. Northern Harrier 1 imm Stephens Peak (a surprise location) Sept. 29
(SHS,PAM,HJS,KHS,JDW) They occur mainly in open fields, meadows and grasslands - the top of Stephens Peak (elevation 6800 feet) is above tree line and the hillside where it was feeding is covered mostly with bear grass, grasses and low shrubs.
7. American Kestrel 10 Tamarak Ridge Road near Cataldo (SDW,SHS)
8. Peregrine Falcon 1 near Mann Lake, Lewiston Sept. 19 (KSB,CC,RCL,SHS)
9. Spruce Grouse 1 Smith Creek Road Selkirk Mountains Sept. 7 (GC,PAC,JNS,SHS)
10. Lesser Yellowlegs 2 Post Falls - feeding in a mud flat on the east side of town off Seltice Way Sept. 1 (JNS); 2 Kootenai NWR Sept. 7 (GC,PAC,JNS,SHS)
11. Greater Yellowlegs 5 Kootenai NWR Sept. 7 (GC,PAC,JNS,SHS)
12. Solitary Sandpiper 1 east end of Fernan lake Sept. 4 (SHS) Sept. 5 (JNS)
13. Spotted Sandpiper 2 Harlow Point Road Harrison Sept. 13 (SDW,SHS)
14. Sanderling 1 Sandpoint City Beach Sept. 7 (GC,PAC,JNS,SHS); 1 Cda City Beach Sept. 20 (JNS)
15. Bairds Sandpiper 1 Post Falls-feeding in a mud flat-off east Seltice Way Sept. 1 (JNS)
16. Franklin's Gull 1 1st winter bird Sandpoint City Beach Sept. 13 (JS)
17. Northern Pygmy Owl 1 Smith Creek Road Selkirk Mountains (GC,PAC,JNS,SHS); 1 Sept. 25 Potlatch Hill CDA (KSB)
18. Vaux's Swift 20-25 Sandpoint City Beach and 2+ near Copland Ferry (GC,PAM,JNS,SHS)
19. Red-naped Sapsucker 1 pr. nested 1/2 mile east of Hauser (Lost Lake) in an Aspen tree - hole 15-20 feet off ground July (JNS)
20. Eastern Kingbird 1 Rose Lake Jct. exit I-90 (being dive bombed by Cliff Swallows) Sept. 13 (SDW,SHS)
21. White-breasted Nuthatch 2 Post Falls at his feeder from Aug. 25 into Sept. (JNS); 1 CDA city limits - near 11th and front Sept. 1 (CC,CLC)
22. Boreal Chickadee 2 heard Smith Creek Road, Selkirk Mountains Sept. 7 (JNS)
23. Blue Jay 1 Harrison at his feeder Sept. 13 still present as of Sept. 18 (SK)
24. Hermit Thrush 1 Smith Creek Road, Selkirk Mountains (GC,PAC,JNS,SHS)
25. Western Tanager 1 female Potlatch Hill, CDA Sept. 12 (KSB)
26. Vesper Sparrow 1 Hoo Doo Valley west of Kelso Lake Sept. 8 (JNS)
27. Savannah Sparrow 10+ Medimont area Sept. 13 (SDW,SHS)
28. White-crowned Sparrow 10+ Medimont area Sept. 13 (SDW,SHS)

"Factories, power plants, resorts we can make anywhere - Wilderness, once we have given it up, is beyond our reconstruction." - Wallace Stegner -

Board of Directors

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664-5318, **Board Member** - George Saylor 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 G067XCH8).

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

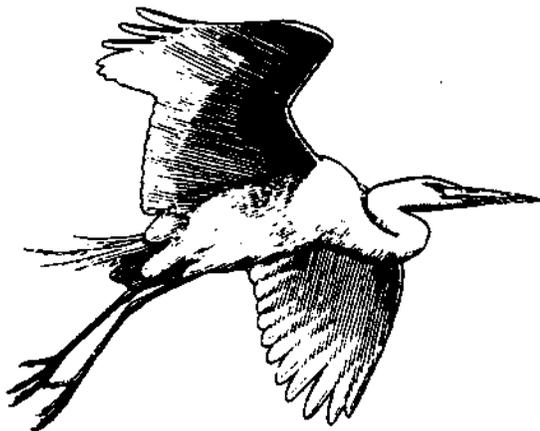
Subscription to the The Fish Hawk Herald newsletter only is \$10.00. Please make checks payable to the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter and mail to Jan Severtson, Membership Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter, P.O. Box 361, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

The Fish Hawk Herald

OCTOBER 1996

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

RG E 4



GREAT EGRET
Ardea alba