BOARD MEETING
DATE: October 17, Monday
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Mt. West Bank-125 Ironwood Dr.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM
DATE: October 17, Monday
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Idaho Fish and Game Office, 2750 W. Kathleen
PROGRAM: "Recognizing Insect Signs in the Forest"
SPEAKER: Carol Randall, Entomologist, USFS

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY
DATE: October 22, Saturday
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
MEET: Mica Flats Grange Hall on the east side of Highway 95 just short of our starting point
ACTIVITY: We pick up trash along a two-mile stretch on the south (downhill) side of Mica grade, mile 421 to mile 423, ending at the turn into Mica Bay. At the meeting point we will review instructions over donuts and juice. Wear long pants and long sleeves. The clean up should be over in one or two hours. (See article in the September newsletter)

AUDUBON CHAPTER LIBRARY
Visit our Chapter library on our webpage by clicking on Library from our home page. There are many good books, videos, cassettes, and software that you can check out. Our library is located at the Presbyterian Church. If you want to check something out call me (Shirley 664-5318). One of our librarians will meet you at the church, or we could bring the item to you at the next regular meeting (if the meeting is other than the church).
Visit our website: www.cdaaudubon.org

***A Special Scientific Presentation -- Don't miss this opportunity to meet your feathered friends close up!

"LIVING WITH BIRDS OF PREY"
COMING SEE LIVE RAPTORS:
LIBERTY -- THE BALD EAGLE
BARON -- THE KESTREL
LEUK -- THE BARN OWL
AND MUCH MORE!

WHEN: SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 15, 2005
6:30PM-9:00PM
WHERE: TEMPLIN’S RED LION INN,
MERGANSER ROOM,
414 E. 1ST STREET,
POST FALLS, IDAHO

-EVENING AGENDA: SOCIAL TIME
LIVE BIRD PRESENTATION
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
SILENT AUCTION
COMPLIMENTARY HORS D’OEUVRES AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

COME EYE TO EYE WITH AN EAGLE!

HOW FAR CAN AN OWL TURN ITS HEAD?

RAPTORS NORTHWEST WILL BE PRESENTING A CELEBRATION OF HIGH-FLYING HUNTERS OF DAY OR NIGHT. PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE SPECIAL PRESENTATION EYE TO EYE WITH AN OF "LIVING WITH BIRDS OF PREY".

TO HELP US PLAN RSVP BY OCT. 11TH
YOU MAY RSVP BY EMAIL TO: LADYHAWK@SMGAZETTE.COM OR CALL (208) 667-8475 OR (208) 245-1367
(RSVP IS NOT REQUIRED. IF YOU FIND YOU CAN COME AT THE
LAST MINUTE, PLEASE DO SO.)

BIRD TRACKS

AUDUBON MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

GREEN TIPS

Green tips will be a monthly feature in our newsletter. It is designed to give you ideas for taking personal conservation action to improve the environmental health and habitat quality of our yards and neighborhoods. (Members are encouraged to send tips into the editor for inclusion in future newsletters.)

BUILDING MATERIALS

Habitat for Humanity has opened a new retail store on Highway 95 north of Hayden Ave. The store sells doors, windows, flooring materials, furniture, appliances and other items donated by builders and the general public - some of the items are used, some are new. Habitat for Humanity runs the store to generate funds for its building projects, but you might peruse its offerings with the mantra of “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” in mind. Plus, you might save some money on your next home project.

Habitat for Humanity Discount Building Supply Center
176 W. Wyoming (next to Ziggy’s) 667-3116

CHEMICAL-FREE LAWN CARE

Do you have tips about chemical-free lawn care, or know of good organic products for use on lawns, gardens and around the home? Do you know of local sources for buying these products? We welcome comments. e-mail igoldfinch@adelphia.net

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Coeur d’Alene Audubon Society has an active Conservation Committee that is involved in projects that protect or improve habitat for birds and other wildlife. We are also available to answer questions from any citizen or visit sites where problems occur. We do, however, stay within our field of expertise, rather than try to cover every problem. A few of our on-going projects are:

1) Farragut State Park - participate in public meetings with Park officials about the long-range plan for thinning thickets of young trees to increase the percentage of desirable species, plus other projects that occur.

2) Fernan Lake Preservation Association - work with this committee to preserve water quality of the lake during and after road renovation.

3) Mica Bay - follow road relocation and bridge renovations

4) Participate in the planning process for activities on U.S. Forest Service lands.

5) Participate in discussion about land use and open space on the Rathdrum Prairie.

6) Cleanup of the Coeur d’Alene River basin - work with EPA and agency technicians for improving the environment of the basin, particularly the reduction in danger from heavy metals due to past mining.

7) Assist or advise in the development of a birds of prey education center in Wolf Lodge Bay.

8) Put up signs at public boat launches about fishing line posing a danger to birds. Birds can become tangled in it and die.

The Audubon Conservation Committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Little Seattle Coffee House, 2310 N. Forth. The committee is always open for new volunteers. Just call one of the committee members:

Mike Mihelich 664-4741
Roland Craft 457-8894
Dick Cripe 665-0010
Ed Buchler 664-4739

FARMER’S MARKET, AUGUST 27, 2005

Janet Callen

Management of the Kootenai Farmers Market again provided Coeur d’Alene Audubon with a free space at the market to promote our chapter. The Pygmy Nuthatches were twittering in the Ponderosa Pines and the weather was wonderful. Lynn Sheridan, Judy Edwards and I answered questions about birds, our chapter, and generally had fun talking to birders and want-to-be birders. We sold a few posters and Audubon birds and a lot of Lynn’s beautiful hand-made cards. Lynn’s cards are attracting repeat customers.

Thanks Lynn and Judy.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD
OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION
1. **PLEASE REGISTER:** Dates and trips could change.
2. **COST:** Participants will share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver. With the price of gas going up, our past reimbursement policy is inadequate. A committee, formed to come up with a new mileage reimbursement policy, has met and will present their proposal at the October board meeting.
3. **RADIOS:** We will ask participants to contribute $1.00 toward batteries as needed.
4. **UNSCHEDULED TRIPS:** Sign up for to be on the group email list for unscheduled trips with Shirley Sturts: s.sturts@verizon.net, Or get on a call list by calling Shirley at 664-5318.

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES: October 11, Tuesday
TIME: 8:00 A.M.
MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95
LEADERS: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318 - Kris Buchler, 664-4739
ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds in the Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome.

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE: October 18, Tuesday
TIME: 12:00 noon - 1:00 P.M.
MEET: Tubbs Hill - 11th Street entrance
LEADER: Lynn Sheridan, 765-2603
ACTIVITY: Take an hour out of your busy day to enjoy the out-of-doors, see how many different species of birds one can find in an hour and get to know people that share your interest in nature. Beginner bird watchers are welcome.

CANOE CRANBERRY TRIP

DATE: October 16, Sunday
TIME: 8:00 A.M. *(Note the change in date and time from the September newsletter)*
MEET: Fernan Ranger Station
LEADERS: Dick Cripe, 665-0010 and Roland Craft, 457-8894
ACTIVITY: We will go once again by canoe to the cranberry bog on Lost Lake. We will embark on Killarney Lake and paddle up the canal that connects to Lost Lake and spend several hours picking cranberries. High waterproof boots and rain gear are recommended. If you have a canoe or kayak bring it, but we can provide canoe space for you if you need it. No canoeing skill or strength required, but basic physical flexibility important for getting in and out of canoe. This will be an all day trip. Bring lunch and water. (Dick will be gone from Sept. 29 to October 13. Call Roland Craft to make reservations.)

BEGINNING BIRDERS TRIP

DATE: Saturday, October 29
TIME: 9:00 AM.
MEET: Fernan Forest Service Office parking lot *(Note the change of location from the September newsletter)*
LEADER: Dick Cripe, 665-0010.
ACTIVITY: Have you felt intimidated while on an Audubon field trip because of the expertise of the other participants? Then you need this field trip. It is planned specifically for novice birders. We'll explore the Fernan Lake area. A couple of experienced birders will be available, but the group will be made up of novices like you. Binoculars, scopes, and field guides will be provided. This is a good opportunity to develop some basic skills.
THE BEAUTIFUL LAWN

Judy Waring, Janet Callen
with assistance from Lisa Hardy

The following discussion of lawn maintenance assumes a lawn is in reasonably good condition to start with. If a lawn is so seriously deteriorated that it must be completely renovated or a new one needs to be established, contact: University of Idaho Extension Office, 1000 W Hubbard, Ste 140 Coeur d Alene ID, 83814 (208) 664-1085 Dorothy Kienke, Master Gardener and Program Coordinator.

Northwest lawns are of the cool-weather variety and are usually a Kentucky Bluegrass blend and Perennial Rye mixture.

WATERING
An Idaho lawn generally needs 1 inch to 1 1/2 inches of water a week. This can be applied in approximately 1/2 inch applications, with the objective of putting down enough water at a time to penetrate the soil 6 inches. The key is to wet the root zone and then allow it to dry some before irrigating again. Test the soil with a screwdriver to see if it is dry, if the screwdriver goes in easily, the soil is moist. Water 2 times a week, maybe 3 in hot weather. Sandy soil will require water more frequently than clay or rocky soil.

Test your sprinklers to determine how long to run them. This can be done with several rain gauges or tuna cans. Set the gauges or cans along the water arc of several sprinklers and run the sprinklers 30 minutes. Measure the water in every gauge you are using, average the amount and multiply by 2. This will determine how many inches per hour your sprinklers put down and a watering schedule can be then devised.

Many homeowners tend to overwater lawns, especially with an automatic sprinkler system. Frequent light watering creates a shallow root system and a lawn that is weak. Watering deeply and less frequently promotes a healthier lawn. Water only in the early morning as evening and night watering promote problems with pests and diseases. During the heat of the day water evaporates and is wasted.

Problem watering areas include slopes, lawns with adjacent sidewalks and even those aforementioned swales between a sidewalk and street pavement. Runoff easily happens in these locations.

MOWING
When mowing, remove only 1/3 of the top growth at a time. A sharp mower blade is essential. During the summer months cut the lawn no shorter than 2 inches, with a height of 2 1/2 to 3 inches being preferable. Do not pick up grass clippings. Not only are they a slow-release fertilizer, they also help hold in moisture. A mulching mower is nice to have, but not necessary.

It chops up the clippings into smaller pieces, and they decompose faster. If the lawn is mowed frequently enough, regular clippings rapidly disappear into the turf. Both time spent bagging the clippings and landfill space are saved. Contrary to popular opinion grass clippings DO NOT cause thatch. Clippings add nitrogen. A University of Missouri study shows that grass clippings can supply 25 percent of a lawn's total fertilizer needs.

Grass clippings are banned from landfills in half the states in the U.S. where previously they made up 10 to 20 percent of the solid waste collected. Left on the lawn, they decompose rapidly feeding soil organisms, recycling plant nutrients, and contributing organic matter. Less fertilizer is needed and water is conserved.

There are two times during the year when clippings should be removed. In the early spring and late fall, mow the lawn at 2 inches, bag the clippings and add them to a compost pile if you have one. Top dress a lawn with compost every few years as this process helps rebuild soil.

FERTILIZING
Use a balanced fertilizer, one with 3 parts nitrogen to 1 part phosphorus to 2 parts potassium and 1 part sulfur. The ratio need not be exact, the 3:1:2:1 ratio is a guideline. The number which appears on a bag of fertilizer represents the percentage in the total bag.

Nitrogen produces healthy, lush blades of grass and Idaho lawns need between 2 to 4 pounds per 1000 sq. feet per year. Use a slow-release product in early spring and fall.

Continued on page 5
THE BEAUTIFUL LAWN

Continued from page 4

Slow release fertilizers are generally not very soluble in water, so they are less likely to pollute water by runoff or leaching. Up to 1/3 of the required nitrogen can be supplied by grass recycling.

The University of Idaho Extension Office recommends the homeowner apply fertilizer at Easter, Memorial Day and Labor Day. However, if one wants to fertilize less often, then apply half in the spring and half on or around Labor day. From personal experience (JC), early May and late September are adequate.

A "Spokesman Review" article written by David Bauer, Executive Officer of Home Builders: "Minimize fertilization. Over-fertilized and over-watered lawns tend to lack the wherewithal to thrive under stress. This spells trouble during a drought because the lawn hasn't developed a deep root system. Heavily fertilized lawns also require more water, so homeowners may want to wait until fall to fertilize."

Phosphorus promotes strong root growth and helps lawns thicken rapidly. Phosphorus levels are often low in northern Idaho soils. It does not move through soil as readily as nitrogen and therefore is more erodible. Phosphorus is the key culprit in the mix that starves lakes and rivers of dissolved oxygen, making minimal use and runoff control essential.

Potassium is necessary for disease and insect resistance, helps lawns stand up to heavy traffic, and also promotes winter hardiness. Potassium is adequate in our soils. Too much results in accumulation of salts.

Sulfur is needed in most northern Idaho areas. One pound per 1000 sq. ft is adequate for a year. This might need to be purchased separately and added to a mix.

Next month, we'll scoop organic fertilizer.

BIRDING THE CENTENNIAL TRAIL IN NORTH IDAHO

Kris Buchler

Many people using the Centennial Trail are whizzing by on bikes and roller blades and don’t have time to enjoy the views and natural surroundings. Walkers get another kind of enjoyment from the trail. They have time to soak up the beautiful vistas as well as see and hear the wildlife in the various habitats that border the path. Forest, lake, river, meadow and grasslands are home to a variety of avian life. Coeur d'Alene Audubon has nominated the Centennial Trail in Coeur d'Alene to be part of the statewide Idaho Birding Trail. A publication will highlight birding spots throughout Idaho.

Winter is always good for observing waterfowl. Lake Coeur d'Alene hosts a variety of grebes (Western, Red-necked, Horned, Pied-billed) and Common Loons during spring and fall migrations. Look for waterfowl in bays, near marinas and along the Spokane River. Species of ducks commonly seen during this season are Common Merganser, Bufflehead, Common and Barrow's Goldeneye, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Redhead, Mallard and American Wigeon. Spring brings the return of Wood Ducks to the marshy areas of the lake where Great Blue Heron can be seen. Canada Geese form large flotillas in the winter and are often seen with large families of goslings in late spring.

There are a few songbirds seen during winter months and these are Black-capped Chickadee, Song Sparrow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Dark-eyed Junco and Northern Flicker, a woodpecker. Pygmy Nuthatches live and nest on Higgen’s Point. This eastern end of the trail is known for the Bald Eagle which comes to feed on spawning Kokanee salmon from mid November to mid January.

The trail comes to life in the spring. Violet-green, Barn, Tree, Northern Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows use the rocky cliffs, snags, bridges and highway underpasses for nesting. Several warblers add their song to morning walks, including Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned, MacGillivray’s and Townsend’s, which is fond of the conifers on Higgen’s Point. The Osprey return to their nest above the highway and Blue Creek Bay at the same time the Spotted Sandpiper flutters along the rocks at the point.

Less obvious but known to birders are the flycatchers, Spotted Towhee, Black-headed Grosbeak and flocks of Cedar Waxwing found in the willows and other shrubs. Those who walk alone probably hear these birds even if they don’t look for them.

There are rarities to be found. Summer of 2004 recorded two Rock Wrens for the first time on the cliff faces above the boat launch area of Higgen’s Point. Uncommon loon species such as Red-throated or Pacific are
Continued from page 5

...CENTENNIAL TRAIL...

Continued on page 6

BIRDING TUBBS HILL

Kris Buchler

The Idaho Birding Trail is a statewide project that will soon highlight birding sites for travelers and residents alike. Tubbs Hill is included as part of the City of Coeur d’Alene and is the site’s most central and accessible location. The hill is ideal for many reasons. It contains several different habitat types including mixed coniferous forest, Ponderosa Pine forest, riparian areas, open water and borders parkland and residential neighborhoods. It is easily accessed any season and can provide short or longer trips. Birding Tubbs Hill isn’t always easy. Birders often need to use their sense of hearing to locate small songbirds in forest habitats and will find early morning hours in spring and summer most ideal. Spotting scopes are sometimes necessary to identify waterfowl out on the lake.

When searching for songbirds, I recommend an early start on the east side. I like the trail that takes off just west of the north end of the parking lot. It switchbacks up the north side to the main trail and then if one turns east, you can cross the suspension bridge and continue south. This area of mixed conifer forest often produces some of our early returning warblers in late April and May. Listen and watch for Nashville, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned and MacGillivray’s Warblers. Winter Wren is always in the vicinity of the bridge on the east side or along the trail on the north. This bird is loud, musical and sounds like a wind-up toy. It is often seen on snags or windfall timber and brush piles. Spotted Towhees may often be heard trilling or mewing in these same areas.

Other small songbirds that are hard to see but easily heard are Warbling Vireo, Cassin’s Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Western Tanager. Swainson’s Thrush can be found most anywhere on the hill and adds an especially beautiful trill up the scale morning and evening.

As one progresses towards the south side of the hill, the habitat changes to Ponderosa Pine. This is a good area for Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee and most important, Pygmy Nuthatch, a species of concern. These little gray and white short-tailed nuthatches usually travel in flocks and keep up a constant twitter and chatter. This is the easiest area in which to spot woodpeckers such as the Northern Flicker or Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers. A lucky birder may spot our largest woodpecker, the Pileated. Any of the areas of the hill may host species of finches such as House and Cassin’s Finch, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill and Evening or Black-headed Grosbeaks.

Waterfowl around Tubbs Hill will vary depending on the season, with fall and winter being the best for numbers. However, May and October can be good for migrating Common Loon. A pair spent several days this May off Sandor’s Beach near the marina and treated hikers to beautiful vocalizations. We have four species of grebe seen including Pied-billed, Horned, Western and Red-necked. The Herring Gull and California Gull join our common Ring-billed Gull in the winter. More diving ducks such as Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser join flocks of Canada Goose on the water in the fall.

When hikers reach the backside of the hill they can observe the Osprey nesting above the lights over the ball fields. Bald Eagle nest in several locations on Lake Coeur d’Alene and may be observed flying over. One can not ignore the raucous Common Ravens, American Crows, Black-billed Magpies or Steller’s Jays, all in a group called Corvids that are noted for scavenging and intelligence.

This is an overview of some of the birds of Tubbs Hill but there are many others. Over the years there have been rare and unusual sightings. Check out the Audubon webpage: www.cdaaudubon.org, for scheduled bird walks.

BIRD TRACKS CONTINUED
BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 19, 4:30
Dick Cripe led the meeting as President Lisa Hardy was out of town.

Ed Buchler, nominee to the board, attended the meeting and was officially elected to the board by the membership at the regular meeting held later that evening. Ed has volunteered to serve on the Conservation Committee.

Laura Bayless will stay on the board, but will give up as Hospitality Chair due to lack of time. Who would like to volunteer for that task? One does not have to be a board member to chair hospitality.

Jennifer Soules has resigned from the board. She is moving to Lewiston.

There was a discussion about increasing the reimbursement of mileage/gas costs for trip, and survey leaders. A committee will study the issue and come up with an easy formula for the board to vote on at the October meeting.

A Rathdrum store owner has asked for a program about backyard bird feeding. The education committee will follow up this request. The owner will donate .50 cents from each bag of bird seed he sells.

BIRD TRACKS

"If I were to make a study of the tracks of animals and represent them by plates, I should conclude with the tracks of man"
Henry David Thoreau

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

CHAIN O' LAKES BIKE TRIP
Saturday, September 10
Dick Cripe

We had a fun time riding bicycles on the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes and looking for birds along the way. We started from Medimont and cycled to Harrison where we had lunch in the park, then returned to Medimont. The weather was perfect, about 65 degrees, high clouds, no wind.

No one had any serious difficulties with their cycle and the pace was not strenuous; everyone got home safely. We saw a number of expected birds, but did not see any shorebirds or unusual species migrating through.

Participants were Phil and Judy Waring, Bill Gundlach, Janet Callen, Roland Craft, and Dick Cripe.

BROWN BAG BIRDING
Lynn Sheridan

Sept 20, Tuesday, Fernan Lake
Walking to the rendezvous point, Fernan Lake (west end), I counted over a dozen American Crow at the cemetery on Sherman Avenue. Roland Craft met me at noon, and we scouted the area, waiting for possible participants. Among the resident Mallards was a Pied-billed Grebe and a couple of Ring-billed Gull. Two Osprey flew overhead, one diving for a fish. A Great Blue Heron waited patiently, and a painted turtle sunned itself on a watery log. A half dozen Red-winged Black-Birds thronged in a bush with a Song Sparrow. We heard Pygmy and Red-breasted Nuthatch, Chickadee and a Belted Kingfisher. There were no Great Blue Heron sitting on their nests. At the eastern end of the lake Roland spotted two Turkey Vultures overhead. A Great Blue Heron and a male Wood Duck were found among the water lilies.

Thank you Roland.

BIRD QUOTE CORNER

"I hope you love birds, too.
It is economical.
It saves going to heaven."
Emily Dickinson,
In Martha Dickinson Blanchi, ED.,
The Single Hound

"It is remarkable that only small birds can properly sing."
Charles Darwin, "The Decent of Man"

OBSERVATION POST
Shirley Sturts

2005 Kootenai County Big Year - as of September 26 we have 195 species Shoshone has 146. Check out our website to see county lists.

OTHER SIGHTINGS
Common Loon: 1 Turner Bay, CDA Lake, Sept. 17, Janet Callen, Roland Craft, Judy Waring. (they also got a quick look at what was probably a White-headed Woodpecker on the Emerald Creek Road.

Double Crested Cormorant: 1 visited Fernan Lake mid September Shirley Sturts.

Dowitcher (sp): 13 Dredge Road near Cataldo, Sept. 23, Lisa Hardy

Blue Jay: 1 Rathdrum Prairie, mid September, Stephen Johnson.

White-crowned Sparrow, a female Western Tanager and Pygmy Nuthatch visited the yard of Kris Buchler in Sept.ember
Thanksgiving (window watch) Bird Count

Counters name and mailing address:

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________ Zip ______________

Location of count: ________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Date_______________, Temperature__________________

Time: Begin______________End______________________

Weather__________________________________________

Habitat Type ___________________________

Feeders/Baths _____________________________________

Inc/number

Procedures for Count:  Select a circular area on the ground (may include water area), 15 feet in diameter, to include feeders, bird baths, shrubs, etc., as you wish.  Imagine the circle extending upward as a cylinder.  Count the number of birds of each species which come into this circle(or cylinder) during exactly ONE HOUR.  Try to judge as best you can the actual number of individuals which are making visits to the Circle, or which fly through the imaginary cylinder.  Try NOT to count the same individual bird over and over again.  Please print "In Circle Column".  If you wish to report any seen outside the Circle, list them in the "Outside" column.

Pick any ONE-HOUR period during the day and make the count on Thanksgiving Day!!!

Please send your results (even if you see no birds at all) to:

Dr. John G Hewston
Natural Resources Building
Humboldt State University
Arcata, CA 95521