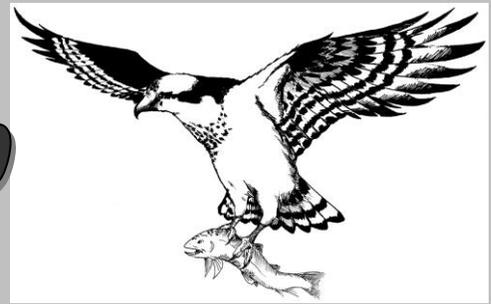


THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society



SEPTEMBER 2002

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Dick Cripe

COMING EVENTS

BOARD MEETING

DATE: September 10, Tuesday
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Mountain West Bank
125 Ironwood Dr.

SEPTEMBER PICNIC AND PROGRAM

DATE: September 16, Monday
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: NIC Beach - north end
of Rosenberry Drive
ACTIVITY/PROGRAM:
6:00 p.m.- Picnic! Bring your
own place setting, something
to grill and a dish to share
(salad or dessert). Blanket or
chairs recommended.
7:00 p.m. - Program: "Local
Environmental Issues". Ken
Lustig, Director of
Environmental Health,
Panhandle Health Department.

Visit our website:
www.cdaaudubon.org

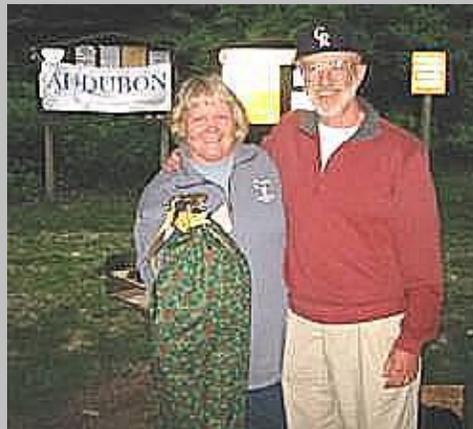


Photo by George Neuner

Incoming President, Dick Cripe presenting
a gift to our outgoing President Kris
Buchler at the June Audubon Picnic.

I have been involved in a number of organizations over the years. Some have needed to be jump-started, some redirected, some slowed down before they outran their resources. The Coeur d'Alene Chapter of Audubon is a "steady-as-she-goes" situation. The organization is running well; there is a hard-working core of people in place; there are several interesting projects in the works. If anything, this group might be a little bit of "slow down before we outrun

our resources". The Conservation Committee is quite active. There are a number of education projects in the works, as well as our ongoing work at Mica Bay, the bluebird trail, the Christmas bird count, etc. We need to continue with these efforts and expand them slightly as our resources allow.

Bringing in some new blood of interested and dedicated people is always a need. Each year we should see a few new people that we have never seen before and find ways to get them involved, such as expanded committee work or field trips designed for novices. I will ask the Board to work to involve more new people in the coming year.

I am pleased to have this position of President and looking forward to working closely with this fine group of people. See you on September 16.

3RD ANNUAL AUDUBON GARAGE SALE A SUCCESS!!!

Many thanks to all the people who gave their time, expertise, and donations to help make this our best fund-raiser! We made \$941.43. Special thanks go to Theresa Potts for hosting the sale at her home again this year and Jan Severtson for co-chairing. Antje Cripe was again "chief organizer" and we all appreciate her skill at organizing all the donations. Helping to set up on Friday and sell on Saturday were Ed and Kris Buchler, Janet Callen, Dick Coddling, Dick Cripe, Bill and Joan Gundlach, Lisa Hardy, Herb Severtson, Lynn Sheridan and Shirley Sturts. A BIG THANK YOU to all.

CHAPTER HONORS COMMUNITY LEADERS

Kris Buchler



Photo by George Neuner

**Kris Buchler presents awards
to Ken Lustig, Buell Hollister,**

June 17th turned out to be a beautiful day for our annual picnic and a surprising one for two local men active in preserving the beauty and integrity of the Coeur d'Alene area's environment. The Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society presented Buell Hollister and Ken Lustig Conservation Awards for their efforts and leadership. Each man received a framed certificate signed by National Audubon President, John Flicker. Both of these men have been instrumental in current endeavors to protect our aquifer.

Buell Hollister served five years as president of the Kootenai Environmental Alliance. He brought many important issues to the public, enhancing awareness and encouraging a forum for others to learn and question. He has done much to make citizens aware that the aquifer is not finite.

Who is the quintessential public servant? That would be Ken Lustig, head of the Environmental Section of Panhandle Health. He has had a thirty-year career helping people understand the importance of protecting the aquifer. Many know him from his ecology class at NIC titled,

"Living with the Environment". Ken has spoken at meetings of the Conservation Committee and will be a featured speaker at this month's first Audubon meeting.

RECOGNIZED FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

All members who serve on the Audubon board or are officers or committee heads spend a great deal of time and should be recognized. Three members who have contributed much over the last year or during the time this chapter has existed were honored for their service.

Susan Weller has served in many capacities from starting this chapter to being its president twice, as well as Chair and Co-chair of the Conservation Committee. She was presented a framed Audubon Conservation Award signed by National Audubon President, John Flicker, for these efforts, and especially for establishing an active and working conservation committee. This dedicated group has, under her leadership, tackled many tough environmental issues and strives to learn and educate others about them. The group completed a project to educate and inform the public about the dangers of fishing line and plastics to wildlife. Signs are posted at most water access points where boaters and fishermen will see them. The article about this problem was reprinted from our newsletter and appears in "Windows to Wildlife". Susan has contributed numerous articles to our newsletter, both educational and entertaining.

Janet Callen has served as Chapter President and Hospitality Chair. If you attend meetings you will know her as our "greeter". This past year she took on many extra

responsibilities. She developed the plan to cut costs and reach those who want to receive our newsletter and eliminate mailings to those who do not. Annually Audubon is a guest at the Farmers' Market and she has organized our display and volunteers there. International Migratory Bird Day was celebrated by activities at Mica Bay and an important educational project that Janet organized this last spring. Brown grocery bags were collected from markets, taken to schools for decorating and then returned to the stores. On May 11th some were displayed and others used to bag groceries. Janet contacted the markets, the teachers, then distributed and collected the bags for display and use at two area markets. Our Audubon chapter presented Janet with a Meritorious Service Award, framed and signed by John Flicker.

Those of you who frequent our webpage or receive our newsletter by email or regular mail, should know that Shirley Sturts is the person doing all the work. There is much that you don't know. She keeps all the bird sightings data for the northern counties of Idaho. Shirley is the force behind most of our bird counts which include twice monthly counts at Mica Bay, the Century Count, three Christmas Counts and monitoring of three bluebird trails at Mica Bay and the Hoodoo Valley. She is often a field trip leader and promotes the feeder-watch counts. The hours she spends in service to the chapter are enormous and since she had received a Meritorious Service Award in the past, the chapter presented Shirley with a framed Allison Meyer photograph of a California Quail.

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

1. Please register with the leader ahead of time.
 - a. It helps the leader plan the trip.
 - b. You will be informed if the trip time or location is changed or if the trip is canceled.
2. Fees: (to paid to the driver of the car) \$5.00 - all day trips \$3.00 - 1/2 day trips.
3. We sometimes use radios to communicate between cars. If the radios are used we are asking participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries.

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES/TIME: September 9 and 23, Monday, 8:00 a.m.

MEET: Canal Street (Fairmont Loop) and Highway 95

LEADERS: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318 - Corinne Cameron 664-0344

ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours twice a month counting birds in the Mica Bay area. Beginner birders are welcome to join us

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE/TIME: September 10, Tuesday, 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

MEET: 10th Street entrance (east side) to Tubbs Hill

LEADER: Lynn Sheridan (leave messages for Lynn with Kris Buchler 664-4739)

ACTIVITY: We will walk as far as time permits along the trail that goes around Tubbs Hill. Come enjoy both fall flowers and birds with Lynn.

LATOUR CREEK - MIRROR LAKE

DATE: September 15, Sunday (full day trip)

TIME: 7:00 a.m.

MEET: Cove Bowl east end of Sherman for car pool - meet Lisa at the Cataldo Post Office

LEADER: Lisa Hardy, 682-4808 or basalt@earthlink.net Co-leader: Steve Lindsay

ACTIVITY: Steve Lindsay saw 45 species in this area last fall including Golden Eagle, Spruce and Blue Grouse, Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Hermit Thrush and Rock Wren. Bring lunch, water and wear shoes suitable for light to moderate hiking.

COUGAR BAY - HANSON FARM

DATE: September 21, Saturday (half day trip)

TIME: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

MEET: Canal Street (Fairmont Loop) and Highway 95

LEADER: Judy Waring, 765-5378

ACTIVITY: After looking for shorebirds and waterfowl in Cougar Bay we will do some easy hiking around the nearby Hanson Farm. Bring a snack and water and wear shoes suitable for light hiking.

FALL AND WINTER TRIP SCHEDULE

To volunteer to lead a trip or to suggest places to go, call or email Lisa Hardy 682-4808 or basalt@earthlink.net Check future newsletters for more details.

October 6 - Hidden Lake cranberry bog – full day canoe trip

October 13 - Big Sit! Mica Bay

October 26 - Rails-to-Trails bicycle trip – full day

November 10 – Bird the Superfund – half day

November 30 – Turnbull NWR – full day

December 14 – Hayden Lake – half day

January 26 – Gull identification, Coeur d'Alene area

February 8 – Sandpoint – full day

SHOSHONE COUNTY CENTURY COUNT

June 8 - 2002

Lisa Hardy

After broadcasting my opinion that we would be doing well to get 85 species, the Century Team turned in an amazing performance for a total of 99 species. This was despite the fact that it rained, sleeted or snowed on us all day except for an hour at the beginning and an hour at dusk.

It is difficult to know where to begin describing the highlights of the count. We racked up quite a few highlights in our 16 hour day, and, of course, each team member has his or her own favorite highlight. For some, it was the Rock Dove stakeout in downtown Kellogg, for others, the sight of the slow falling pristine white snow above Mullan, and yet others probably experienced a highlight each time they climbed back in the car and the driver started the motor and cranked up the heater blower.

The Coeur d'Alene contingent arrived at my house in an anticipatory mood, having driven through a spot of rain on the pass, and having "left it behind". Our first bird was a Western Tanager flying over our heads as we stood in the driveway. For the next several hours, we steadily knocked down the typical riparian species found along the North Fork (5 flycatchers, 3 vireos, 5 warblers, etc.), plus a few surprises (American Redstart, Bank Swallow). After the first hour, it began to rain.

For the statistically inclined, we identified 57 species in the first 4.5 hours of birding, all

within a 6-mile stretch of river between the Bumblebee cutoff bridge and Kingston. (In the evening, we picked up an additional 2 species on this stretch.)

We headed to Page Ponds after a coffee stop. At the sewage ponds and adjacent wetlands, we found Ruddy Duck, Gadwall, Redhead and Wilson's Phalarope – species difficult to find anywhere else in the county. Cindi and Kathryn found an uncommon Eastern Kingbird at the west end of the wetlands. Next, downtown Smelterville turned up a surprise flock of Red Crossbills, plus a hummingbird feeder with 3 species present. Cindi and Kathryn heard a Savannah Sparrow at the airport. Altogether, we picked up an additional 19 species in the Page-Smelterville area. The rain continued.

From there we proceeded to a stakeout of the condemned YMCA building in downtown Kellogg, peering through the rain at holes in the eaves, searching for a glimpse of the rump, leg or beady-eyed face of a Rock Dove. Several minutes passed, and then a mostly white dove popped out to flutter above us.

It was now noon, and we had 77 species under our belts. We drove in the rain to Mullan, and birded the open pastures to the east towards the pass. Here we found Mountain Bluebird, and then both kinglets at Shoshone Park. The pastures were full of Chipping Sparrows popping up and down, while an unexpected Osprey perched in a tree above a pond. And we started to see Townsend's Solitaires about every 5 minutes. The rain became mixed with sleet and snow.

Our total as we left Mullan stood at 85 species, and we drove back to Wallace, and then over Dobson Pass, where the rain turned to snow. Several team members did not appear to fully appreciate the beauty of the snow-dappled landscape. Dropping down into the Beaver Creek drainage, the snow turned back to rain, and we picked up 3 more species – Common Snipe, Red-naped Sapsucker and Evening Grosbeak.

A cruise through Murray (in the rain) yielded Cassin's Finch, and then we turned up Eagle Creek (in the rain) to pick up Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. On a tip, we traveled up the East Fork of Eagle Creek on a Forest Service road where we found 2 more species (though not the ones we had been tipped off about), each represented by a single wet, bedraggled specimen – Turkey Vulture and Gray Jay.

Now a little after 7 PM, we had been birding for over 14 hours, and the effects were beginning to show. I see no need to record for posterity the remarks being bandied about; let it suffice to say that we were all a bit, well, punchy. Our total stood at 93 species. Behind schedule, we raced down the new side river road in the rain, backing up once to confirm a Common Merganser (94). Below Bumblebee cutoff, we stopped on the old side road at the site where the Veery had eluded us that morning. As soon as we rolled down the windows and cut the engine, the Veery performed on cue (95), and we dashed off down the river once more.

Next, Shirley spotted 2 adult Bald Eagles in a snag at Kingston (96). Now the light was

fading although the rain had miraculously stopped, and after discussing our options, we opted for a return visit to the Page Ponds. Here Kris found a singing Common Yellowthroat (97) that had perhaps been silent in the morning because of the rain. Then a Common Nighthawk (98) appeared in the sky above us just as the words left my lips, "There ought to be a nighthawk here." Finally Shirley, fed up with being skunked by the Spotted Towhees all day, started to hike up the hill with Nancy, until a towhee began to mew and was counted as our 99th, and final, species.

What a day! The precipitation dampened the bird activity, but may also have acted to maintain it throughout the day at a low level. Who knows what we would have found if we had spent less time huddled in the cars shivering or trying to defog our binoculars? There were several fairly common species that were missed, namely Red-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey, Pileated Woodpecker, Mountain Chickadee and American Goldfinch. And there was that thing at the Page ponds that looked like a scaup, but we lost it. Suggestions for next year's Century Count ranged from Florida to Arizona and Hawaii. But we do know that next time we "do" Shoshone County, we will bring our snowshoes and foul-weather gear. Actually, that goes for all of North Idaho in the spring.

A few more statistics: 37 species were initially identified by ear, though some of these species were later seen. Eight species were frequenting feeders when counted (Downy Woodpecker, 3 hummingbirds, and 4 finches).

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Thanks to Jan Severtson for the official records keeping!

Team Century: Kris Buchler, Janet Callen, Roland Craft, Dick Cripe, Lisa Hardy, Kathryn Henderson, Cindi Langlitz, Nancy Mertz, Jan Severtson, Shirley Sturts and Judy Waring.

BROWN BAG BIRDING

May 12 - 2002

Lynn Sheridan

Roxanna Dunteman, Carol Ogle and Marcia Jimenez met me at the 3rd St. entrance to Tubbs Hill. It was a cool breezy day, with rain imminent, but we looked forward to a good walk. There was no bird activity at the boat launch area. As we went along further, we noticed a lot of wildflowers and heard some bird sounds above our heads. We identified, by sound, chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Song Sparrow and Northern Flicker. Gradually we found ourselves examining and discussing the flowers, finding over 20 kinds and identifying most of them.

Carol remembered seeing an orchid here years ago. We soon found it, the calypso. She also recognized the chocolate or checker lily. Other beauties were: prairie smoke, camas, waterleaf, spring beauty, starflower and phlox.

Roxanna and Carol requested a copy our recent newsletter so they could get involved in some of our activities. After they left, I walked to the other side of the resort and found Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, a Mallard pair, Tree and Barn Swallow. On the way home I saw the Osprey still on the nest at McEuen Field. All in all it was a satisfying outing.

MARY MINERVA McCROSKEY STATE PARK

MAY 18, 2002

Janet Callen

The morning of May 18 dawned gray and gloomy and indeed proceeded to rain steadily as four of us traveled south to Mary Minerva State Park. Lynn Sheridan, Phil Waring, Kris Buchler and I were convinced the weather would get better. And it did. As we drove through the park we were greeted with sunshine, occasional cool breezes and some cloudiness, but overall a good day for birdwatching. We identified 33 species within the park, many of them audio only. However, some good visual identifications were Western Tanager; Chipping Sparrow; Townsend's Solitaire; Black-headed Grosbeak, MacGillivray's Warbler, and an Olive-sided Flycatcher. As we departed the park via DeSmet Road, we stopped at the ponds and were delighted to see Wilson's Phalarope (20), Cinnamon Teal (4), Blue-winged Teal (4), Northern Shoveler (5) and Yellow-headed Blackbird (10). In addition to these were Mallard, swallows and Red-winged Blackbird. We identified 47 birds during the trip. Another plus, the wildflowers were blooming in profusion.

PROJECT FEEDER WATCH

Reprint from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website
www.birds.cornell.edu



Photo by Wayne Tree

Dark-eyed Junco - number 1 most common bird at Idaho feeders

What is Project FeederWatch?

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the highest numbers of each species they see at their feeders from November through early April. FeederWatch helps scientists track broadscale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in partnership with the National Audubon Society, Bird Studies Canada, and Canadian Nature Federation.

Who can participate?

Anyone with an interest in birds! FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs.

What will I do?

Count birds that appear in your count site because of something that you provided (commercial or natural food, or water). For each species, report only the highest number of individuals that you saw in view at one time. By following this procedure, you are certain to avoid counting the

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same bird more than once. You'll report your bird counts to scientists at the Lab of Ornithology, either over our web site or on paper Data Forms.

Does it cost money?

There is a \$15 annual participation fee (\$12 for Lab members) that covers your materials and newsletter subscription, staff support, web design, and data analysis. Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by participation fees. Without the support of our participants, this project wouldn't be possible.

What will I get?

You'll receive a Research Kit and the Lab's quarterly newsletter, Birdscope. Your kit, which arrives in November (or 3 weeks after you signup) contains instructions, a bird identification poster, a wall calendar, a resource guide to bird feeding, and data forms—everything you need to start counting your birds. You provide the feeder and seed.

Where do I count the birds?

Anywhere that you can consistently observe throughout your count days. Choose obvious boundaries, such as the border of your yard or the area within a courtyard.

When does the season start?

Our survey is conducted each winter from November through early April. You may join at any time of year and start receiving the quarterly issues of the Birdscope newsletter. The last day to sign up for any given season is Feb. 28. On Mar. 1 we begin taking sign-ups for the following season. Kits are shipped in the fall or, if you sign

up during the season, about 3 weeks after you sign up.

How much time does it take?

It's up to you! Select your own bird-count days--two consecutive days once every two weeks (or every week if you enter data online and you choose to count that often). Count during all or part of those days.

Why should I participate?

FeederWatch results are regularly published in scientific journals and are shared with ornithologists and bird lovers nationwide.

As a FeederWatcher, you will learn more about winter birds and how their populations are faring. You'll also contribute to the science and conservation of North American feeder birds



Photo by Wayne Tree

Black-capped Chickadee 3rd most common Idaho feeder bird

How to Sign Up?

Send a check payable in U.S. dollars to:
**Project FeederWatch
Cornell Lab of
Ornithology
P.O. Box 11
Ithaca NY 14851-0011**

Credit card users may call to sign up: 1-800-843-2473 or sign up on their website

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!!!!

The following people have joined Audubon the past few months. We look forward to meeting you and welcome you to our activities. Julie Anderson, Keith Hewel, Jane Houghten, Steven Malek and Leanne Rousseau, Steve and Bev Moss, Edward Peterek, Diane Higdem, L. J. Anderson, Margaret Walters, Mrs. Patick Travis, Joseph C. Gore, George E. Neuner, Melinda Hennig.

OBSERVATION POST

OSERVERS: DeEtta Anglin (DANG) Pat Beamer(PBEA), Kris Buchler (KBUC), Roland Craft (RCRA), Kas Dumroese (KDUM), Helen Gorey (HGOR), Bill and Joan Gundlach (BGUN, JGUN), Jerry Hanson (JHAN), Lisa Hardy (LHAR), Steve Lindsay (SLIN), George Neuner (GNEU), Scott Raei (SREA), Jan Severtson (JSEV). Shirley Sturts (SSTU), Theresa Potts (TPOT)

Mica Bay Survey June 3,19, July 3,15
SSTU,KBUC,RCRA,,BGUN,JGUN,JSEV,JHAN,BGUN,GNEU,HGOR,PBEA))

Pied-billed Grebe 1+ Mica Bay Survey June 19, July 1

Red-necked Grebe 1 pr Mica Bay Survey June 3, 19, July 1

Double-crested Cormorant 1 July 17 and 19 (SSTU,KBUC)

Turkey Vulture 1 Mica Bay Survey June 3, July 1

Wood Duck 1 female with young Mica Bay Survey July 1

Cinnamon Teal 2 pr (1 pr with 2 young) Mica Bay June 19

Northern Goshawk 1 immature behind his house near Spokane River - Post Falls July 29 (SLIN)

Swainson's Hawk 1 Hoo Doo Valley Blue Bird Trail July 21 (SSTU,TPOR)

Osprey 1 nest w/2 young Mica Bay Survey

Ruffed Grouse 1 F w/5-6young Fernan Lake June 11 (SSTU)

Sora 1 heard Mica Bay Survey June 3 and 19; 1 heard Hoo Doo

Valley (along the Blue Bird Trail) June 10 (SSTU,TPOT)

Common Nighthawk 1 Post Falls June 4 (SLIN);

1 Hoo Doo Valley (Blue Bird Trail) June 10 (SSTU,TPOT)

Baird's Sandpiper 1 immature Cataldo Mission Slough July 29 (SREA,LHAR)_

Greater Yellowlegs 2 Page Ponds (east of Kingston) July 28 (LHAR,SREA)

Wilson's Phalarope 3 Page Ponds (east of Kingston) July 28 (LHAR,SREA)

Red-naped Sapsucker 1-2 Mica Bay Survey June 3,19 and July 1, 15 ; 1 her home Fairmont Loop Road CDA June 4 (JSEV)

Three-toed Woodpecker 1 Crooked Ridge off of Bunco Road (Bonner County) (LHAR,JTAY) ; 1 below Bumblebee Bridge, North Fork CDA River June 30 (LHAR)

Black-backed Woodpecker 1 North Fork of the CDA River June 13 (LHAR)

Least Flycatcher 2 Rose Creek near Rose Lake June 15(KDUM)

Western Flycatcher 1 nested again on a ladder behind their house in Mica Bay (JHAN)

Western Flycatcher (Pacific Slope) 9 counted along the North Fork of the CDA River (Old River Road) (SREA,LHAR)

Clark's Nutcracker 4 along the trail to the top of Steven's Peak July 6 (SSTU)

Rock Wren 1 Lake Creek and Highway 95 (where it was last year) June 27 (SLIN)

Veery 1-2 Along the Coeur d'Alene River (Dudley Marsh and near Rose Lake June 30 (SLIN)

Mountain Bluebird 1 pair nesting near the top of Steven's Peak south of Mullan July 6 (SSTU)

Northern Waterthrush 1 along Rose Creek (Rose Lake area) June 1 (DANG); 3-4 along the

North Fork CDA River (Old River Road) (SREA,LHAR)

Lazuli Bunting 1 North Ford CDA River (Old River Road) June 13 (LHAR)

Vesper Sparrow 1 Hoo Doo Valley (Blue Bird Trail) June 10 and July 29 (TPOT,SSTU) `

CHECK IT OUT

The Article "Fishing Line Tragedies" by Susan Weller from our May 2002 Newsletter was reprinted on page 2 of **Windows to Wildlife - Summer 2002**. Included was a picture of a Bullock's Oriole nest made with fishing line showing a wing tangled on the side of the nest. Herb Severtson took the picture.

Windows to Wildlife is a publication of the Idaho Watchable Wildlife Committee and Idaho's Nongame Program.

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