



Lights and Shadows from the Dishman Hills, February, 1997



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The results are in for the Christmas bird count, and the total count for the DH was down this year. We did find one Ruffed Grouse (haft of the entire Spokane count!). Near the Potter feeder on the west side, other birds found included: Ring-necked Pheasant (1), California Quail (30), Black-capped Chickadee (3), Mountain Chickadee (2), Pygmy Nuthatch (2), and a Dark-eyed Junco. Up in the Hills two Great Horned Owls hooted, seven Canada Geese flew over the ponds, two common Ravens croaked loudly, and four or five Blacked-capped and one Mountain Chickadee appeared. The traditional partridge in a pear tree was not seen but heard from those in the holiday spirit.

The Spokane count fared better with the total number of birds 11, 654, slightly above the long-time average. Here are the numbers for some of the common species: Great Blue Heron (12), Canada Goose (501, up from last year), Mallard (2,575, up), Common Merganser (209, up), Bald Eagle (32, up), Red-tailed Hawk (65, up), Ring-tailed Pheasant (100, down), California Quail (579), Ring-tailed Gull (50), Rock Dove (669), Mourning Dove (71, up), Belted Kingfisher (3, down), Downy Woodpecker (21, up), Northern Flicker (91), Black-billed Magpie (up), American Crow (down), Black-capped Chickadee (234), Red-breasted Nuthatch (64, down), American Robin (38, very down), Bohemian Waxwing (670, very down), European Starling (549), Song Sparrow (109, down), Dark-eyed Junco (411, very down), House Finch (1,669, very up), and House or English Sparrow (1,224, up). Waterfowl appeared to fare well but other groups seemed not to do so well, presumably because of the deep snow. The list for all species is expected to be published in the Spokesman-Review.



ORGANIZATION NEWS

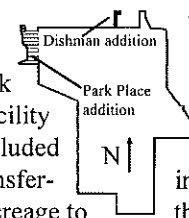
We are a non-profit organization dedicated to saving natural areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton at 747-8147 with any questions about the Association. Our monthly meetings are at Opportunity Elementary, South 1109 Willbur, the third Tuesday at 7 PM, **You are cordially invited.**

We are now printing the newsletter and doing our own accounting to save those precious donations for land purchase. Last January there were \$1, 048.51 in donations, a very respectable sum.

Many thanks to those who donated in January including: J. Collins, J. Conaty, R. Downing, M. Erickson, J. Fergin, J. Foote, J. Gorman, K. Gudgel, B. Haggin, A. Haines, J. Hannink, P. Houff, E. Jacobson, M. Johnson, G. Kivett, M. Leszczykowski, H. Lininger, R. Mills, F. Orcutt, F. Potter, A. Priestley, T. Rogers, M. Sackett, B. Swan, K. Swedberg, J. Troske, and S. Wilson.

NATURAL AREA EXPANDS

During the last year the Dishman Hills expanded with several additions of land on the North side. The new Park Place development at the old Edgeclift medical facility included the county transfer-Place and some rocky acreage to the Hills. This is a fine addition since most all the land is rocky and typical of the rest of the Natural Area.



The other addition consists of several lots on the northeast side, gifted as part of the distribution of the Jack Dishman estate. This land is especially valuable to us since land on the north side of the Hills will be needed for natural "buffer" zones as protection from possible development south of Sprague Ave.

We are very grateful to all those who helped the expansion occur, with special thanks to Elaine Dishman, and Spokane Parks and Recreation. We will continue to pursue acquisition opportunities of land adjacent to the Hills to maintain the natural setting as the area develops.

NEXT MONTH

At long last, there will be a new trail map of the Dishman Hills available to the public. The map includes accurate trail locations and descriptions. Getting lost will now be optional! The map is part of a trail plan being completed by the Dept. of Natural Resources.

Please use this form when sending **CONTRIBUTIONS or DUES**
All contributions are tax deductible

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: DHNAA
E. 10820 Maxwell
Spokane, WA 99206

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\$ _____ MEMORIAL FOR _____
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or living lightly, \$2 to cover bulletin expenses)

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