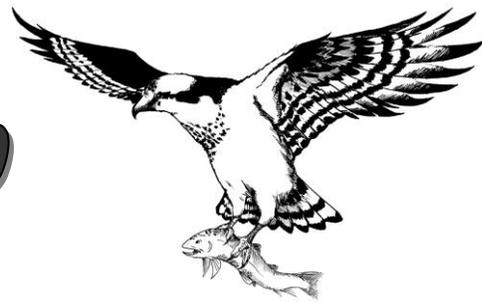


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society
www.cdaudubon.org

December 2007

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 4

BOARD MEETING

DATE: December 10, Monday
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Mt. West Bank
125 Ironwood Dr.

DECEMBER PROGRAM

NOTE: 2ND MONDAY

DATE: December 10, Monday
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: First Presbyterian Church, 521 E. Lakeside, Coeur d'Alene
SPEAKER: Kris Buchler, Coeur d'Alene Audubon

PROGRAM: "CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT PRIMER" Join us for a refresher of winter birds and test your skills identifying raptors in flight. A review with slides and a fun quiz will prepare you for our upcoming bird counts in December and early January.

AND

A COOKIE EXCHANGE: This is how it works: everyone who brings two dozen cookies gets to take home (or eat) two dozen cookies. Bring a container for your goodies☺.

EVENTS

"Wings Over Wolf Lodge" Cruise

Sunday, Dec. 2, 2007
Boarding starts 12:20 p.m.
Presentation 12:45 p.m.
Cruise departs from The Coeur d'Alene Resort Cruise dock
Tickets: \$15 adult \$9 child (6 to 16)
Benefit for *Birds of Prey Northwest*

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

See the article

YARD LISTS

Turn your yard list into Lisa Hardy during the month of January

Visit our Website:

www.cdaudubon.org



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Shirley Sturts

It's almost time again for Christmas Bird Counts to begin. According to the [Audubon CBC Website](http://www.audubon.org), "More than 50,000 observers participate each year in this all-day census of early-winter bird populations. The results of their efforts are compiled into the longest running database in ornithology, representing over a century of unbroken data on trends of early-winter bird populations across the Americas. Simply put, the Christmas Bird Count, or 'CBC', is citizen science in action."

Our Audubon Chapter is encouraging all local bird lovers to participate in one or more of the local CBCs this holiday season. Beginners are welcome. The more eyes out there the better. Going out with a team is a good way to learn the birds. Actually, that is how I learned to tell a Mallard from a robin ☺. I went on several Spokane and Indian Mountain CBCs in the 1960s with a team led by Tom Rogers, a long-time birder in Spokane Valley. It was the beginning of a lifetime of learning and appreciating birds and other wildlife.

If you want to participate, but you don't have the time to spend all day out in the field with a team, there are alternatives. We need feeder watchers. Take an hour, or more if you wish, to tally the birds coming to your feeder on the day of the count and then email or call in your results. Record the number of each species (counting only the largest number seen at any one time) and the time you spend watching. Another idea is you can do your neighborhood, walk around Tubbs Hill or bird other areas within the circle.

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LITTLE SPOKANE RIVER, RIVERSIDE STATE PARK, WA.

Saturday, November 10th

Jan Severtson



Fuertes
Collection

Rain did not deter this loyal birding group from meeting at K-Mart, then carpooling into Washington. By the time we arrived at the Indian Petroglyphs inside the park, the rain had stopped. The trail we chose meandered in and out of trees, along the river, and around rock formations. It was an easy trail to follow and we were rewarded by spotting Wild Turkey, Mallard, Common Raven, Pygmy Nuthatch, Chickadee (sp), Black-billed Magpie, Redtailed Hawk, Northern Flicker, Pine Siskin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Common Merganser, Woodpecker (sp), Bewick's Wren, and American Wigeon. At the end of the trail we stopped for our picnic lunch, actually basking in the rather warm sun. Off came the jackets! Our hike back had us admiring the clouds, patches of blue sky, and just generally enjoying this beautiful area. We decided this would be a grand repeat trip by canoe or kayak next spring, bird-watching from the river and hopefully seeing the Great Blue Heron rookery. Many thanks to those who braved the weather.

Participants: Dick Cripe, Roland Craft, Janet Callen, Russ Hersrud and his sister visiting from North Dakota, and Herb Severtson



NOON TIME BIRDING

November 20, 2007

Lynn Sheridan

(This popular one hour event led by Lynn Sheridan is a good way to get to know what our chapter is all about.)

Participants: Beth and Dan Davis (who had a good scope), Judy and Steve Wander, from Connecticut (who had a digital camera, which could be joined with the scope for several pictures), Vera Taggart, Derek Antonelli, Dale Horst, and leader, Lynn Sheridan.

We met at Independence Point on this cold but sunny day. The usual flock of Ring-billed Gull was present. We found some Red-necked Grebe at the end of the dock and about 20 Canada Goose grazing on the lawn under the flag pole. Along the edge of the park., a few Pygmy Nuthatch twittered among the

bare branches, giving us all a good view.

At the west end of City Beach, we picked out a few Double-crested Cormorant out on the pilings. Using his scope, Dan counted about 20 more in the distance, some flying low over the water.

At the rocky headland, we found many more geese and one Mallard pair. We continued to see only Ring-billed Gull, many of them brown streaked juveniles. Further from the shore about 8 Bufflehead bobbed up and down along with one Western Grebe.

There was lively conversation on the way back. I gave our out-of-town visitors one of our newsletters, our card with web site address, and my email address, as some digital photos are promised.

Thank you, everyone.

SUMMARY OF BOARD MEETING: NOVEMBER 19, 2007

Lynn Sheridan

1) We ordered 30 "Idaho Birding Trail" books from Boise. Ten were donated to the CDA Library's "Second Story Book Store" and are selling well. Five more will be donated to them along with an order form to use for future orders. Five will also be donated to the Post Falls Library book store.

2) Our request for *The National Audubon* Collaborative Fund has been submitted by Carrie Hugo and Ed Buchler.

3) Roland Craft and Mike Mihelich continue to update us on conservation issues. They have attended several meetings concerning local environmental and conservation concerns.

4) A decision was made to start dispersing books from our mobile library by offering them in a silent auction at each meeting starting in December.

5) February 2008 will probably be when we'll volunteer for the Green Cross project, but the date is not set yet. Look for information in future newsletters.

6) Ronn Rich updated our financial status. Our checking account holds \$2400 and we have a CD worth \$4200. Recent expenses were \$250 donated to *Birds of Prey North West* for the Eagle Cruise, \$98 for the bird guides, and the monthly cost of printing and mailing our newsletter, approximately \$50-\$60.

Eagle Vs. Turkey: America's First Bird Controversy

Reprinted from the National Wildlife Federation website: <http://www.nwf.org>

Nations often adopt animals as symbols: England has its lion, India its peacock. On the afternoon of July 4, 1776, just after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congress appointed a committee made up of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin to select a design for an official national seal.



The three patriots had different ideas and none of them included the Bald Eagle. They finally agreed on a drawing of the woman, Liberty, holding a shield to represent the states. But the members of Congress weren't inspired by the design and they consulted with William Barton, a Philadelphia artist who produced a new design that included a Golden Eagle.

Because the Golden Eagle also flew over European nations, however, the federal lawmakers specified that the bird in the seal should be an American Bald Eagle. On June 20, 1782, they approved the design that we recognize today.

At the time, the new nation was still at war with England, and the fierce-looking bird seemed to be an appropriate emblem. But from the start, the eagle was a controversial choice. Franklin scowled at it. "For my part," he declared, "I wish the eagle had not been chosen as the representative of this country. He is a bird of bad moral character; he does not get his living honestly. You may have seen him perched in some dead tree where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing hawk and, when that diligent bird has at length taken a fish and is bearing it to his nest for his young ones, the Bald Eagle pursues him and takes the fish. With all this injustice, he is never in good case."

Some people have since questioned whether the eagle would have been chosen to adorn the seal had

the nation not been at war. A year after the Treaty of Paris ended the conflict with Great Britain, Franklin argued that the turkey would have been a more appropriate symbol. "A much more respectable bird and a true native of America," he pointed out. Franklin conceded that the turkey was "a little vain and silly," but maintained that it was nevertheless a "bird of courage" that "would not hesitate to attack a grenadier of the British guards who should presume to invade his farm yard with a red coat on." Congress was not convinced, however. The eagle remained our national symbol.

In truth, both the turkey and the Bald Eagle are native to the Americas. But if the issue is a bird that represents our nation, Americans can't really lay exclusive claim to either species, since both traditionally ranged in Canada and Mexico as well.

REHAB REPORT- November, 2007

Kris Buchler

November seems to be the month of owls. Last year it brought us a Snowy Owl, one of our most rewarding rehabilitation successes. "Storm" was released in April at the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge after months of recuperation and flight training with Birds of Prey Northwest.

This month alone, Ed and I have treated several birds including a Northern Saw-whet Owl from Rathdrum, a Long-eared Owl from Blue Creek Bay, and a Barred Owl from the Rimrock Golf Course. These three owls are not commonly seen like our Great Horned Owl, the most numerous owl in our region. The three listed owls are nocturnal hunters and hard to find unless one can find their day roosts. Owls are common victims of collisions with cars because they are not powerful or swift fliers. Road killed animals provide easy feeding.

All but the Long-eared perished from wounds too severe to overcome or starvation and illness. Delicate bones suffer massive damage from collisions, a common reason for owl mortality. Some juvenile birds are not experienced hunters and starve when rodent populations are low.

An excellent source of regional information on owls is the Owl Research Center in Charlo, Montana. Its recent newsletter, *The Roost*, describes several owl projects and the correlation of breeding success to fluctuations of vole populations. Several research projects are led by Denver Holt, Director. Explore: www.owlinstitute.org.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS GET INVOLVED

Continued from page 1



We are also encouraging all birders to keep track of the birds they see during the count week, just in case a species is missed on the count day itself. Count week is three days before count day and 3 days after count day. The Coeur d'Alene CBC is on December 15 so count week is from December 12-18. For example, if no one reported a Hairy Woodpecker on December 15, but you saw one during the count week period, we would count it as a "Count Week" bird. This is only for species not seen on the day of the count.

As usual, there will be a post-count gathering for the sharing of tallies and stories. This is for field team members, feeder watchers and anyone interested (even if you couldn't participate during the day). For the Coeur d'Alene CBC we will be having a potluck at the home of Theresa Potts, 4103 Arrowhead Road, CDA. For information call Theresa at 765-0229 or email her at: tdpot@webtv.net. For the Spirit Lake Count (which has its center in Athol), we will meet afterwards at the White Pine Country Café, 30265 N. Highway 95. The gathering for the Indian Mountain and Bonners Ferry Counts will be announced later.

Each circle is 15 miles in diameter. If you want to count at your feeder, contact the compiler to see if you are within the circle. If you are in the city limits of Coeur d'Alene, Hayden or Hayden Lake, you are in the circle. Most of Post Falls and Rathdrum are also in the circle. The Spirit Lake CBC takes in all of Athol, Bayview, Farragut State Park, Silverwood and a corner of the town of Spirit Lake. The Indian Mountain CBC takes in Medimont, Harrison, Saint Maries and Heyburn State Park. I am not familiar with the Bonners Ferry Count so check with the compiler.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

You can view past CBC totals on our Website: www.cdaadubon.org.

Contact the compiler to participate either on a team or at your feeder. If you can only go for part of the day or want to count in your neighborhood or, for example, walk around Tubbs Hill, let the compiler know. We can carve out an area for you to be responsible for.

Dates and Meeting locations

Coeur d'Alene - December 15, Saturday

Compiler: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

s.sturts@verizon.net

Meet for Breakfast at 6:00 a.m. Michael D's Eatery or 7:00 a.m. to join your team

Bonners Ferry - December 21, Friday

Compiler: Jan Rose, avianplts@coldreams.com.

Check with Jan for time and meeting location

Spirit Lake - January 3, Thursday

Compiler: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

s.sturts@verizon.net

Meet for Breakfast at 6:30 a.m. at the White Pine Country Café, 30265 N. Highway 95 or 7:30 a.m. to join your team.

Indian Mountain - January 5, Saturday

Compiler: Don Heikkila 659-3389 -

donhei@imbis.net

Team organizers Shirley Sturts 664-5318 -

s.sturts@verizon.net

Lisa Hardy 783-1262 basalt@earthlink.net

Meet and time - plans made will be made by each participating team

BIRD QUOTES

When I see a bird that walks like a duck and swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, I call that bird a duck.

-- Richard C. Cushing --

There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before.

-- Robert Lynd --

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TIP

If you go shopping at Wild Birds Unlimited, 296 W Sunset Avenue, be sure to tell them you are an Audubon Member . They will give our Chapter 10% of the sale. Be sure to thank them for their support.

DECEMBER - JUNE FIELD TRIPS

PLEASE REGISTER: Watch the website for updates to our field trip schedule. Participants should contact the trip leader at least 24 hours in advance of the field trip to find out if the meeting place/time or destination have been changed.

COST: Participants will share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver at a rate of \$0.25/mile, with the trip leader responsible for collection and distribution of the compensation.

RADIOS: We will ask participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries as needed.

MICA BAY SURVEY

*(2nd Tuesday of each month - 8:00 a.m. September - November and April; 9:00 a.m.
December- March: 7:00 a.m. May-August)*

DATE: December 11, Tuesday

TIME: 9:00 a.m. (*note change in time*)

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.

NOON TIME BIRDING TRIP

(3rd Tuesday of each month - 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.)

DATE: December 18, Tuesday

TIME: 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

MEET: Fernan Lake - west boat launch

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 who share your interest in nature.

Beginner bird watchers are welcome.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

See article on page 1 continued on page 4

COMING FIELD TRIPS IN 2008

JANUARY 27, Sunday, Rathdrum Prairie, leader: Roland Craft 457-8894

FEBRUARY 16, Saturday, Sandpoint, leader: Lisa Hardy 783-1262

MARCH 16, Sunday, Boundary WMA - Ball Creek - Kootenai NWR, leader: Lisa Hardy 783-1262

APRIL 27, Sunday, to be announced, leader: Roland Craft 457-8894

MAY 10 - Saturday, Moscow area, leader: Janet Callen 664-1085

MAY 24, Saturday, Worley - Conkling Park area leader: Kris Buchler 664-4739

JUNE 7 - Saturday, Benewah County Century Count

