

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
[www.cdaaudubon.org](http://www.cdaaudubon.org)

December 2021

Volume 31 Number 4

## December Program

**December 14, Tuesday**

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Due to the increase in the number of COVID cases, this will be a zoom meeting. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84391997180?pwd=cFNFRkdHRmcyWFRkNDZnZnJzUnZsdz09>

Meeting ID: 843 9199 7180

Passcode: 691353

**Program:** It is in the planning stage.

Check our Website in December.

### Board Meeting

**Date:** December 14, Tuesday

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Place:** Zoom meeting

Anyone interested in joining our team on the board call Ralph at 208-660-3220



**A Thank You**

**From Mike and Valerie Zagar**

Mike and I would like to thank you for your cards, calls and helpful support during his recovery from his fractured femur. He is healing well with lots of therapy, but it will be a long road back to normal.

*The Zagars*

## President's Message

As I write this message, we are approaching Thanksgiving. What is going on with birding this time of year? Well, let's take a look.



Many photographers in the area, as well as birders, are looking forward to the Bald Eagles stopping by during their fall migration to feed on spawned out Kokanee Salmon. Speaking from my personal experience, I get anxious to see the eagles and look for them before the main migration arrives. Our magnificent national bird is so majestic we never tire of seeing them perched, swooping down to grab a fish from just below the surface or soaring to great heights on a windy day. I hope you take time to enjoy these great birds during the holiday period between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

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## President's Message

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In the event you go out to watch eagles and none are flying at that time, you may want to look for other activity over the water. The gulls sometimes provide some real antics of interest. I have included one of my photos of gulls fighting over a fish. This often takes place and can be fun to watch.



Some photographers are posting photos of a raptor, the Rough Legged Hawk, that migrates to our area in the late fall and winter. Power poles take on new interest knowing there is a different raptor breed to observe.

There are other species of interest to see on the local lakes. Some of these are in their winter plumage being quite different from their brighter courtship plumage of the spring and early summer. Some that I have seen, or that have been reported to me, are Common Loons, Red Necked Grebes and Horned Grebes. The Golden Eyes are also present diving for the Kokanee eggs (I assume.)

Ted led a short field trip to the dike road at North Idaho College to observe gulls. The primary gulls were Ring Billed Gulls including at least one juvenile. Among the number, one California Gull was spotted. Of course, there were the ever-present Canada Geese. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to stay for the duration of the field trip that continued on to Wolf Lodge Bay and Blue Creek Bay where Buffleheads were spotted as well as a Great Blue Heron. Numerous gulls were sighted at those locations but were too far away to evaluate. Thanks, Ted for leading this field trip.

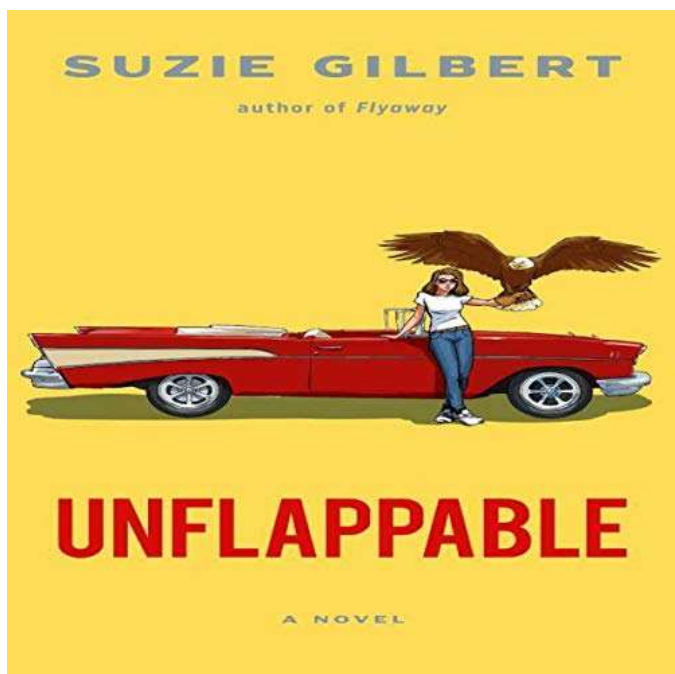
I wish I had information about a December program to tease you with, but at the present time the program bird is still "in the bush" rather than "in the hand." Please log into the web site between now and the meeting date to discover the program we will post as soon as it is finalized.

The Board continues to monitor the COVID19 statistics and consider if we can resume in-person meetings. I'm guessing you already suspect our answer. Correct!! We will continue Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future. We still prefer to error on the side of caution, putting our member's health first.

I want to throw out some kudos to our board members. While their efforts and activities aren't always visible, they are continually working on issues important to Audubon. I thank them all for contributing ideas for programs. Some great ideas have been brought to my attention to pursue for future programs. They are also continuing to work with the Library to develop the birding backpacks I have mentioned in earlier newsletters.

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# Book Review



## *Unflappable*

A novel by Suzie Gilbert

The two main characters in her story involves Luna Burke, who is licensed to care for injured wildlife, and Mars, a homicidal Bald Eagle that she has rescued from her husband's private zoo. Luna has a rare gift of bonding with birds and other animals she cares for. Her mission is to unite Mars with his mate and get them both across the Canadian border to a bird sanctuary run by a woman famous for protection of wildlife, especially birds of prey.

The story starts in Florida, where with Ned, a volunteer from a bird rehabilitation center who admits he doesn't even like birds, sneak Mars out of her husband's zoo and head north in Ned's classic Cadillac convertible. From there we meet a cast of fascinating characters as they are chased by her furious husband and his bodyguards, a U.S. Fish and Game marshal, and the police. Helping them along the way is a network of various

rehabbers who are risking their rehab licenses to give Luna, Ned and Mars shelter. I especially liked Warren, an ex Navy SEAL and panther rehabber from Florida, who keeps popping up along their route to rescue them.

As the story unfolds, we learn about Luna's troubled past and how she ended up in her unhappy marriage with this rich developer, whose only goal in life is making more money and holding on to his trophy wife.

While enjoying this fast-paced chase with suspenseful escapes, I learned a lot about eagles and the people that are passionate about rehabbing wildlife of various kinds. I was especially touched by a turtle rehabber who used a special glue to put a turtle's cracked shell back together.

Liz Deluna Gordon, birder and American Birding Association events coordinator in her review says: "*Unflappable* is a gripping read and multi-leveled love story that hits many sweet spots. "It's a true to life depiction of humankind and how our fate is intertwined with the way we choose to connect to nature."

Susie Gilbert is a wildlife rehabilitator and the author of *Flyaway: How a Wild Bird Rehabber Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings*. She also wrote a children's book *Hawk Hill*. *Unflappable* is her first novel. Her books are on Amazon but you may want to support our local bookstore, The Well Read Moose, by ordering them there.

Shirley Sturts

### Share a Good Book

Have you read any books about birds, wildlife, or conservation lately? Write a book review for our next newsletter.

## President's Message

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We are also working on needed revisions to our bylaws. Don't expect major changes but as we review the bylaws we find the language needs updating. There are still two unfilled board positions. Please consider joining this dynamic group to help direct our Audubon activities, and express your interest to me or to any board member.

So, as I ask in every newsletter, how are you enjoying birding? You are always invited to share at our Zoom meeting to add interest.



**Harlequin Duck** - September 18 - on a birding trip to Yellowstone - Darlene Carlton -photo by Darlene

## Kootenai County Big Year Additions

See:

<http://cdaaudubon.org/Projects/kootenaico2021.html>

Our goal is 200 - we are at 186

**Bonaparte's Gull** - November 13 Anderson Lake - Ryan Bart

**American Tree Sparrow** - November 13 - Black Rock Trailhead, Trail of the CDAs Ryan Bart

### Other Bird Sighting

**Tundra and Trumpeter Swans** - several - November 11 - Schlepp Ranch - see YouTube videos <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWsCeyGqnAs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mgANbP4tXg>

Mike Schlepp

**Common Loon** - 20 - November 12 - west of Higgins Point - Sally Jones



**Great Gray Owl** - September 18 - on a birding trip to Yellowstone - Photo by Darlene . The Great Gray was one of my target birds and I saw it on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. It was near Henry's Lake in Idaho -not too far from Yellowstone's west entrance. Besides many birds, we saw a pack of wolves, 3 grizzlies, moose, elk, and bison.

## Local Gulls Field Trip



Four of us, Dick Cripe, Ralph Kerr Adele Sussman and I, met on the dike adjacent to North Idaho College. The gulls were just returning from their morning feeding

forays. Unfortunately, we only saw one gull that wasn't a Ring-billed Gull. That was a lone California Gull that we overlooked as he hung out atop a piling. He did provide a great learning moment when he flew down and joined the ring-bills on the beach. Other than that it was Canada Geese, Mallard, Red-necked Grebe, and a couple of Horned Grebe. Dick and I headed out to Wolf Lodge Bay to check gulls there. All the gulls were on the wing enjoying the wind. We did see a Great Blue Heron, and a very large flock of Bufflehead. We also saw numerous eagles soaring back towards Higgins Point. A stop at Blue Creek Bay on the way home didn't turn up anything new. Looking forward to the trip on Monday the 29th. Remember we meet at the library at 9 am.

Best regards, *Ted Smith*

## Field Trips and Activities

### Higgins Point

**Date:** November 29, Monday

**Meet:** CDA Public Library

**Leader:** Ted Smith 406-540-2673 Call or text so he knows if you are coming

**Activity:** We will meet at the library and drive from there to Higgins Point to view the eagles, loons, and gulls

### Mica Bay Survey

**Date:** December 14, Tuesday

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Meet:** Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

**Leader:** Janet Callen

**Activity:** We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay Beginner birders are welcome

### CDA Christmas Bird

#### Count

**Date:** December 18, Saturday

**Leader:** Doug Ward - call or email Doug to

participate 208 699-9327 or

[dougward@frontier.com](mailto:dougward@frontier.com)

Let him know how you want to participate: count at your feeder, go half or full day, by yourself or with others, the area you would like to do.

### Indian Mountain Christmas Bird Count

**Date:** January 1, Saturday

**Leader:** Bob Kemp - call or email Bob If you want to participate, he can be reached at 208 292-7228 or [rmackemp@hotmail.com](mailto:rmackemp@hotmail.com)

**Activity:** This CBC covers part of the Trail of the CDAs, Harrison, St. Maries, Heyburn State Park, and west side of CDA Lake from Spokane Point (which is across from Harrison) to Heyburn State Park. There is a lot of good bird habitat in this circle.

## Books for Tots



In past years, we have asked you to bring books to our December meeting for the Books for Tots program. If you wish to continue the tradition, you can visit the Well Read Moose

**CDA Audubon Chapter  
Officers**

President: Ralph Kerr 208 660-3220

Vice President: open

Recording Secretary: Pamela  
Gomes

Treasurer:

Janet Callen 208 664-1085

Board Members:

all officers and  
Ted Smith, Patty Beyer

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Publicity

Field Trips - Ted Smith

Education: Barbara Christofferson 208 667-  
3931

Conservation:

Membership: Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616

Hospitality: Elli Emm\

Newsletter - : Shirley Sturts

Mailing: Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616

Webmaster: Shirley Sturts

Historian: Open

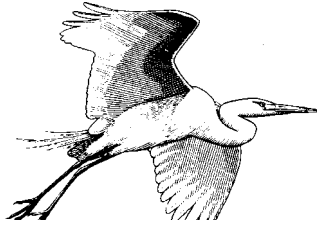
**National Audubon  
New Member Application**

Join Online at:  
<http://www.audubon.org>

or

Join by Phone – call:  
1-844-428-3826

Reference our Chapter  
Code G06



**Local Membership Dues**

- Individual \$10.00
- Family \$15.00
- Individual \$25.00 - with hard copy of the newsletter
- Family \$30.00 - with hard copy of the newsletter
- Additional donation \_\_\_\_\_

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