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=cFNFRkdRmcyWFRkNDqZnJsUnZsdz09
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.

Continued on page 2
President's Message

Continued from page 1

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.

![Gulls Fighting Over a Fish](image)

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 err 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.

Continued on page 4
Book Review

Unflappable

A novel by Suzie Gilbert

The two main characters in her story involve 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

Continued from page 2

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.

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

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

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 2nd 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

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

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
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
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.
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____

Total $__________

NAME_________________________
EMAIL_____________________________
ADDRESS________________________
CITY______________________________
STATE_________________ZIP_________
TELEPHONE______________________

Mail this form and your check payable to:
Coeur d’Alene Audubon Chapter c/o Membership
P.O. Box 361
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83816