

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

February 2013

Volume 22 Number 6



February Program

Date: February 12, Tuesday

Place: Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey, CDA

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Jim Peek, Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Resources in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources of the University of Idaho

Program: "Predator Management"

James Peek, Ph.D.

Carrie Hugo

Dr. Peek is Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Resources in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources of the University of Idaho, having retired in 1999. Most of his research has been on wild ungulates, including moose, elk, mountain sheep, mountain goats, mule deer and white-tailed deer. He has also been involved in studies of gray wolves and grizzly bears.

He recently finished a review of large mammalian predator management and conservation across North America for The Wildlife Society. He has also reviewed mountain sheep habitat relationships in central Idaho, compiled a 20-year record of plant production in central Idaho, and a history of the Lochsa Elk Herd.

Dr. Peek served on the Idaho Legislature's Grizzly Bear Oversight Committee, the Idaho Legislature Wolf Committee, and the National Academy of Sciences Committee of Forest

Management in the Pacific Northwest, The Wildlife Society Grizzly Bear Management Committee, and The Wildlife Society Wolf Restoration Committee.

He also was a participant in an evaluation of grizzly bear management in British Columbia, an evaluation of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife elk management program, an evaluation of mountain sheep conservation in Great Basin National Park, and a review of gray wolf delisting proposals for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Originally on the faculty of the University of Minnesota, Dr. Peek came to the University of Idaho in 1973. He received both his B.Sc. and M.Sc. from Montana State University, and his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.

News Release from Bird Source

Great Backyard Bird Count Goes Global in 2013

Bird watchers worldwide can take part for the first time

After 15 years of success in North America, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will open up to the entire world for the first time in 2013. Anyone, from anywhere on earth, can participate by visiting www.birdcount.org and reporting the kinds and numbers of birds they see during the 16th annual count, February 15–18, 2013.

A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, with partner Bird Studies Canada, the four-day count typically receives sightings from tens of thousands of people reporting more than 600 bird species in the United States and Canada alone.

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Great Backyard Bird Count

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Red-breasted Nuthatch, Christine Haines, WA, 2012 GBBC

"This year's count will give us a whole new perspective as sightings pour in from around the globe in real time," said Marshall Cliff at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "Millions of people encounter birds every day all over the world.

Imagine what scientists will learn if each one of us shares observations from our own area!"

During the 2012 count, participants reported 17.4 million bird observations on 104,000 checklists. Snowy Owls thrilled many participants when these striking birds-of-prey ventured south from the Arctic in record numbers. In 2013, scientists predict that U.S. and Canadian bird watchers will see an influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches and winter finches (such as Pine Siskins) because of scarce food supplies on their northern wintering grounds.

"The GBBC is an ideal opportunity for young and old to connect with nature by discovering birds and to participate in a huge science project," said Gary Langham, Audubon's Chief Scientist. "This year, we hope people on all seven continents, oceans, and islands, will head out into their neighborhoods, rural areas, parks, and wilderness to further our understanding of birds across the hemispheres."

Participating is easy. Simply watch birds for at least 15 minutes at the location of your choice on one or more of the count days. Estimate the number of birds you see for each species you can identify. You'll select your location on a map, answer a few questions, enter your tallies, and then submit your data to share your sightings with others around the world.

The global capacity for the count will be powered by eBird, an online checklist program for all of the world's 10,240 bird species.

Participants will be able to view what others are seeing on interactive maps, keep their own records, and have their tallies recorded for perpetuity.

"The popularity of the Great Backyard Bird Count grows each year," said Dick Cannings, Senior Projects Officer at Bird Studies Canada, "and with the new features, participation will be even more exciting."

The Great Backyard Bird Count is sponsored in part by Wild Birds Unlimited.

Kootenai County Big Year

Shirley Sturts

Our goal for the Kootenai County Big Year is to count at least 200 birds and if possible beat the record of the most found in one year. That record now stands at 209 species for 2012. With 105 species already reported as of January 29th, we are well on our way. In one month, we are over half way to our goal, giving us eleven months to find the other half.

What is surprising is the finding the number of species that are not reported every year. Some of those species are: Greater-white fronted Goose, Long-tailed Duck, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Snowy Owl, Barred Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, American Tree Sparrow, and Pine Grosbeak and Rusty Blackbird

You can see which species have been found, with the date first recorded, between 2002-2013 on our Website. Look under "Projects" and then click on "Spring Arrivals".

On the "Projects" page you will also find a link to the Kootenai County Big Year results for 2013. If you find any birds that have not been reported yet, email me at shirley.sturts@gmail.com.

Benewah County

I also compile the Benewah County list. That list has 61 species so far. All of these to date are from the Indian Mountain CBC and Donni Moen, who lives in the St Maries area.



Audubon Adventures program

Valerie Zagar

Thanks to the generous funds given by the Margaret W. Reed

Foundation, students in 128 classrooms in the Coeur d'Alene, Silver Valley, Lakeland and Post Falls districts will be participating in the 2012-2013 Audubon Adventures program.

Each classroom kit for 3rd-6th graders is designed to follow state and national learning standards for language arts, math, science and social studies. The topics for this year's theme, "Sharing Our Earth", include "Share Our Shores", "World of the Forest", "Grasslands: A Prairie's Tale" and "Caring for Our Planet-Be a Friend to Birds". Each kit contains student magazines and an educator's guide for every teacher. As an added feature this year, every teacher will receive a full membership to the National Audubon Society.

Special thanks to Scott and Mary Lou Reed for continuing to support such a great way for children to learn about the wonderful world of Nature!

Spirit Lake CBC

Shirley Sturts

On January 2, 2013, nine field observers divided into four teams, spent a cumulative total of 26 ½ hours by car plus another 4 ½ hour on foot to count 58 species and 1,220 individual birds. They covered 260 miles by car and 6 miles on foot. We set a record for the most species. The previous record was 57 species in 2002. The year 2002 still holds the record for the most individual birds, 1,555 individuals. You can see a chart showing results for each year from 1997 to the present on our website. Click on "Projects" and then look for Christmas Bird Counts.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Pileated Woodpecker
Photo by Bill Linn

Highlights include:

1 Pacific Loon, 1st for the count (Lisa Hardy, Bill Gundlach, John Harbuck)

2 Western Grebe (Kris Buchler, Carrie Hugo and Sally Jones)

2 Eurasian Collared-Dove (Janet Callen, Mary Deasy, Matt Thurley),

1 Pileated Woodpecker (feeder counter Cheryl Costigan)

4 Red-winged Blackbirds (Shirley Sturts, Roland Craft, Valerie Zagar)

Other highlights -- not seen every year:



Pine Grosbeak
From the Fuertes Collection

5

Barrow's Goldeneye

1 Great Blue Heron on top of a telephone pole in the Hoo Doo Valley

42 California Quail

3 Belted Kingfisher

18 Cedar Waxwing (a record)

63 Pine Grosbeaks (seen by 3 teams – they have been on the count 4 times before and in small numbers)

49 Evening Grosbeak,

Thank you participants: A special thanks to Janet Callen for hosting the compiling pizza party at her home.

Pend Oreille River and Lake

January 19th

Bill Gundlach



American Coot and American Wigeon – Photo by Wayne Tree

Five birders ventured north to see what we could see in a day along the Pend Oreille River and Lake in Bonner County. The weather was somewhat foggy and cold, but cleared up nicely later in the morning. We stopped at four locations along Dufort Road on the south side of the river: Morton Access, Laclede, highway overlook, and Thama.

We were not disappointed in the numbers of birds and species we saw. Large concentrations of American Coot and American Wigeon were on the water, in the 1000's. There were also a large number of duck hunters along the river which would have been nice not to see.



Bald Eagle – Photo by Rod Stamm

Of significance was the lower numbers of Redhead (88), Ring-necked Duck (48), and Lesser Scaup (15) seen compared to past years when huge numbers of these ducks have been seen on the river in January. Gadwall (76),

Canvasback (6), Hooded Merganser (14), Horned Grebe (15), Tundra Swan and others were seen.

At our lunch and rest stop at a gas station/store in Priest River, a Pileated Woodpecker was seen on a pole nearby, which was neat. We then headed back toward Sandpoint along the north side of the river with stops at Leclède and Dover. Sandpoint was passed by in favor of going to the Sunnyside area on the lake to finish out the remainder of the afternoon, and we were not disappointed, especially with the Bald Eagles and their diving on coots. The Bald Eagle total for the day was 26, with many of them sitting together in trees as a pair. Total Tundra Swans 23. Two large flocks of Pine Siskins of over 50 each were seen.

Total species for the trip was 40, about equally divided between water and land species, which made for a nice mix of birds seen. Trip participants were Bill Gundlach, Janet Callen, Roland Craft, Ellen Scriven, and Sally Jones.

New! Coeur d'Alene Glass Recycling

Reprinted from the Kootenai Environmental Alliance Blog

Did you know that nationally and locally, 75% of all glass ends up in landfills? Here in Coeur d'Alene, we throw away approximately 250 tons of glass per year! Some of us diehard recyclers collect our glass bottles and drive them over to Spokane, where we ask a friend to include it with their curbside pick-up.

But even in Spokane they are collecting it- just to throw it in their own stockpile with the hopes of finding a cost wise use for it. Except for one road project and a few experiments, however, the mound has mostly grown. The main pile of mixed colored glass, collected at the curb in Spokane, is 15 to 20 feet high and larger than a football field.

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Coeur d'Alene Glass Recycling

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Tired of watching glass fill up their trashcans week after week, a group of highly energized and green minded volunteers have come together to create the Coeur d'Alene Glass Recycling Company, a non-profit 501(c)3 partnering with the Kootenai Environmental Alliance, dedicated to reducing the amount of glass being thrown into the local landfill.

Leading this charge are husband and wife duo Ben and Melissa Mello, *"We are run completely by volunteers. Our members will need to pay a small annual donation fee which will be used to cover our lease and maintenance expenses. Our pulverizing machine will crush glass into "cullet" which has no sharp edges and can be used in a variety of different ways, from construction backfill to landscaping to counter tops. Our goal is to have as much of our cullet material as possible used locally here in North Idaho. We will be ready to begin collecting and recycling glass in March 2013!"*



If you would like to sign up to become a member or to volunteer – visit cdaglassrecycling.org to find out more. **Initial membership is limited, so be sure to sign up as soon as possible!**

Events and Field Trips

Mica Bay Survey

Date: February 12, Tuesday

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Activity: We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome. We will help you with identification skills.

Great Backyard Bird Count

February 15-18, Friday-Monday, 2013

<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

Coeur d'Alene area for the Great Backyard Bird Count

Date: February 17, Sunday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: Fernan Ranger Station

Leader: Lisa Hardy 783-1262

We will bird the Coeur d'Alene area, including Wolf Lodge Bay, Cougar Bay and the Rathdrum Prairie, to plump up numbers for our state for the GBBC (Feb. 15-18). In particular, we need to find Red-necked Grebes, which are not usually reported from elsewhere in the state. This will be a 3/4 day trip, so bring lunch and water, and wear shoes for walking short distances on muddy or snowy trails.

Lincoln County Winter Bird Route

Date: February 23, Saturday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: K-Mart parking lot, south side.

Leader: Roland Craft 457-8894

This will be full day and is a repeat of a trip we did in 2012 in search of winter birds.

Target birds: Owls, Horned Larks, Snow Buntings.

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Field Trips: Roland Craft 457-8894

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Education: Valerie Zagar 819-5115

Conservation: Volunteer needed

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Keith Sturts 664-5318

Hospitality: Carrie Hugo 689 -9600

Newsletter: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Mailing: Bill/ Joan Gundlach 667-3339

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