

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society
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February 2021

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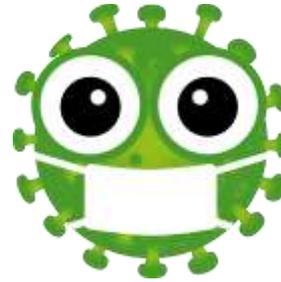
Zoom Meeting February 9 - 7:00 pm



Program: a video on raptors done by Mike Denney from his series: The Secret Life of the Forest: The Northern Blue Mountains. This is an excellent series produced for TV and available on YouTube. I recommend beforehand that you watch the introduction to this series on YouTube: The Secret Life of the Forest: Premier. We're excited to be bringing this program to you. Dick

Shirley will be sending out a Zoom link and information to those on the Audubon Chapter email list a day or two before the meeting. If you do not receive the link, send a request to shirley.sturts@gmail.com OR Patty Beyer at pattybeyer1020@gmail.com

President's Message



FEBRUARY - WOW!

What a start to the year: mob riot attack on the capital, second impeachment of our most-hostile-to-the-environment president, inauguration of a new president with extreme military presence, then a windstorm, a big tree smashes our garage, and we get our first viral vaccination! WHEW! Let's hope things slow down.

Amid all of this, CdA Audubon held our first meeting since last March (or was it February) on January 12. It was a Zoom meeting with 22 people participating. Ralph Kerr presented a great program of his photographs of wildlife taken in Yellowstone and Grand Tetons parks, featuring many birds plus, elk, bears, and wolves. Thanks to our new board member, Patty Beyer, who served as host and handled the technical side of Zoom, everything went off without a hitch.

Our next meeting on February 9 at 7:00 pm will also be via Zoom. You will receive an email message just before the meeting time with the link to access the meeting Zoom site. Participating by Zoom only requires email and an internet connection and is easy to carry out.

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President's Message

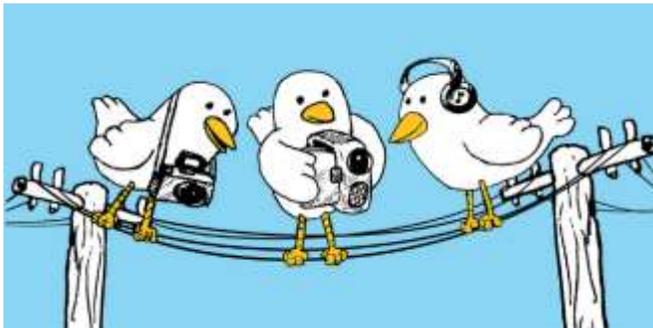
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You will get a visual image of the presentation as well as of the participants. If your computer has a camera your picture will appear also. There is no cost to participate, so join us next February 9 at 7:00. I am planning for all the meetings through the spring to be by Zoom. I hope that by June we will all have had the two vaccines and the pandemic will have slowed enough so that we can have our June picnic at Blackwell Island in the open like in the old days.

Ted has a couple of field trips scheduled reported elsewhere in this newsletter. Let's get out and see some birds. *Dick*



Birding Festivals



Because of Covid-19 many bird festivals have gone virtual. This does have an advantage of being able to go to a bird festival from the comfort of your own home. Here is a link to bird festivals with several listed as virtual.

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/birding-festivals/>

Here are some February Virtual Festivals

[Virtual Spring Bird Camp](#)

February 1 - March 18

<https://migratorybirdday.org/birdcamp>

Environment for the Americas
5171 Eldorado Springs Drive, Suite N
Boulder, CO 80303 United States

[Virtual Laredo Birding Festival](#)

February 13

<http://www.laredobirdingfestival.org/>

La Posada Hotel
5928, 1000 Zaragoza St
Laredo, TX 78040 United States

[Virtual/Hybrid San Diego Bird Festival](#)

February 17 - February 21

<http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/events/bird-festival>

Marina Village Conference Center
1936 Quivira Way
San Diego, CA 92109 United States



Salmonella-outbreak-reported-in-Pine Siskin

[British Columbia: Salmonella outbreak reported in Pine Siskins](#)

From [NEWS DESK](#) - January 10, 2021

The Wildlife Rescue Association of British Columbia is reporting a salmonella outbreak in Pine Siskin

They say increased reports of sick and dying birds have been noted across the Pacific Northwest, from Oregon to British Columbia.

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Salmonella outbreak reported in Pine Siskins

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Pine Siskin - Photo by Wayne Tree

Any bird can be impacted by salmonella, however, Pine Siskins seem to be most vulnerable. This is potentially due to their social nature, flocking and feeding in close association with each other making it easy for the disease to be passed from bird to bird.

In 2020, 127 Pine Siskins were admitted, which is a 13-fold increase from what we saw in the last two years. In December alone, 75 Pine Siskins were admitted and suspected to be infected with Salmonella.

Since the New Year began, 36 Pine Siskins suspected of Salmonella poisoning have been brought in, and more are coming in every day.

Salmonellosis is primarily transmitted by fecal contamination of food and water by sick birds, although it can also be transmitted through bird-to-bird contact. High traffic spots, such as bird feeders, create a source point of transmission and can exacerbate the spread of this deadly disease. Removing the feeders completely is the best solution to encourage birds to

disperse, thereby minimizing the potential for infection. If you choose to keep your feeders up, they must be properly maintained to foster a healthy bird environment.

If you are experiencing sick birds at your feeder: remove the feeder for at least 14 days so birds will disperse and are less likely to be exposed to the infection.

Consider taking down bird feeders or remove feeders that allow contact between fecal matter and food, such as platform feeders.

Clean feeders with a 10% bleach solution (9-parts water to 1-part bleach) at least once a week, followed by careful rinsing and complete drying. Refill with fresh birdseed before reuse.

Clean the ground below feeders of fecal matter and uneaten birdseed daily.

Comments by Doug Ward in from Inland-nw-Birders

Like most everyone in the region, we've experienced an irruption of Pine Siskins this year here in the Idaho Panhandle, with large groups being seen throughout the area. The Coeur d'Alene CBC (Kootenai Co., ID; 19 Dec.'20) had the largest total for the species in count history with 688 siskins reported, nearly double the previous record set in 1999. So with these increased concentrations (and visibility), it's not surprising widespread reports of diseased birds are being made. This phenomenon is also occurring up in BC, so definitely region wide.

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Comments by Doug Ward

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I'm heading down to Colorado in a couple of days, so will ask folks there if a similar trend has been noted.

The "Carduelus" finches (OG name of the goldfinch/siskin/redpoll family) seem to be particularly susceptible of being severely affected by salmonella as we seem to see a couple, particularly siskins, afflicted every year.

Interestingly, however, have not noticed symptoms in any of the other 8-10 species which regularly visit our feeders. We're pretty good about hygiene, but when the siskin infection and mortality rate jumped suddenly (+/-15%) in the flock of around 80 at our place in Hayden, ID a couple of weeks back, we took down the entire feeding station to clean, disinfect, and ultimately take offline to see if we could help slow the outbreak in this group. While the rest of the crew were a little disappointed, the siskins seem to have largely dispersed which was the point. We just put the feeding station back up yesterday as like Keith, enjoy the activity out the window, but will be monitoring closely to see if we have a reoccurrence. If so, it's coming down for the season.

We did keep the suet feeders up for the woodpeckers, chickadees, and nuthatches, as well as continued to widely spread millet/corn mix on the ground away from the feeding station for the quail, juncos, and sparrows, so did maintain a "non-siskin" feeding routine; only the finches seemed pissed. I think the point to take away is that we feed for our enjoyment. While some birds may become somewhat dependent on the soup kitchens we are providing, they will be fine without our artificial contributions. This is not to say the outbreak will cease if feeders are brought in, don't think we know, but if there is a chance our actions can negatively impact the wellbeing of another being, then we should try and mitigate. My two bits.



Recent Bird Sightings

Jan. 1 - from Valorie Zagar "Today a Northern Flicker came to the feeder and while clinging to the side, a Pine Siskin landed next to him and the flicker jabbed with his beak and the little Pine Siskin flew off but not very far, he was pretty shook up. I think he was ok, a Red-breasted Nuthatch flew off, he decided he didn't want any part of the greedy flicker. Such drama."

American Dipper -1 - January 9 - Mica Bay - Jerry Hanson

Common Grackle - 1 - January 20 - University of Idaho Parker Farm - 2 rare bird reports submitted - Carl Lundblad and Kas Dumroese



Field Trips

Annual Lincoln County/Davenport

Date: February 6, Saturday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: old K-Mart parking lot- SW corner

Leader: Ted Smith (406) 540-2673

Activity: Come prepared for the weather and bring a sack lunch as most eating options are limited due to covid restrictions. Bring a mask in case we find ourselves in a spot where we can't social distance. If you have trusted friends to carpool with that is great. Past records show this trip doesn't turn up a long species list but it certainly provides some interesting species we don't see often.

Mica Bay Survey

Date: February 9, Tuesday (Held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on the month)

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Leader: Janet Callen (208) 664-1085
Call her if you plan on coming - she may cancel if the roads are bad.

Activity: We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome. Distancing rules are followed

Create Your own field trip by participating The Great Back Yard Bird Count

Copied from Cornell Lab of Ornithology Website

Date: February 12-15, 2021

Birds are everywhere, all the time, doing fascinating things! Join us for one weekend in February to watch, celebrate, and count birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird

populations from around the world. Put Your Birds On the Map.

Great Backyard Bird Count results 2020:

268,674 -Estimated Participants

27,270,156 - -Total Birds Counts

6,942 - - Species of Birds Identified

194 Countries

1. Register for the count, or use your existing login name and password. If you have never participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count or any other Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you'll need to create a new account. If you already created an account for last year's GBBC, or if you're already registered with eBird or another Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you can use your existing account.

2. Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the GBBC. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day, for each new location, or for the same location if you counted at a different time of day. Estimate the number of individuals of each species you saw during your count period.

3. Enter your results on the GBBC website by clicking "Submit Observations" on the home page. Or, download the free eBird Mobile app to enter data on a mobile device. If you already participate in the eBird citizen-science project, please use eBird to submit your sightings during the GBBC. Your checklists will count toward the GBBC.

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

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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

