

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

January 2017

Volume 27 Number 5

## January Program

**Date:** January 10 Tuesday

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

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

**Speakers:** Suzanne Marshall

**Program:** "Birding the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge of Southern Oregon and Northern California"

Theodore Roosevelt established this as the first waterfowl refuge in 1908. The talk will cover the history of the area and the wonderful birding adventures you can experience. You won't want to miss this program brought by Suzanne Marshall of a new (to some) place to bird. Maybe a future trip?



which we share this earth. The tenuous success of the Council of Paris in bringing the plight of the earth to the forefront of human activities may shudder and fail if the USA is not in a leading role.

At this time each of us needs to be wary of shadows; we cannot wait until programs fail. We must be strong to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We must not falter. It is not a time to hide away to "see what happens".

David Yarnold, President and CEO of National Audubon Society sent an email to all Chapter Leaders after the election. Portions of it follow:

"We all know President-elect Donald Trump ran a campaign that was often at odds with Audubon's goals and its mission. Beyond that, his campaign challenged core values that Audubon holds dear....

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## President's Note

"Look hard at what pleases you and harder at what doesn't" - Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette

The end of a year and the beginning of a new frequently causes us to look closely at ourselves and our surroundings with critical eye. What Newyear Resolution might need to be instilled to spur a certain action? Are "things" going like we would wish? We can scrutinize the issues of the environment and conservation now as well. I am fearful for the programs that now exist protecting our air, water, and the creatures with



## President's Note

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Audubon has persevered and prospered through the tenure of presidents from across the political spectrum. Having seen administrations of all political flavors come and go, I want to assure you that we're well positioned to continue to build on our 111-year legacy. It's easy to talk about being a centrist network when political leadership has your back. But it's even more valuable to be a centrist network when political leadership is in your face...

Because we are home-grown everywhere, we bring an authentic voice to the local and state policies that are likely to hold the greatest opportunities for progress over the next four years.... We reflect a network of millions upon millions of people - from all across the political spectrum and of every conceivable background - who see, hear, and cherish birds every day...

We will work with this new administration wherever we can. And, based on its campaign promises, it seems clear we'll inevitably oppose it as well. And when we do that, we will do it in full throat and with all of the tools we know how to use, while not cheapening or personalizing the civil discourse that makes democracy special."

Within this email was a link to a letter addressed to the Congressional Committee on Appropriations from Audubon, and a request for each Chapter's representative to sign in support. I signed this for our group. That letter follows in its entirety:

"On behalf of the undersigned chapters of the National Audubon Society, we urge you to support strong funding for programs and policies that protect our nation's birds and other wildlife as part of the final appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2017.

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More than 46 million Americans participate in birdwatching, and countless more enjoy their presence on a daily basis. Birds provide vital services to our ecosystems, including as plant pollinators, and serve as key signals for the health of our environment. They also help support our economy, as birdwatchers spend more than \$100 billion each year that drives spending in our cities and states, creating \$13 billion in local, state, and federal tax revenue, and more than 650,000 jobs.

The FY17 appropriations bills provide an opportunity to support thriving bird populations and benefit our communities. First, we urge you to oppose harmful policy riders that would negatively impact birds and other wildlife and undermine core environmental laws. Proposed riders, such as a provision that would undo critical conservation protections for the Greater Sage-Grouse in the FY17 House Interior Appropriations bill, would set back years of collaborative progress toward needed solutions.

Second, we urge you to fully fund conservation programs. These include programs that help protect and restore habitat, such as the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We also urge you to fund water conservation efforts that help reduce stress to rivers and streams that are critical for people and birds. Programs such as WaterSMART and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program help to increase water efficiency at a time when regions such as the Colorado River Basin have seen more than sixteen years of drought. We encourage you to include \$100 million for drought response in the West and \$150 million for USDA's Watershed program to further address this pressing challenge.

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Pygmy Owl  
photograph by  
Darlene Carlton

## President's Note

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Thank you for your consideration of our views."(end of letter).

We love our birds, all of us in our own ways. Some just to watch occasionally and never know their names; some to watch, feed and identify; others

to watch, feed, identify, document; some watch policies and write letters; and there are some that do it all. No matter where or how we stand for birds, we are not alone.

Midge

## Coeur 'Alene CBC December 15<sup>th</sup>

Shirley Sturts



Varied Thrush – the star in the 2016 CBC  
Photograph by Doug Ward

Participating in our 26<sup>th</sup> CBC were 19 field birders grouped in 7 teams and 12 feeder watchers. We came up with 73 species plus 4 found during count week (cw). Count week is 3 days before and 3 days after the day of the count. Approximately 9900 individual birds were

counted. Out of 26 years of the count 73 is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the number of species (81 in 2012 is the highest and 4 other years has 73) . The individual number of 9900 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest out of 26 years (10,233 in 2012 is the highest).

Highlights of our count: Varied Thrush, American Robin and Dark-eyed Junco were all in higher than usual numbers while finch and hawk numbers were on the low side.

Varied Thrush 113 (on the count 9 out of 26 years with a high of 4 counted)

American Robin 966 (a record high)

Dark-eyed Junco 444 (a record high)

Anna's Hummingbird at Doug Ward's feeder for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row)

American Dipper 2 (on 4 out of 26 counts)

Yellow-rumped Warbler (new to the count)

Pipit (95% sure it is an American) would be new to the count if it could have been confirmed)

White-throated Sparrow (at Doug Ward's feeder - 2<sup>nd</sup> time on count)

Spotted Towhee (3<sup>rd</sup> time on a count)

Horned Lark, Western Meadowlark and Snow Bunting were good finds for count week.

See the results on our Website:

<http://cdaudubon.org/Projects/cdacbc.html>

<http://cdaudubon.org/Projects/cdacbcchart.html>

## Project FeederWatch eNews

December 14, 2016

### Tell us about eye disease in American Goldfinches

Last season a number of FeederWatchers wrote to tell us they were seeing an increase in eye disease in American Goldfinches. FeederWatch collected data on the disease in goldfinches for many years and then stopped because the prevalence of disease in goldfinches was minimal. Given the recent reports, we have reopened the disease reporting option for American Goldfinches. Now when you enter a count for

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## Project FeederWatch eNew

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this species, you will be asked if you looked for eye disease. If you answer yes, then you will be asked how many individuals you observed with disease.

### FeederWatchers started it all



House Finch  
Photograph by  
Wayne Tree

One of the best examples of Project FeederWatchers solving biological mysteries is the study of House Finch eye disease. It was first noticed in 1994 by FeederWatchers around Washington, D.C. Birds infected with this disease (also called *Mycoplasma conjunctivitis*) appear to

have red, swollen, runny, or crusty eyes. FeederWatchers are helping us understand how the disease is spreading from the East to the West in House Finches and how infection rates are changing over time.

### Check for disease and tell us even if you see no disease

Don't see any disease at your feeders? Think that makes your observations insignificant? It does not! There is no way to know the correct proportion of infected individuals without all those zeros. Even if only 1 person out of 100 notices signs of the disease, we need to know about those 99 zeros to be able to say that there is an infection rate of 1%.

Please report if you look for the disease during your regular count even if you don't see House Finches or American Goldfinches with apparent infection. Then check the "yes" box when asked if you looked for the infection, and type in a "0" when asked how many finches were infected.

## Inside Bird Conservation - November 2016 Special Edition on Eliminating Threats to Birds



Communications Towers

Following years of effort by ABC and partners, bird conservationists now have an opportunity to greatly reduce one frequent source of bird mortality. Steady-burning red or white lights on communication towers attract or disorient migratory birds flying at night. As many as 7 million birds a year die in collisions with towers and support wires as a result, with the tallest towers causing the highest mortality. New policies put in place by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) allow tower

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## Communications Towers

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operators to turn off these deadly lights.

These federal agencies are encouraging a switch to flashing lights, which reduces bird mortality by approximately 70 percent, saves electricity, reduces tower operating costs, and better alerts pilots to the towers' presence. As of mid-October, [753 tall towers \(over 350 feet high\) nationwide have already updated their lighting systems](#) under the new guidelines. The changeover requires simply flipping switches to reprogram the lights.

Another 15,000 tall towers still need to make this bird and energy-saving change. Thanks to the FCC and FAA and the support of the University of Michigan, ABC now has available a [toolkit for activists](#) to encourage tower operators to update their lights. [A technical guide to assist tower operators](#) is also available. Please take a look around your community; if there are tall towers with steady-burning lights, you can take a few simple steps that will protect birds and save energy.

### Field Trips 2016-2017



**Please Register:**  
Watch the website or newsletter for updates to our field trip schedule. Additional field trips will be added if we have volunteers to lead them. Please contact our field trip coordinators

Janet Callen 664-1085 or George Saylor 667-2787 to suggest or volunteer to lead a trip. 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 has been changed. Participants will share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver

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## Spirit Lake CBC

**Date:** January 2, Monday

**Organizer/Compiler:** Eula Hickum  
661-3228

**Meet** for breakfast Country Boy Café in Athol at 7:00 a.m., 7:45 a.m. to join your team. **Compiling and Pizza Party** about 4:30 p.m. **Where:** Janet Callen's home **RSVP:** Janet, 664-1085 or email, [jgoldfinch@roadrunner.com](mailto:jgoldfinch@roadrunner.com). Please bring money to share the cost of the pizza and something to add to a green salad (greens will be provided). Hot tea will be provided. Bring whatever else you want to drink.

## Indian Mountain CBC

**Date:** January 5, Thursday

**Organizer/Compilers:** Don Heikkila and Lisa Hardy 208-783 1262 - [basalt@frontier.com](mailto:basalt@frontier.com)  
Call Lisa or Shirley Sturts 664-5318 for meeting time and place

## Mica Bay Survey

**Date:** January 10th, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)

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

**Meet:** Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

**Leader:** Janet Callen 664-1085

**Activity:** We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome to come and learn bird identification skills.

## Rathdrum Prairie Hawk Survey

Will take place once a month from November through March. Doug Ward is the leader. This two-hour fast-paced, one-vehicle journey across the prairie is a learning experience that is a lot of fun. We travel in one car for safety. To reserve a spot call Doug 762-7107 or 699-9327

**New Member Application**

**Join Online**

Become a member of the National Audubon Society, Join online at:  
[https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation2?df\\_id=8080&8080.donation=form1](https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation2?df_id=8080&8080.donation=form1)

**Pick Chapter Code G06**  
**From the dropdown list**

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**Join by Phone**

You may also call National Audubon at **1-844-428-3826**  
And remember to reference our **Chapter Code G06**

**CDA Audubon Chapter Officers**

**President:**  
Midge Marcy-Brennan 661-0206  
**Vice President:**  
Dick Cripe 665-0010  
**Recording Secretary:**  
Valerie Zagar 819-5115  
**Treasurer:**  
Janet Callen 664-1085  
**Board Members: all officers +**  
Peggy Albertson, Barbara Christofferson, Darlene Carlton, Cathy Cousins, Carrie Hugo, Jim Lynn, Lynn Sheridan

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Publicity:** open  
**Field Trips:** Janet Callen 664-1085  
George Saylor 664--2787  
**Education:** Barbara Christofferson 667-3931  
**Conservation:** Midge Marcy-Brennan  
**Membership:** Peggy Albertson 664-1616  
**Hospitality:** Elli Emm  
**Newsletter:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318  
**Programs:** Eula Hickam 661-3228  
**Mailing:** Peggy Albertson 664-1616  
**Webmaster:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318  
**Historian:** Open

**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**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**

**National Audubon Coeur d'Alene Chapter  
P.O. Box 361  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816**

