

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

January 2018

Volume 28 Number 5

## January Program



Mallard – photo by Shirley Sturts

**Date:** January 9, Tuesday

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

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

**Speaker:** Brittany Morlin, from the U.S.  
Environmental Protection Agency

**Program:** Brittany will discuss the annual waterfowl surveys during the spring migration and how the data can be used to inform remediation and restoration in the Chain of Lakes as well as other locations.

## President's Message

"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."

*Theodore Roosevelt*

Dear Audubon friends,

2017 was, over all, a horrible year - not only for me, personally, but for the Country, for the World, for the Birds, for the Earth. I hope that 2018 will bring less tears and dismays, but hope doesn't change things. I can't make people be nice; I can't stop global warming; I can't save the polar bears; I can't save the mountain caribou; I can't bring the dead back to life. Hope can't either. It is enough to make me want to hide in the house and read a good fiction novel.

But the "Country" is important to me, as well as the World, Birds and Earth. I cannot pretend that all is well and we are just going through a phase. OK, I take that back. Maybe we are going through a phase called the "Sixth Extinction". But I will not "go gentle" into the "dying of the night". I may not be able to change anything, but I will not let the destruction come upon the world I love without letting my anguish known. I will be a guardian for the planet's environment if possible.

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## President's Message

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Edward Everett Hale said, "I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something I CAN do."

I CAN not get worn down by the horrors of the political actions dismantling the safeguards of our parks, monuments, reserves, water and food. I CAN continue to sign petitions and donate money to the organizations that have the mechanisms to fight those horrors. I CAN continue to write to our Congress people and stand up for the rights of those who cannot speak for themselves. I CAN recycle everything our system allows. I CAN keep my cat indoors. I CAN place window decals or protectors. I CAN ensure that every bird that ventures into my yard this cold day has food and water to make its life a little easier. I CAN make sure that my grandchildren and co-workers know that these things are important and why.

Troubles and fears abound; but we can't let them suffocate us. It is important to rage against worry and fear as well as the injustices in life; it is IMPORTANT to do happy things. It is my duty to myself to play board games with the granddaughters; drink tea with a mate straw; catch snowflakes with my tongue; enjoy the Symphony; go see "Death on the Orient

Express"; be awed by the 350 eagles at the Lake; and spend time with good friends.

We friends are venturing into another year as Coeur d'Alene Audubon. I am looking forward to the field trips we have planned, International Migratory Bird Day, Earth Day, the Programs that are planned, and the sharing of our love for Nature and Birdlife with each other. The camaraderie will strengthen each of us.

2018 is going to be a good year.

Peace to all,

*Midge Marcy-Brennan*



### December Bird Sightings



Common Redpoll – in the yard of Larry and Kazue Krumpleman – photo taken by Kazue

**Common Redpoll** - a total of 129 were counted on the CDA CBC (3 teams and 1 feeder reported them) December 16<sup>th</sup>

**Varied Thrush** - 1 - feeder of Shirley Sturts on December 31<sup>st</sup> - one was also found on the CDA CBC

**Anna's Hummingbird** - a daily bird at the feeders of Janet Callen and Doug Ward

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## December Bird Sightings

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Bald Eagle (one of 300+ being counted by Carrie Hugo, BLM – record high numbers this year)  
Photo by Darlene Carlton

**Hairy Woodpecker** – a daily bird at the feeder of Shirley Sturts

**Gulls reported** by Jon Isacoff in Wolf Lodge Bay

700 California Gulls

300 Herring Gulls

300 Ring-billed Gulls

26+ THAYERS/ICELAND GULLS -

conservatively 18 adults, 6 first cycle, and 2 2nd cycle

2 GLAUCOUS GULLS - 1 adult and 1 first cycle

2 KUMLIEN'S ICELAND GULLS - 1 adult and 1 second cycle

1 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - adult

1 MEW GULL - adult

## Coeur d'Alene Christmas Bird Count Results



Shirley Sturts

The CDA CBC was held on December 16<sup>th</sup>. We had a good turnout this year. After a hearty breakfast at Michael D's, 7 teams set out to cover a 15 mile diameter circle. The center of the circle is in the Coeur d'Alene Memorial Gardens. It covers all of Coeur d'Alene and much of Post Falls and Rathdrum. The eastern edge is Bennet Bay, thus missing all the eagles that gather in Wolf Lodge and Blue Creek Bay. Our seven teams had 19 all day birders and 4 half day birders with 10 feeder counters helping us come up with a total 64 species and 6888 individual birds.

We have been doing this count for 27 years. How did this year compare with our past 26 counts? It was on the low side in both species and total birds but not the lowest. 64 species ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest out of 27 years. Our lowest was 57 species in 2008. Our highest number of was 81 species in 2014. Our 6888 individual birds ranks 10<sup>th</sup> lowest out of 27 years. The lowest number of birds was 4042 in 1993 and highest number of birds was 10,119 in 2007. There are several conditions that affect these high and low numbers. I see in 1993 we had only 10 birders in the field and no feeder counters. The weather, amount of snow on the ground, amount of open water and food available all are factors in the count results.

Every year brings surprises. Last year we had record numbers of Varied Thrush and American Robin. This year it was 169 Common Redpoll seen by 3 teams and one feeder counter. Redpolls

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## Coeur d'Alene Christmas Bird Count Results

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have only been found in 8 out of the 27 counts (plus 1 count week). The 2 Clark's Nutcracker were a nice find as we have had them only 3 other years.

Eurasian Colored-Dove first showed up in our 2009 count. They continue to do well with 273 being a record high. The 383 Wild Turkey beat the previous 2015 record of 286. Missing for the first time was a Northern Shrike. I'm sure they are around but not one showed itself. If it hadn't been for the sharp eye of one of our feeder watchers, we would have missed the Sharp-shinned Hawk. We had 4 last year.

We finished off the day compiling our team results and enjoying a pot luck at the home of Theresa Potts. A big thank you goes to Theresa for hosting our gathering again this year.

See the results on our Website:

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

and

<http://cdaudubon.org/Projects/cdacbcchart2.html>



Copied from *Inside Bird Conservation* - November 2016 - Special Edition on Eliminating Threats to Birds - This will be continued in the February newsletter

### 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 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.

### Public Lands

#### **American Bird Conservancy Statement on the Malheur Occupation Verdict**

American Bird Conservancy respects the judicial process but is deeply troubled by the outcome of the Malheur case. Armed occupation of public lands sets a dangerous precedent.

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## Public Lands

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It puts our ecologically valuable wildlife at risk and disrespects the men and women charged with protecting our natural resources.

"The occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge was an affront to the millions of Americans who love birds and the public lands that provide bird habitat, and to federal employees for trying to do their jobs," said ABC President George Fenwick. "National Wildlife Refuges are important for birds and other wildlife, and for the nearby communities that benefit from tourism generated by wildlife watching, hunting, and fishing. We need to honor these lands, and the public servants that act as our stewards, and make every effort to prevent small groups of armed extremists from taking them over for themselves what belongs to all Americans."

(Eliminating Threats to Birds - to be continued in our February newsletter )



## Field Trips



Our field trips are also posted on our Website

<http://cdaaudubon.org/fieldtrips.html>

Please contact Dick Cripe 208-665-0010 to volunteer to lead a trip or to suggest places to go.

### Mica Bay Survey

**Date:** January 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 664-1085

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

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## Lincoln County, WA

**Date:** January 20, Saturday

**Time:** 7:30 a.m.

**Meet:** K-Mart parking lot

**Leader:** Dick Cripe - 208 665-0010

**Activity:** this is an all day trip - bring lunch, water and dress for the weather - call Dick to register for this trip. He will then call you to cancel if the weather looks iffy.

## Farragut and Bayview

**Date:** February 3, Saturday

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

**Meet:** K-Mart parking lot

**Leader:** Dick Cripe - 208 665-0010

**activity:** This is a half day trip - bring water, a snack and dress for the weather

## Backyard Feeder Tour

**Date:** February 17, Saturday

**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

**Meet:** K-Mart parking lot (south side)

**Leader:** Judy Waring 208 765-5378

**Activity:** We will take a tour of the feeders in the yards of some of our Audubon members. This is a half day trip. Please register with the leader so that you can be contacted if we get weathered out.



## 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-

**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

**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 208 661-0206  
**Vice President:**  
Dick Cripe 208 665-0010  
**Recording Secretary:**  
Valerie Zagar 208 819-5115  
**Treasurer:**  
Janet Callen 208 664-1085  
**Board Members:** all officers + Barbara Christofferson, Kathy Cousins, Darlene Carlton, Eula Hickam, Ralph Kerr

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Publicity:** open  
**Field Trips:** Dick Cripe 208 665-0010  
George Saylor 208 664-2787  
**Education:** Barbara Christofferson 208 667-3931  
**Conservation:** Midge Marcy-Brennan  
**Membership:** Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616  
**Hospitality:** Elli Emm  
**Newsletter:** Shirley Sturts 208 664-5318  
**Programs:** Eula Hickam 208 661-3228  
**Mailing:** Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616  
**Webmaster:** Shirley Sturts 208 664-5318  
**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\_\_\_\_\_

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Mail this form and your check payable to: **Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter**  
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