President’s Letter

Merry Christmas!

However, as I write this message four days before Xmas I have to confess I’m not yet in the holiday spirit. Too much shopping and package mailing, Christmas cards to write, planning for meals in and meals away, all of it definitely upsets my routine. By the special day, however, all that will have been done and I’ll enjoy meals with friends, exchanging gifts, and lengthy phone conversations with family. I’ll be sure to take some time to ponder the meaning and wonder of it all.

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January Program

Date: January 8, Tuesday
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Lutheran Church of the Master,
4800 N. Ramsey, CDA
Speaker: Craig Cooper
Program: “Solving the Climate Change Challenge - What’s Happening and What You Can Do to Help”

Climate change poses a critical threat to our environment, our economy, our security, and our lives. We are beginning to see its effects today. Summers are longer and hotter, storms are more frequent and more severe, droughts are growing worse and fires more devastating. These threats are growing rapidly, and threaten the future of our families and communities.

The good news is that we know how to solve this problem, and how to create the political will to do so. The Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) is a non-partisan, non-profit grassroots network of local volunteers working in communities across the nation to implement national policies to address climate change. Our Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal would greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions while growing our economy and helping our families adapt. Please join us to learn more about our organization, and how we can work together to build a more livable world.
President's Letter
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The CdA Christmas Bird Count was a success with 19 participants in 6 teams and 10 feeder counters that covered the CdA area. 67 + 3 count week species were identified and 9024 individual birds which is on par with previous years. I spent the day with Doug Ward on the Rathdrum Prairie and the Dalton Gardens area. Doug’s skill took the pressure off me as I was able to spot and identify maybe one bird for every 10 that Doug spotted. But, it was fun and the weather for the day was great. Thanks to Teresa Potts who hosted the potluck dinner at her house where we tallied our count at the end of the day.

On January 5 we will conduct the Indian Mountain Bird Count in two teams. Janet Callen will lead the east team around Harrison and Shirley Sturts will lead the west team around Chatcolet and Heyburn SP. Our results will be reported into Audubon national office. The weather is predicted to stay mild. So sign up with either of them to participate: Janet – 208-664-1085; Shirley – 208-664-5318.

Happy New Year!
- Dick Cripe -

Christmas Bird Count
This was the 28 year that our chapter has been participating in the CBC. The results of all the previous counts can be found on our Website - There is one chart that has each year listed. Another chart shows the current year, how many counts it has been seen on, and the highest number seen. They are found under “Projects”.

http://cdaaudubon.org/Projects/cdacbc.html
http://cdaaudubon.org/Projects/cdacbcchart2.html

Thank you to all that participated in the count this year. A special thanks to Theresa Potts for hosting the potluck and compiling party after the count. I appreciated and also thank Doug Ward for being the lead on the compiling session and to Crystal Murray-Weston who stayed at the end and added up all the totals. Crystal saved me a lot of work on the compiling and it is much appreciated.

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Some of best birds were the Red-breasted Merganser (9th time plus 2 cw on the count), Peregrine Falcon (2nd time on the count), Lesser Black-backed Gull (count week CW), Anna’s Hummingbird at Doug Ward’s feeder for the 5th year in a row), Gray Jay (6th time found on the count, American Robin (for the 2nd highest numbers-537-reported by all teams and some feeders - we had 966 in 2016 but only 1 last year) - see sighting for who reported these species and where,

Team E (City Beach, Dike Road, Cougar Bay to Kidd Island had the highest number of species (40) and team F doing the Spokane River from Highway 95 bridge to Post Falls had the highest number of individual birds (2228). Feeder Watchers (including Avondale Lake) had 25 species and 154 individual birds.

December Bird Sightings

**Barrow’s Goldeneye** - December 4 - 12 - Higgin’s Point - Doug Ward

**Red-breasted Merganser** - December 15 - CDA CBC - Cougar Bay - Roger Doucet, Rich Del Carlo, David Yake, Crystal Murray-Weston

**Great Blue Heron** - December 9 - 25-30 mostly standing around on the ice at Harrison Slough - Carl Lundblad

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** - December 4 - 1 (among 350+ gull feeding with the eagles - Higgin’s Point - Doug Ward - and December 16 for CDA CBC Count Week - David Yake

**“Thayer’s” Iceland Gull** - December 9 - 1 adult at Harrison Slough and 1 -1st cycle at Harrison Harbor - Carl Lundblad

**Peregrine Falcon** - December 9 - 1 Harrison Harbor - Carl Lundblad and December 15 - Cougar Bay - CDA CBC - Rich Del Carlo, David Yake, Crystal Murray-Weston

**Anna’s Hummingbird** - December 4 - 2 (continuing) - Loch Haven, Hayden - Doug Ward

**Swamp Sparrow** - December 9 - 1 along the boardwalk in Heyurn State Park - Carl Lundblad

**Gray Jay** - December 15 - 1 possibly 2 CDA CBC - English Point - Bill and Sally Gundlach

**Dark-eyed Junco** December 8 - St. Maries - showed up with other juncos but without it’s long tail? - maybe escaped from a predator = Donni Moen
Howard Youth is ABC's Senior Writer/Editor. He has been a birder for 40 years - and a native plant gardener for just about as long. Howard volunteers in parks near his home in Maryland, cutting back invasive exotic plants so they do not overwhelm important bird habitats.

Manicured suburban lawns just don't cut it for birds. Sure, you may see an American Robin stop by. But to attract birds to your home (and provide needed food and shelter), move beyond lawns to create a buffet of benefits for your avian neighbors. Read on for a list of a dozen kinds of plants that will have your yard bursting into song.

It's About Location ... of Food

For starters, remember that to attract birds to your home, real estate is a lot about location, location, location ... of food. Recent studies document widespread losses of insect life, which adversely impact bird populations. As for birds, a recent study documented how suburban birds need native plants — which host native insects — to thrive.

As natural habitats dwindle, especially around large urban centers, suburban and urban residents need to up their game for wildlife. It can be a lifesaver for birds that are losing habitat to development. Kay Charter, Founder and Executive Director of Saving Birds Thru Habitat, has some encouraging words on every individual's effort to attract birds and provide habitat.

“Every single person who owns a piece of property of any size can make a difference. They can begin by removing non-native plant species on their land and replacing them with natives. Why native plants? Native plants are important for many reasons, but they are essential as virtually the only hosts for many native insects. Insects are essential food for many birds, particularly nesting songbirds. ... A small yard, even in the heart of a city, can provide these crucial sites.”

Kay and her husband Jim established the 45-acre Charter Sanctuary near Omena, Mich., where more than 60 bird species have nested. The Charters have worked hard to keep native plants going strong and to provide an educational opportunity for others. Charter explains why native plants are the best choice for breeding birds:

“Baby birds, like baby humans, must have the building blocks of protein in order to develop and grow into healthy fledglings. ... [they get] that necessary protein from insects. Insufficient insect food results in underweight or fewer fledglings, or, worse, failed nests.”

Planting bird and insect-friendly native trees and shrubs is a great way to get started now on a property that will sustain wintering, migrating, and breeding birds.
Field Trips and Activities

Our field trips are also posted on our Website [http://cdaaudubon.org/fieldtrips.html](http://cdaaudubon.org/fieldtrips.html)

Please contact Dick Cripe 208-665-0010 to volunteer to lead a trip or make suggestions.

**Mica Bay Survey**

*Date:* January 8, Tuesday  
*Time:* 9:00 a.m.  
*Meet:* Fairmont Loop and Highway 95  
*Leaders:* Janet Callen, 208 664-1085  
Shirley Sturts 208 664-5318  
*Call leader:* if you are coming  
*Activity:* We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome.

**Indian MT Christmas Bird Count**

*Date:* January 5, Saturday.  
*Time:* 7:00 am. (East side)  
*Meet:* Sherman Avenue Forest Service Office for east side birders - TBA for west  
*Leader:* Janet Callen (east side 208-664-1085 approx. Rose Lake to Harrison - to St. Maries) (west side - Shirley Sturts 208-664-5328 Spokane Pt. CDA Lake - to Heyburn State Park to St. Maries). Contact the above if you want to join their team.  
*Activity:* All day - total species and numbers will be compiled and sent into National Audubon by Lisa Hardy.

**CdA Bird Feeder Survey**

*Date:* January 19  
*Time:* 9:00  
*Meet:* Former K-Mart parking lot.  
*Leader:* Judy Waring (208) 765-5378.  
Dependent on weather.  
*Activity:* Half-day. This is a repeat of a popular event last year. Participants will visit the houses of various members in CdA and check on their feeders.

**Heyburn State Park:**

*Date:* February 9.  
*Time:* 9:00  
*Meet:* Lowes Parking Lot, west side.  
*Leader:* Dick Cripe – 208-665-0010. Trip is dependent on weather.  
*Activity:* This is a ½ day trip to tour the waters around Plummer, Heyburn Park, and Benewah Lake.

**Lincoln County, WA.**

*Date:* Mid-March  
*Time and Meet:* TBA  
*Leader:* TBA. Dependent on weather  
*Activity:* This is a popular annual trip. Check on early waterfowl as well as owls and other predators. Reardon, WA including Reardon Ponds, Davenport, WA including cemetery, rural roads and Mill canyon.

**Chain O’ Lakes, CdA River.**

*Date:* Mid-April.  
*Time:* TBA  
*Meet:* Sherman Avenue Forest Service Office.  
*Leader:* TBA  
*Activity:* Observe the early arriving waterfowl along the chain of lakes from Killarney Lake to Harrison. Look for swans, ducks of all kinds, early migrants.

**Lee Metcalf Wildlife Refuge - Hamilton, Montana**

*Date:* TBA - Late May to early June.  
*Time and Meeting:* TBA  
*Leader:* George Sayler  
*Activity:* This will be a two day trip to the area around Hamilton, MT. This area provides diverse habitats of wetlands, riparian, dry uplands, and forested areas.
CDA Audubon Chapter
Officers
President: Dick Cripe 208 665-0010
Vice President: Midge Marcy-Brennan 208 661-0206
Recording Secretary: Valerie Zagar 208 819-5115
Treasurer: Janet Callen 208 664-1085
Board Members: all office+
   Barbara Christofferson, Darlene Carlton, Ralph Kerr, Lisa Clark, Suzanne Marshall

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Publicity: open
Field Trips: Dick Cripe 208 665-0010
   George Sayler 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: Midge Marcy-Brennan
Mailing: Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616
Webmaster: Shirley Sturts 208 664-5318
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
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