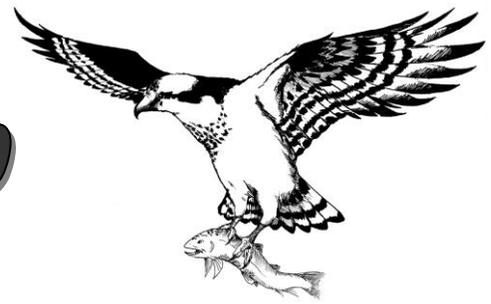


# ***THE FISH HAWK HERALD***



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

March 2009

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 7

## **MARCH PROGRAM**

### **NOTICE**

**\*\* MEETING LOCATION: First Presbyterian Church, 521 E. Lakeside \*\***  
(The Lutheran Church of the Master is not available for March 4<sup>th</sup>)



**DATE:** March 4, Wednesday

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

**SPEAKERS:** Mary and Jim Costello

**From the  
Fuertes  
Collection**

**PROGRAM:** "The Rock Creek Mine: Legal Status and Impact on Wildlife and Habitat"

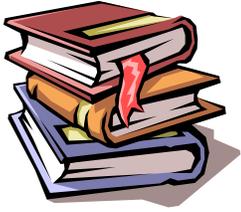
**The topics covered** will include a brief history and review of the Rock Creek mine proposal, including the mine's current permitting status. Issues addressed will include the Rock Creek mine's expected impacts to wildlife from the loss and degradation of habitat, including the grizzly bear, bull trout, Harlequin Duck, Pileated Woodpecker, Canada lynx and wolverine. The current legal status for the project will also be briefly reviewed, including the potential impacts from a recent decision by Montana's Supreme Court.

**Mary Crowe Costello** has been working on the Rock Creek mine issue since 1995 and is co-founder of the Rock Creek Alliance. She currently serves as its Executive Director.

**Jim Costello** serves as both the Montana Field Director and the Outreach and Communications Coordinator for the Alliance. Jim worked for agri-businesses for over 25 years, and was employed as Farm Manager for a large tree nursery and farming operation in Sanders County, Montana. He has been involved in the environmental community for over 25 years, and has served as an active volunteer for the Rock Creek Alliance.

Visit our Website:  
[www.cdaudubon.org](http://www.cdaudubon.org)

# "BIRDWATCHER: THE LIFE OF ROGER TORY PETERSON"



by Elizabeth Rosenthal

A book Review by Shirley Sturts

Roger Tory Peterson has always been a hero of mine. I started learning to identify birds using a Peterson field guide. My copy of *Peterson's Field Guide to Western Birds*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition became so worn with use that my husband sent it out to be rebound.

Rosenthal's book, *Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson*, is more than a biography of Roger Tory Peterson's life. It covers the embryonic beginnings of the Audubon Society and bird conservation worldwide, to the time of Peterson's death in 1996. I was fascinated by how involved and influential Peterson was in bird conservation and in the lives of so many, including birding celebrities such as Kenn Kaufman and David Sibley. Just how much impact Peterson had in the world of birds and bird watching is brought out by Rosenthal in her extensive interviews of family, friends and people from all over the world. Rosenthal states under her sources, "To give the reader a true flavor of Roger's worldwide impact, I have made the interviews the foundation of this biography".

At age 11, Peterson's teacher, Miss Hornbeck, encouraged an interest he had already acquired in birds by having her class form a Junior Audubon Club. Although Miss Hornbeck encouraged his interest in birds, Peterson describes an event that sealed his lifelong passion for birds this way: "I can remember the day early in April, 1920, even the hour, when I became hooked. On Saturday morning during one of my youthful explorations, I spotted a bundle of brown feathers clinging to a tree. It was a flicker, tired from migration. The bird was sleeping with its bill tucked under the loose feathers of its back, but I thought it was dead. I poked it with my finger; instantly, this inert thing jerked its head around, looked at me wildly, then took off in a flash of gold. It was like resurrection. What had seemed dead was very much alive. Ever since then, birds have seemed to be the most vivid expression of life."

From this beginning, Rosenthal takes us on a "Peterson life adventure" as family and friends share their memories of this almost legendary man that

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influenced generations in identifying birds and in conserving their habitat. We follow Peterson's life from working for the Union Furniture Company in Jamestown, decorating lacquered Chinese cabinets, to camp naturalist, to heading the education department of the National Audubon Society, to publishing the Peterson Field Guide Series, to his love of painting and photography, to worldwide travel, and finally to his passing on at age 88 with "a half-finished plate of accidental flycatchers on his drawing board".

Along with all his achievements, we also learn about two important and influential women in his life; Barbara, the mother of his 2 sons, Tory and Lee, and Virginia, his companion in the latter part of his life.

*Birdwatcher: The Life Of Roger Tory Peterson* is well worth reading. I would put it on my top 10 birding books to read, if I had a list which I don't, but maybe I will someday ☺.

*Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson*  
by Elizabeth J. Rosenthal  
Published by The Lyon Press, Guilford, Connecticut,  
2008.

Price \$29.95, hardback

To read more about the book and about the author go to: <http://www.petersonbird.com:80/>

## BIRD QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. What makes a Flamingo pink?

- A. Blushing
- B. Eating red cherries
- C. They are naturally pink
- D. Eating blue-green algae and aquatic invertebrates

2. How long can an albatross glide without moving its wings?

- A. 8 hours
- B. 6 days
- C. 12 days
- D. 100 days

Answers on page 4

## APRIL PRESENTATION



### "CREATING A GARDEN ATTRACTIVE TO BIRDS"

Phyllis Stephens, the premier voice of Inland Northwest gardening, will be speaking at Lutheran Church of the Master (Kathleen and Ramsey) in Coeur d'Alene on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. and will include a question and answer time as well as refreshments to enjoy.

Phyllis, a Spokane native, is a professional horticulture consultant and landscape designer. She will bring a great program on this subject.

Birders and gardeners are encouraged to attend. It will be an enjoyable evening for all. For information or to help with treats and publicity, contact Eula Hickam 661-3228 or [ehickam@roadrunner.com](mailto:ehickam@roadrunner.com).

A \$5.00 per adult is requested.

## LINCOLN COUNTY FIELD TRIP

Roland Craft

The field trip over to Lincoln County, WA, was quite successful because of the variety of birds we observed. The temperature in the morning was right around freezing and cloudy with several snow flurries but the sun came out in the afternoon. We birded between Reardan and Davenport, both north and south of Highway 2.

The highlight was spotting (Ed and Bill saw it first) an immature Snowy Owl perched on a post about 100 feet from Highway 2 between Davenport and Reardan. We all got good looks before it flew away. Other birds too numerous to count were Snow Bunting, Horned Lark and of course European Starling. We also saw 1 Bald Eagle, 7 Red-tailed Hawk, 2 Rough-legged Hawk, 1 Prairie Falcon and 1

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Northern Shrike. Near the grain elevators in Davenport we saw 3 Eurasian Collared-Dove. This species was introduced from Europe and is rapidly colonizing in North America (according to Sibley). Rounding out what we saw were Downy Woodpecker, House Sparrow, American Robin, Rock Pigeon, Gray Partridge, House Finch, Mountain Chickadee, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Black-billed Magpie, Common Raven, Northern Flicker, and Red-Winged Blackbird.

Participants were Ed and Kris Buchler, Janet Callen, Bill Gundlach, Jan Severtson, Judy Waring, Karen Williams and Roland Craft

## 2008 YARDLIST CHALLENGE

Lisa Hardy



We had an interesting tie in 2008 for total number of species seen from a single yard - 69 - between the Buchler, Hanson and Ward yards. The first

two have water views, and the third is near the water; generally it is the species associated with water that can really beef up the species count. The Hansons observed two new species never before tallied on the yardlist challenge - Northern Pintail and Sandhill Crane.

A total of 110 species were reported from 11 yards, with 6 species reported from all yards - Northern Flicker, Steller's Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco and Pine Siskin. Seventy-five species were reported from between 2 and 10 yards, while 29 species were reported from only a single yard each, for example, the Common Loon spotted by Shirley. I was surprised that we had no reports of Northern Pygmy-Owl, though the other feeder predators were in evidence - Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, and Merlin.

Bob Hanson reported an unusual flyover of at least 26 Common Nighthawk. Nesting activity was noted in many yards, including House Wrens and Tree Swallows in Donni Moen's yard, House Wrens at the Severtson's, Western Flycatcher and Northern Rough-winged Swallow at the Hanson's.

A big thank you to all participants! The complete list can be found on the website.



See the article in our October/November issue about the Idaho Birding Trail Signs by Kris Buchler. In the October/November issue, we featured the Red-naped Sapsucker sign that is now up in Mica Bay. The Mountain Bluebird sign has been placed in Farragut State Park

Mountain Bluebird photo is by Tom Munson



## MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

Henry David Thoreau might have been describing Idaho's State Bird when he wrote "The bluebird carries the sky on his back." Our migratory Mountain Bluebird signals the return of spring when it favors open woodlands, farmland edges and recently burned forests. It may hover, or drop down from a perch to glean insects from foliage or snatch them from the air.

All bluebirds depend on old woodpecker holes and natural or man-made cavities in which to place their nests. These nests consist of plant stems and grasses. Males and females build the nest but only females incubate the 4-8 pale, blue eggs which take approximately 2 weeks to hatch. Spotted juveniles are ready to fly two weeks later and may often help care for a second brood of chicks.

Conservation efforts include "bluebird trails" which provide nest boxes in the proper habitats. These replace declining natural snags upon which these birds depend for nesting cavities. Insectivorous birds such as bluebirds benefit from a reduction of pesticides.



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### Answer to quiz questions from page 2

1. D - Birds are unable to produce carotenoid pigments. Flamingos derive the required carotenoids from their food of blue-green algae and aquatic invertebrates. The healthier the flamingo, the brighter its feathers, so vibrant pink flamingos are desirable mates
2. B - An Albatross can glide through the air for up to 6 days without moving its wings, even taking a nap aloft.

helps to filter and clean wetlands with lesser levels of contamination and still provides a safe food source for wetlands wildlife.

Duck potato was, and continues to be, a plant of great cultural significance to Native Americans in our Region. Both the Nez Perce and the Coeur d'Alene Tribes historically harvested duck potato from our local wetlands.

## PICK A PLANT

Carrie Hugo



### Duck Potato- Sagittaria latifolia

Unless you are an avid waterfowl hunter, or a really observant wetland enthusiast, you may not even know of such a plant as duck potato. Also known as wapato and broadleaf arrowhead, this plant is a deeper water perennial found in our local wetlands in

great abundance. As its name suggests, the duck potato has a large tuberous base. The "potato" is a prized food source for waterfowl, muskrats, and beaver. The seeds of the plant are also a valuable food source for waterfowl, songbirds, and wading birds as well. Its broad, lance-shaped leaves are 4 to 12 inches long and the plant can attain a height of up to 4 feet. So, in addition to being a great food source for all kinds of wetland wildlife, dense stands of duck potato also provide great cover for waterfowl that need to hide themselves or their broods from predators.

The tubers can reproduce very well vegetatively, and the seeds are viable as well. The tubers store lots of nutrients and metals from the water and sediments in wetlands. This can be a good thing and a bad thing for our local wetland wildlife. In the lower Coeur d'Alene River, the water potato helps to remove toxic heavy metals like lead and arsenic from our contaminated floodplain. However, the tubers from this plant are a source of toxic metals for waterfowl and other wetland wildlife that use the lower Coeur d'Alene River. In other areas of the Panhandle, like the lower end of Lake Coeur d'Alene, duck potato

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## BIRD'S MOVEMENTS REVEAL GLOBAL WARMING THREAT

SPECIES WINTERING FARTHER NORTH SHOW NEED FOR POLICY CHANGE

News release from Audubon

WASHINGTON, DC, February 10, 2009-The northward and inland movement of North American birds, confirmed by thousands of citizen-observations, provides new and powerful evidence that global warming is having a serious impact on natural systems, according to new analyses by Audubon scientists. The findings signal the need for dramatic policy changes to combat pervasive ecological disruption.

Analyses of citizen-gathered data from the past 40 years of Audubon's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) reveal that 58 percent of the 305 widespread species that winter on the continent shifted significantly north since 1968, some by hundreds of miles. Movement was detected among species of every type, including more than 70 percent of highly adaptable forest and feeder birds. Only 38 percent of grassland species mirrored the trend, reflecting the constraints of their severely-depleted habitat and suggesting that they now face a double threat from the combined stresses of habitat loss and climate adaptation.

Population shifts among individual species are common, fluctuate, and can have many causes. However, Audubon scientists say the ongoing trend of movement by some 177 species - closely correlated to long-term winter temperature increases - reveals an undeniable link to the changing climate.

"Birds are showing us how the heavy hand of humanity is tipping the balance of nature and causing ecological disruption in ways we are just beginning to predict and comprehend," said report co-author and Audubon Director of Bird Conservation, Greg Butcher, Ph.D. "Common sense dictates that we act now to curb the causes and

impacts of global warming to the extent we can, and shape our policies to better cope with the disruptions we cannot avoid."

Movements across all species - including those not reflecting the 40 year trend-averaged approximately 35 miles during the period. However, it is the complete picture of widespread movement and the failure of some species to move at all that illustrates the potential for problems. **Continued on page 6**

## **BIRD'S MOVEMENTS...**

**Continued from page 5**

- Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and Boreal Chickadee have retreated dramatically north into the Canadian Boreal, their ranges moving an estimated 313, 246, and 211 miles respectively over 40 years. Continuing warming and development are predicted to have adverse impacts on the Boreal forest and the species that depend on it.
- Red-breasted Merganser, Ring-necked Duck, and American Black Duck, normally found in southern-tier states, have all taken advantage of warmer winter waters and have shifted their ranges north by an estimated 244, 169, and 141 miles. Still, they are likely to be negatively impacted by the increased drought expected in many parts of North America as global warming worsens.
- Only 10 of 26 grassland species moved north significantly, while nine moved south. Species such as Eastern Meadowlark, Vesper Sparrow, and Burrowing Owl were likely unable to move despite more moderate northern temperatures because essential grassland habitat areas have disappeared, having been converted to intensive human uses such as row crops, pastures, and hayfields. In combination, global warming and ongoing overuse of grasslands by humans will doom grassland birds to continued population declines.

"Experts predict that global warming will mean dire consequences, even extinction, for many bird species, and this analysis suggests that the process leading down that path is already well underway," warned Audubon President John Flicker. "We're witnessing an uncontrolled experiment on the birds and the world we share with them."

Butcher explains that many birds move great distances to find suitable food and habitat, but questions how far they will be able to move in the face of climate change before

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they run out of habitat, food or even luck. "The long term picture is not good for many species, and even in the short term, a single harsh winter could have a devastating impact on birds that have moved too far," he adds.

New forward-looking research from Audubon California reinforces the national findings, predicting that about 80 of that state's native bird species will experience significant climate-driven reductions in their geographic range over coming decades.

Scientific models indicate that the magnitude of losses in California depends largely on steps taken now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The California Gnatcatcher could lose as much as 56 percent of its range, or as little as 7 percent, depending on how climate change is addressed. Projected range losses for the Bay Area's popular Chestnut-backed Chickadee vary from 49 percent to as little as 16 percent.

Detailed GIS maps were produced using the California research project predicting where the birds are likely to be in 50 to 100 years. Findings will help policymakers and land managers augment efforts to mitigate the severity of global warming impacts with better habitat conservation investments to address changes that can't be avoided.

"The birds are giving us yet another warning that it's time for urgent action," added Flicker. "People hear about melting glaciers and changing weather, but now they can witness the impact global warming is having with the birds they see or don't see right outside their doors. These birds are our 'canaries in the coal mine' and they're telling us that we'd better do something fast to curb global warming and to protect habitat."

Scientists say bold action is needed to overcome threats from global warming. Audubon calls on Congress and the administration to advance policies that will drastically reduce global warming, pollution, cut oil dependence in half, and invest in a clean energy future and the economic benefits it offers. Americans can sign a petition at <http://www.birdsandclimate.org/> to demand aggressive federal policy action.

Habitats already under siege from development, energy production, agricultural expansion and other human uses will require enhanced protection and restoration to sustain bird populations and provide ecological benefits essential to human health, economic prosperity and quality of life. Conservation efforts based on forward looking projections such as those from Audubon California are essential.

Audubon anticipates that the new avian evidence will help attract attention and spark action among more than 40

million U.S. bird-watchers, including tens of thousands who contributed to the Christmas Bird Count data on which the studies are based. The 109-year-old census provides the world's longest uninterrupted record of bird population trends. "Citizen Science is allowing us to

## MARCH FIELD TRIPS

### New Participants Wanted:

**Beginning bird watchers are welcome to join us on our field trips. Required: An interest in birds, a love of the outdoors and binoculars, if you have them. Our group is composed of friendly people with varied birding skills who will serve as your guides for the day.**

**PLEASE REGISTER:** Watch the website or newsletter for updates to our field trip schedule. 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 share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver (see President's message in the September newsletter).**

### MICA BAY SURVEY

DATE: March 10, Tuesday

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

LEADER: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318

ACTIVITY: We spend about 2-3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Everybody is welcome including beginner birders. We will help you with identification skills.

### SANDPOINT/PEND OREILLE LAKE

DATE: March 7, Saturday

TIME: 8:00 a.m.

MEET: K-mart Parking Lot - - parking lot behind Mexican restaurant

LEADER: Lisa Hardy, (480) 522-6056

ACTIVITY: Plan on a full day trip, with the usual stop(s) at Starbuck's in Sandpoint. We'll concentrate on waterfowl, looking for unusual loons, gulls and ducks, working around Sunnyside and perhaps as far as Denton Slough depending on weather and ice conditions.

### NEWMAN AND/OR LIBERTY LAKE

DATE: March 21, Saturday

TIME: 8:00 a.m.

MEET: K-mart Parking Lot- parking lot behind Mexican restaurant

LEADER: Roland Craft, 457-8894

ACTIVITY: This is a full-day trip so bring food and

better recognize the impacts that global warming is having here and now. Only citizen action can help us reduce them," said Butcher.

**Coming in the April issue: WAYS TO COMBAT GLOBAL WARMING AND ITS IMPACT ON BIRDS**

water. We will visit a new public area on the north side of Newman Lake for upland birds and waterfowl. Depending on how much time is left, we will look for upland birds and waterfowl around Liberty Lake.



## OTHER 2009

## FIELD TRIPS

**April 18, Saturday, Peone wetlands WA, Leader: Roland Craft 457-8894**

**Late April, 4-5 day trip to Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Leader: Eula Hickam 661-3228**

**May 16, Saturday, Phillips Farm and Steptoe Butte, Leader: Janet Callen 664-1085**

**May 30, Saturday, 1/2 to 3/4 day, Worley and Conkling Park area, Leader: Kris Buchler 664-4739**

## CENTURY COUNT - JUNE 2009

SELKIRK HOUSE – Your Base Camp to Outdoor Adventure!

DATE: June 6, Saturday, dawn to dusk.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Selkirk House, Friday - Saturday night June 5-6.

Three bedrooms, Sunroom, 2 baths (sleeps 6-8) Camper okay.

ACTIVITY: Our annual Century Count will explore Boundary County this year. We hope to cover some new territory. Selkirk House has been offered free of charge but we will require a donation to cover housekeeping.

Please reserve early. Bed spaces require full participation in the count. The sun porch can sleep any number in sleeping bags.

Final details regarding food and meals will be decided later.

Fun and games are guaranteed!!!

Contact Kris Buchler: 664-4739 or  
[eagleroost@roadrunner.com](mailto:eagleroost@roadrunner.com).

HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US! All birders are welcome!