

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society
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Upcoming Events

Next meeting March 12

The regular monthly chapter meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, at the Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey Road, Coeur d'Alene. Meetings were not conducted in January and February due to cold weather. The program for March is entitled "Dark Skies Initiative." James Fillmore will talk about the detrimental effects of light pollution.

President's Message

Greetings to all!

Boy, this has been a busy month for me and for Coeur d'Alene Audubon. Your website committee has been meeting regularly and working hard on updating and modernizing our website. I got to sit in on one of their meetings yesterday and was really impressed with what they have accomplished and where they are leading our website design. I think we will all be thrilled with the final product. We had two field trips this month and both were well attended (see field trip report). Also in this month's newsletter please check out the schedule of upcoming trips. Theresa Shaffer has taken over as Field Trip Chairperson and is doing a great job. I want to remind you all that we return to regular meetings on March 12 at 6:30 at the Lutheran Church of the Master on the corner of Ramsay and Kathleen.

I am really excited about the Beginning Birding class we have put together. The Coeur d'Alene Public Library was kind enough to handle the advertising and registration and room requirements for this class. The registration

filled up in a very short time so apparently there is a lot of interest in folks learning more about birding and we will be offering another class in the future.

So for now, clean your feeders and keep on birding. All the best. Ted

Feb. Field Trip Report

On February 7, several members from the CdA Audubon Chapter joined a group of birders affiliated with Spokane Audubon for a visit to Saltese Wetlands.

A total of 17 birders were on the three-hour field trip, and reported about 20 species. Highlights were short-eared owls (4), northern harriers, and a Cooper's hawk. There were lots of waterfowl and birders got some good looks at pintails and mallards. This area will only continue to improve for birding as the spring advances.

The monthly Mica Bay field trip was held on February 13. Six hardy birders, undeterred by the chilly grey weather, counted about 20 species. The birders counted fewer numbers of species and individual birds than on some previous trips, but this was still an improvement over January.

March should be a good month at Mica as new migrants will be arriving and the waterfowl will be less wary now that hunting season is over. The Mica Bay survey takes place on the second Tuesday of every month and all are welcome.

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Mark Your Calendars! Audubon 2024 Outdoor Events Announced

Our Regular Mica Bay Survey is the second Tuesday of every month. Meet at Fairmont Loop parking area at 8 am.

Overnight Birding Adventure, March 16 and 17, Saturday, and Sunday. Lewiston/Moscow area. This area includes numerous places that are good for early spring birding—Theresa Shaffer has identified 8 places to visit. Please contact her to let her know you plan to attend and to get lodging and travel information. Call her at 208-651-6484) or email tshaffer@gold.uidaho.edu

Day Birding Trip Wednesday, April 17. Slavin Conservation Area-Rosa Butte area near the Spokane West Plains. Meet at the At Home parking lot in Coeur d'Alene at 8am to carpool.

Overnight Walla Walla Birding Trip April 27 and 28, Saturday and Sunday. Blue Mountain Audubon Society who will be assisting and or joining CDA birders. Departure details will be provided at a later date.

Chain Lakes Birding Day Trip and Dinner, May 11, Saturday. Following the birding excursion, participants will meet inn Wallace for dinner.

Fernan Lake Birding Day Trip, Dates TBD.

Bonnors Ferry/Kootenai Wildlife Refuge Trip, June 8, Saturday. Birders may wish to stay overnight in Bonnors Ferry. Details TBD.

Carder Farm/Cougar Bay Breakfast and Birding Trip, June 15, Saturday. Meet at Theresa Shaffer's and Wes Hanson's place (on a 160-acre conservation easement) for breakfast. Details TBD.

Montana Field Trip/Loon Watching, July-August, Dates TBD. Overnight trip to Missoula to view loons at Seely Lake and to Bird at Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge.

Mica Bay Kayaking Day Trip, Date and time TBD. Enjoy birding at the Bay with Beth Paragamian. Kayaks will be provided.

Overnight Field Trip/Owl Banding, Polson, MT area., September/October, Details TBD. We will be joining the Montana Owls Institute at the University of Montana Biological Field Station to capture and band saw-whet owls. .

Pop-up birding events will be announced in the newsletter and via email as they are scheduled.

Test Your Avian Awareness: Parrots Might Surprise You

(Answers on Page 4)

1. Eight African Grey Parrots in the UK's Lincolnshire Wildlife Park had to be isolated because: a. They contracted Covid b. They cursed worse than proverbial sailors c. They bit visitors' fingers d. They routinely escaped their cages
2. Parrots can live up to: a. 100 years b. 50 years c. 25 years c. 10 years
3. A group of parrots is called a: a. Brigade b. Pandemonium c. Chatter d. Troupe
4. How many individual Kakapos, the world's rarest parrot, exist? a. 45 b. 80 c. 100 d. 126
5. There's a Death Metal band called Hatebeak whose lead and only vocalist is a grey parrot named Waldo. True or False?
6. What parrot has been sighted only three times in 100 years? a. Australian Night Parrot b. Mute Parrot c. Hummingbird Parrot d. None of the above
7. 500 Gray Parrots were trained to: a. sell Scotch Whiskey b. build a multistory aerie c. ride with police and attack on command d. herd sheep

8. Puck, the parrot world record-holder for his huge vocabulary, knew how many words?
a. 50 b. 80 c. 1000 d. 1700
9. The Kea Parrot is the only parrot to live in:
a. High alpine terrain b. Swamps c. Cliff nests d. Subterranean caves
10. Scientists call the process by which parrots maneuver over slender branches:
a. Partial Pirouetting b. Trapezing c. Beakiation d. Right Angulation.

In Memory of Flaco: New York City's Famous Owl Dies in Building Strike

Flaco, a Eurasian Eagle-Owl freed after more than dozen years of captivity from the Central Park Zoo, has succumbed to a fate common for many birds in urban and suburban areas. On or about February 23, he flew into a building on West 89th Street, likely mistaking its windows for the open night sky.

About a billion birds in the US meet with similar fates each year; in New York City alone, about 230,000 birds perish annually by flying into windows. Last year in Chicago, more than a thousand migrating songbirds died in one night when they flew into the McCormick Place Lakeside Center. Groundskeepers who found them said the dead birds covered the building's lawn "like a carpet."

Flaco, an impressive bird with a wingspan of about six feet, was let loose by an unknown vandal on February 2, 2023. For more than a year he delighted usually unflappable New Yorkers, winging his way down 5th Avenue and taking up residence in Central Park. Flaco enjoyed a diet of the city's famous rodents, forever endearing him to local residents in rat-infested neighborhoods.

His death was announced February 23 by Zoo officials. Crowds of mourners gathered at the Central Park tree where Flaco was often seen, leaving cards, flowers, toy owls and stuffed animals. David Barrett, the creator of Manhattan Bird Alert, said Flaco's demise

prompted an outpouring of grief from all over the world.

Flaco was born in captivity in March of 2010 in a North Carolina bird refuge. He spent most of his life in a mesh cage. At the time of his death he was a few weeks shy of his 14th birthday.

Flaco. Unfettered and Unafraid



Quiz Answers: 1, b, 2, a, 3, b, 4, d, 5, T,
6, a, 7, a, 8, d, 9, a, 10, c.

Birding Class Packs the House at the CDA Library!

The first Birding Education Course presented by the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter drew a sell-out crowd February 24, filling up the Nelson Room at the city's library.

Ted Smith, Chapter president, led the course with assistance from Ralph Kerr, former president and an accomplished photographer, and fellow board member George Sayler, who explained how to bird-watch using binoculars and a spotting scope. Board member Heather Smith took care of the class "paperwork" and attendance records.

The course was made possible by the Coeur d'Alene Public Library, which provided the Nelson Room and took student reservations. The course was filled within a few days, a good indication that there is a community of would-be birders in this area who are willing and eager to learn more about birding and the birds in this area.

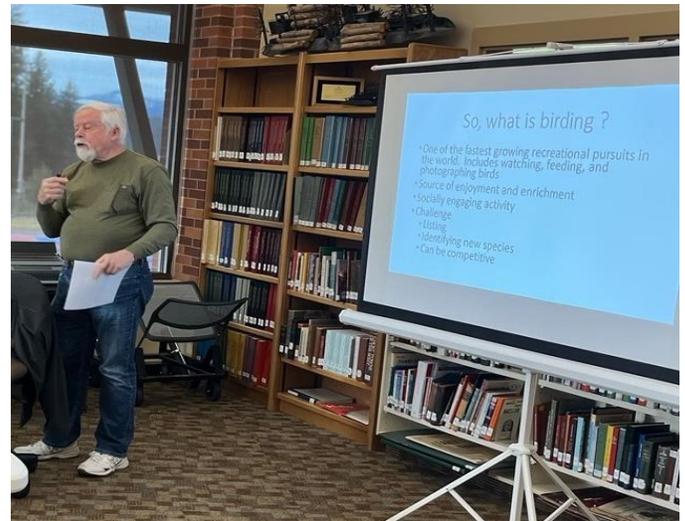
Ted told the students that they were participating in an experiment of sorts—it's a work in progress. The class may not run for four sessions, as it's been planned, but in any case the students will receive not just classroom instruction but take a birding field trip as well.

The participants were eager to learn, and appreciative that this course would focus on the process of birding and present guidelines for bird identification rather than running through a catalogue of birds of various species.

Students said they wanted to know more about how to attract birds to their backyard feeders, how to identify birds by appearance and song, and the basics of real-life birding.

It looks as if this "experiment" will be a rousing success. The next three sessions are set for Saturdays in March, beginning at 10:30 at the library. Below and on the next page are some photos from the first class.

Ted Smith Opens First Birding Education Class



George Saylor Explains the Spotting Scope



Photo by Lisa Clark

Future Birders at the First Class



F&W Service Sets Guidelines for Avoiding Bird Strike Fatalities

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has issued "best practices" guidelines for home and office owners and builders who want to avoid bird strikes on their structures. Here's some of their suggestions:

1. Create a visible pattern that breaks up transparent or reflective areas of glass. Vertical stripes that are at least 1/8 inch wide with a maximum spacing of four inches, or horizontal stripes that are at least 1/4 inch wide with a maximum spacing of two inches are optimal.
2. Applying color patterns on windows is also effective. Use colors that contrast well against the background color. Non-toxic tempera paint patterns or art will help birds to recognize this is a barrier, not an opening.
3. External films are also a possible option; they can be expensive but most have a guaranteed lifetime of 5 to 10 years.
4. External insect screens and netting can also be used to keep birds away from glass surfaces. To be effective the screen or net must be placed far enough away from the window so the bird will not hit the glass if it flies into the netting. It must be completely taut so the bird doesn't get trapped.
5. Reducing unnecessary nighttime lighting can also reduce bird strikes. This is especially important during bird migration periods. Birds are often attracted to lighting, particularly in inclement weather.

CDA Audubon Chapter Officers

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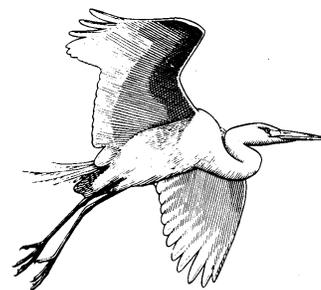
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