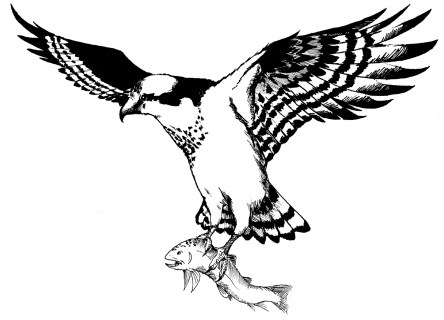


# THE FISH HAWK HERALD

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

November 2023 / Volume 33, Number 3



## November Events

### Regular Monthly Meeting

The November Coeur d'Alene Chapter meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 14 at the Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey Road, Coeur d'Alene. The program is TBD.

### Highway Cleanup Report

The Chapter's annual fall Highway 95 cleanup, held October 21, was a great success. Led by Ellie Emm, it began promptly at 8:30. Ellie provided coffee and cake on what turned out to be a glorious sunlit day! There were approximately 20 Audubon volunteers – our biggest turnout EVER! A number of new members were included in the count. Many hands make light work and most members had departed by 11:00 with 33 bags of trash collected. Thanks Ellie, for organizing and leading a productive morning. (See Page 5 for photos of Cleanup Day and Mica Bay Fieldtrip.)

### October Meeting Recap

By Peggy Albertson

Chapter President Ted Smith gave two excellent presentations at the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The first of his "Ted Talks" was about was his "Bird of the Month" – The Raven. He began with his recitation of Edgar Allan Poe's - "The Raven" and pointed out the differences between ravens and crows in both size and shape of their bodies, heads, beaks and tail feathers.

The cosmopolitan crow's "Corvidae" cousins—relatives including rooks, magpies, jays, and of course, EA Poe's famous visitor—are intelligent, adaptable birds. able to exploit a wide range of food sources. They have virtually no predators and are the world's largest songbird.

The second of Ted's talks was a beautiful slideshow of brilliantly-colored hummingbirds. He reminded the audience that all 340 species of hummingbirds exist only in the Western Hemisphere and can be found as far north as Southern Alaska and as far south as Tierra Del Fuego. 132 of those species can be found in Ecuador!

Also at the meeting, Wes Hanson gave a brief history of Kootenai County's Open Space Bond which will appear on the November 7<sup>th</sup> ballot. There was discussion about the continuing encroachment of homes and businesses into open spaces that are vitally important to birds and wildlife in the area. The \$50 million bond was approved for submission to voters by the county commissioners this summer.

The bond would preserve public open space on the Rathdrum Prairie and other parts of the county, help protect local drinking water and avoid overloading of area sewer plants. Approval requires a 2/3 majority of votes cast. It is expected to increase property tax by \$8 per \$100,000 of taxable assessed value. Revenue would be used to purchase of approximately 333 acres in the area.

### Inside This Issue

President's Message ..... P.2  
Avian Awareness Quiz. .... P.2  
Deadly skyscrapers decimate migrations ..... P.3

## President's Message

By Ted Smith

As I write this at the end of the third week October I can't help but reflect on what a beautiful month this has been. I always love the transition from summer to fall with the change of temperatures and shortening days.

The board and I have been working on several important efforts. We will be starting "Audubon in the Classroom" again this fall, maybe as a trial run, or maybe as an all-out effort. George Sayler has kindly agreed to lead this work

We finally have a website evaluation committee and now need to get to work on getting our website redesigned. If you haven't agreed to help with this and would like to please contact any of the board members.

Our third project for the fall is our plan to be present at Higgins Point at least one day every weekend while the Eagles are putting on their show. We haven't decided on start and end dates or other details but will hash that out at our next board meeting on November 7.

I have been continuing our Mica Bay Surveys. I know it's premature and unscientific but since mid-summer, I feel like I am not seeing the numbers of birds I should be seeing. I've heard this from other birders as well. Let's hope it's just my personal paranoia over the future of our birds.

To those of you that helped with the highway cleanup, (though it hasn't happened as I write this), thank you very much. Ellie works very hard to set it up and I know she really appreciates your support. A great example of our Audubon Club in action.

Finally I would like to encourage all of you to get informed about the Kootenai County Open Space Bond Election. I would also highly encourage you to consider supporting this far-sighted proposal. I know that my family and I will be voting for it.

This may be our last and only chance to keep some of the Rathdrum Prairie and other open spaces

intact. Open spaces are always important forage, refuge and migration areas in a rapidly fragmenting environment.

Happy birding!

## Test Your Avian Awareness:

Below, fill in the blanks to correctly answer the questions. (Answers on Page 5)

1. This bird can swim but cannot fly:  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Although owls can turn their heads 360 degrees, they cannot move their:  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. A hummingbird egg is the size of what "vegetable"? (Botanically, it's a fruit)  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. An ostrich egg is the size of what "fruit"? (Technically, it's a vegetable)  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. What bird is blind and hunts by its sense of smell?\_\_\_\_\_.
6. If humans' eyes were comparable to birds', ours would be the size of\_\_\_\_\_.
7. Five of these birds recently flew into a Milwaukee suburb, making big news.\_\_\_\_\_.
8. Scientists have determined what startling fact about condor reproduction?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

9. The only bird that can fly backwards is:

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10. More than 200 bird species engage in a behavior called "anting." What is "anting?"

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## Our Close Encounter with a Sharp-Shinned Hawk

By Barb and Bob McFarland

Our bird feeder is a very busy place, but occasionally it becomes quiet, and we know a predator has arrived. Recently, while having breakfast, I looked out the window and saw a small raptor lying on the ground, looking still and dead. I initially thought it was the merlin, our most frequent visiting hunter, but it turned out to be a beautiful sharp-shinned hawk. On closer inspection I found that the hawk was still alive but looked seriously injured, watching me from its supine position and gasping for breath, with one wing splayed out to the side. I put on a pair of heavy gloves and Barb brought a box, and when I reached to grasp it, it twisted onto its feet and stood up, but still looked badly hurt and made no further attempt to flee. One of its wings was hanging loose. I presumed that it had come too close to an electric service wire when it swooped in for one of the quail in our yard. The hawk had likely broken a wing, but it didn't appear to have broken its neck, which had been my first impression. It didn't resist at all when I gently folded its wing into position and placed it in the box. We made plenty of air holes and secured the lid, and as we did so it began to move around inside much more vigorously, which we took as a good sign.

I have heard presentations from the Birds of Prey Northwest rehabilitation center, located

near St. Maries, so I looked them up and spoke to the director, Janie. She was working with an eagle at the moment but offered to pick this new bird up at our house later in the day. She said that their first order of business in a case like this is to get an x-ray to determine the real nature of the injuries and to develop a prognosis and plan. They do this with Kootenai Animal Hospital on Seltice Way, so we drove the bird there ourselves. When we arrived and told them that Janie had sent us, they were all prepared, had "admission" papers ready, and accepted the hawk in a box without further ado. They warned us that they couldn't give us any more information on the patient, so we shouldn't call them. Barb joked that HIPAA has a long reach if it applies to non-humans too.

Early the next day Janie sent me a text reporting that the hawk had recovered fully, with no bony injuries on x-ray. It had flown off when released. It sounds like the diagnosis was a sprained wing and temporary shock, which is about as good an outcome as we could have hoped for. That turned our close encounter with a beautiful little hawk from a potentially sad event to a source of joy. We hope to see it back in our neighborhood, but at a safe distance. If our experience is representative, we can vouch that the Birds of Prey NW people make it very easy and gratifying to reach out to them for help with an injured raptor.





### Juvenile Sharp-Shinned Hawk

## Reflective Glass Exhibition Hall Creates a "Carpet" of Dead Birds in Chicago

Last month groundskeepers for a Chicago exhibition hall made a grisly discovery: more than 1,000 dead birds covered the ground, killed after slamming into the glass-walled structure on their annual migration.

Apparently the small migrating birds had waited until dark to fly, attempting to avoid predators and air turbulence. They couldn't see the reflective glass of the building, and flew into its windows with such force they died in droves.

This event caught the attention of national news media, but unfortunately it's not a rare occurrence in US cities. Hundreds of millions of birds die in window strikes each year in this country.

"We see this in pretty much every major city during spring and fall migration," Matt Igleski, Director of the Chicago Audubon Society, said. "This was a very catastrophic single event, but when you add it all up (across the country), it's always like that."

## The Takahe Is NOT Extinct!

The Takahe, a prehistoric bird declared extinct in 1898, has been reintroduced in New Zealand and now numbers about 500. This represents a victory for both conservationists and indigenous Maori (Ngai Tahu) in that country.

The decline of the wild takahe occurred—not coincidentally—when lands occupied by indigenous tribes in New Zealand was confiscated, sold, or simply stolen from the Maori. Their return is celebrated by the Ngai Tahu, who value the birds highly and wove their brightly-colored feathers into traditional clothing.

"This is incredibly significant to me personally," Tumai Casiddy, a Ngai Tahu elder,

said when the birds were released. "Being to do this on my own land, just remembering and

thinking about the seven generations of our people who fought to have our rights and our land returned."

## Rescued Kestrel Inspires (and Creates) Paintings

Although many folks have heard of the Irish artist Christy Brown, a man born with cerebral palsy who painted with his left foot, few know that a rescued American Kestrel in Vermont is making artwork of his own, using a similar method.



American Kestrel

Named "Ferrisburgh" for the town he hails from, the falcon had been captured and imprinted on humans as a baby. At the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), the bird (who cannot fly because of a broken wing) has taken to dabbing his feet in paint and creating abstract art in the style of, say, Jackson Pollock.

Rescued birds-in-residence at VINS are encouraged to participate a wide variety of activities, including playing with toys and games.

It was quite the feat (apologies for the bad pun) for Ferrisburgh to take up painting.

Answers: 1. Penguin, 2. Eyes, 3. Pea, 4. Cantaloupe, 5. Kiwi, 6. A baseball, 7. Flamingos, 8; Two females can produce offspring, 9. Hummingbird, 10. Picking up ants and cleaning their feathers with them.

## Highway Cleanup Photos



Chapter Members Gather at Mica Grange



Ellie Emm explains route assignments



New Member Jan Crouse is welcomed  
By Ron and Nancy Krouse

## Members Enjoy October Mica Bay Field Trip

Field trips for chapter members, led by Chapter President Ted Smith, are regular monthly events, weather permitting. In October, Ted led a group around Mica Bay. Below are photographs, taken by Ron Miller, of this October excursion.



Left to right: Ginger Knudson, Ted Smith and Mark Launder



Field Trip participants discuss the finer points  
of Mica Bay birding

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Vice President: Patty Beyer  
Recording Secretary: Pamela  
Gomes  
Treasurer: Ellie Emm  
Board Members: All officers and  
George Sayler, Dick Cripe, Heather  
Smith, Ralph Kerr

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Education: Barbara  
Christofferson  
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Conservation:  
Membership: Peggy Albertson  
208 664-1616  
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Newsletter: Alice Koskela  
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Webmaster: Patricia Beyer  
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**Local Membership Dues**

- ☐ Individual \$10.00
- ☐ Family \$15.00
- ☐ Individual \$25.00 - with hard  
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- ☐ Family \$30.00 - with hard  
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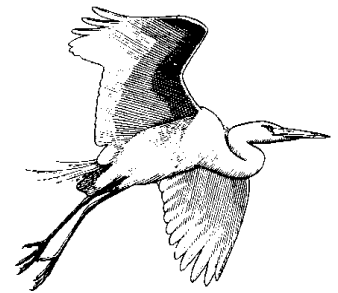
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