

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society
www.cdaaudubon.org

October 2021

Volume 31 Number 2

President's Message



Photo by Wayne Tree



October Program

October 12 , Tuesday

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Due to the increase in the number of COVID cases, this will be a zoom meeting. The program is still in the planning stage. Shirley will send out information on our membership email list when it is available. It will also be posted on our Website.

Officers and Board Members for 2021-2022

There are vacancies for more board members (and a Vice President) . If you are interested in being on the board or want to nominate someone, contact Ralph Kerr 208-660-3220

Welcome to fall! The days are cooler after a very hot summer and "fall is in the air." Rain has cleared some smoke from the air and we are enjoying some clear blue skies. Along with shorter days and cooler temperatures many of our avian friends are migrating to warmer winter climates. I personally witnessed some White Pelicans on their migration journey. With my interest in photography, of course I was interested in getting a photo of their migration flight. While visiting a small lake some Pelicans descended and landed. They fed for a while and then one of them lifted off followed a few moments later by the remainder of the group. They winged their way in circles apparently searching for a thermal to assist their lift to higher altitudes.

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President's Message

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They found such a thermal and continued to soar in a circle. I watched them from take-off until they got so high I could only see white dots in the sky. My thoughts were "have a safe journey and maybe I'll see you when you return next spring."

So, what's going on with our Audubon chapter? Actually, quite a bit, even though we are dealing with the resurgence of the pesky COVID virus. First, the board has voted to cease in-person meetings until further notice. Our October 12 meeting will be held via Zoom. The board took the action to acquire our own Zoom category level enabling us to have adequate time for the meeting. I encourage you to take note of your birding experiences and share them during our remote meeting.

Secondly, the October program has been postponed. The presenter expressed his preference to make the presentation in person rather than via Zoom. I hope this virus trend abates soon and we can enjoy this program in person, perhaps in the spring. At the time of this writing, efforts are being made to schedule an alternate

October program. Please watch the website for a program announcement as the meeting date approaches.

The Mica Bay Viewing Platform needs some attention in the form of cleaning and re-staining. The brass memorial plaque that has been at the platform was stolen. Pam is currently working on replacing the plaque. The access trail to the platform is in good condition. However, there are two trees leaning across the trail. There is room to walk under each of the trees, but please be very careful. We will be working to get the trees removed by someone who has the equipment to do so safely. That may take some time so caution is the watch word.



The fall highway cleanup is scheduled for October 16. If you have not received an email regarding this project and would like to participate, please contact me and I'll get you connected. I think there are some preliminaries to be worked out with the highway department ahead of time so please let us know as soon as possible. (I say "I think" because I have never organized this and am not familiar with all the details.)

Let's see, I guess I am at item #5. Past President Dick Cripe has written an excellent bird migration article for the Coeur d'Alene Press. The article has been submitted to the Press and may have already been published by the time this newsletter comes out.

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Idaho Rare Bird Sighting



Great Crested Flycatcher
Photo by Denise Hughes

A Great Crested Flycatcher was found in the town of Montour, Gem County on September 7th by Elizabeth Medes. On September 8th two friends, Denise Hughes and Cheryl Huizinga went with her to take photos and confirm the sighting.

This is only the 2nd Idaho sighting for this species. The first sighting was in the Camas National Wildlife Refuge, Jefferson County on August 29-30, 2017 found by Hilary Turner and confirmed by Darren Clark.

The Great Crested Flycatcher is a common breeder in central and eastern North America and southern Canada, migrating south to winter in central and south Florida, southern Mexico, Central America, and Colombia. A small, sedentary population may be present in Florida year-round.

If you look at Ebird map sightings for this flycatcher, you will see some scattering of fall sighting mostly in southern California and across the south western states. I see

no sighting in Washington and western Montana. There is one sighting in western Oregon in October of 2015 and two in the Salt Lake area.

One wonders how these two individuals found their way to Idaho. Were they taking the scenic route ☺? From what I read about them, they migrate at night so there would not be much to see. The September 7th bird does not seem to be in any hurry to continue its' journey. Many birders have seen the bird by now. It was still being seen as of September 23rd. As the weather changes, it will move on. It would be fun to track it to see where it spends the winter. All we can do is wish it safe travel.

Shirley Sturts



President's Message

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Finally, Ted is still working on field trips. COVID is limiting the field trip options again. One of the challenges is travel. When Ted arranges a field trip, any carpooling will be up to the respective individuals. It may be that we will all drive independently. Let's just figure out what works when a field trip is scheduled.

Shirley raised an idea she initiated in the past. It was called "Brown Bag Birding" Birders met for an hour of birding over the lunch hour. One of their past trips was a walk from Independence Point to the end of the NIC dike road. It encourages us to be creative to enjoy birds while we navigate through some group gathering limitations.

Enjoy fall, and good birding. *Ralph Kerr*

Fall Bird Sightings

American White Pelican - 4 -
September 5 - Cataldo area - Greg Lambreth

Virginia Rail - 1 - September 5 -
E.Thompson Lake Road - Greg Lambreth

Stilt Sandpiper 1 - August 27, Robinson
Marsh - Jacob Elonen

Lesser Yellowlegs - 2 - August 27,
Robinson Marsh - Jacob Elonen

Black Tern 1 - August 27, Robinson
Marsh - Jacob Elonen

Pileated Woodpecker - 1 - September
15 - 4th of July Summit - Ryan Bart -
and 1 - September 24 - Fairmont Loop
in their yard - Jan Severtson

Blue Jay - 1 - September 16 - Loch
Haven, Hayden - Doug Ward

Canada Jay - 1 - September 15 - 4th of
July Summit - Ryan Bart

Black-billed Magpie - 2 - September
15 - Fernan Lake -trying to feed at our
suet feeder and round block seed
feeder. They were very comical and
entertaining as they kept falling off
before they could get anything to eat..
After about 10 tries , they left -
Shirley Sturts

Common Yellowthroat - 5- September
19 - Canyon Road Marsh - Ryan Bart

White-throated Sparrow - 1 -
September 13-16 - Loch Haven,
Hayden (in his Yard) - Doug Ward

Golden-crowned Sparrow - 1 -
September 15-16 - Loch Haven, Hayden
(in his Yard) - Doug Ward

Lesser Goldfinch - 4 - September 19 -
Canyon Road Marsh - Ryan Bart

Mica Bay Survey results

September 12

Participants Janet Callen (leader), Ted and
Heather Smith;
Marilyn
Robinson; Peggy
Schnell, Carol
Ogle; Tom and
Maureen Benson;



White Crowned Sparrow -1

Black Cap Chickadee-12

American Goldfinch-2

Red-breasted Nuthatch=5

Song Sparrow-1

Northern Flicker-1

Red-wing Blackbird-11

Mallard-28 *

American Widgeon-2

Canada Geese-38*

Pied-bill Grebe-1

House Finch-4

*Very poor exact count of waterfowl. There
were more than 125 -a mix of Mallards and
Geese on the far side of the bay.

Hawk Species-1

Quail-maybe heard

Towhee-maybe heard

Frog-1



Field Trips and Activities

Board Meeting

Date: October 12, Tuesday

Time: 5:00 p.m.

.Place: Zoom meeting

Anyone interested in joining our team on the board, being vice president, conservation, publicity or historian chair call Ralph at 208-660-3220

Mica Bay Survey

Date: October 12, 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

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

Audubon Adopt-a - Highway Fall Highway Litter Pick Up

Date: October 16, Saturday



Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet: Mica Bay Grange

Leaders: Ellie 970 744-0104 and
Susie 208 818 1881

Activity: Susie and Ellie will have a drive-up area where you can sign the liability waiver, get some coffee, delicious treats, trash bags and gripper and be given your assignment. The job will be most efficiently accomplished with 16 people.

We could be in a huge COVID outbreak by then, so the Highway Department may cancel. If they don't, our worker bees may need to mask (unless they live together), socially distance and wear gloves.

**CDA Audubon Chapter
Officer**

President: Ralph Kerr 208 660-3220

Vice President: open

Recording Secretary: Pamela
Gomes

Treasurer:
Janet Callen 208 664-1085

Board Members:
all officers and
Ted Smith, Patty Beyer

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Publicity

Field Trips - Ted Smith

Education: Barbara Christofferson 208 667-
3931

Conservation:
Membership: Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616

Hospitality: Elli Emm\

Newsletter - : Shirley Sturts

Mailing: Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616

Webmaster: Shirley Sturts

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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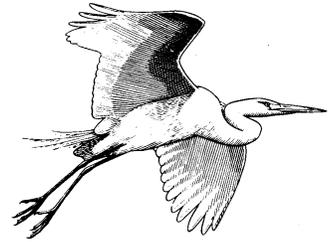
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