

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society

Editor: Shirley Sturts - E4615 Fernan Lake Rd - Coeur d'Alene, Id. 83814 -864-5318

SEPTEMBER 1998

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PAGE 1



CALENDAR CHECK

(Registering for a field trip is not required but if you register, the leader will call you if the time or meeting place is changed)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 21 MONDAY REGULAR MEETING

Time: 6:30 p.m. POTLUCK

7:15 p.m. Meeting

Place: First Presbyterian Church, 521 Lakeside Ave.
(Annex building)

Program: Kris Buchler will show some videos she and Ed have taken of birds and other creatures that visit their yard. Judy and Phil Waring will show slides of birds they saw during their travels to the Everglades and in the Brownsville, Texas area.

For the potluck, bring table service and a dish to share. Coffee, tea and cocoa will be available.

FIELD TRIPS

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9 AND TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29 MICA BAY SURVEY

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop Road turn off

Leader: Kris Buchler 664-4739

Activity: We will bird until 11:00.

A good time for migrants to be coming through

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

Time: 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop

Leader: Cindy Langlitz 762-0890

Activity: We will look for migrating shorebirds, warblers and waterfowl in Cougar Bay.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20

Time: 8:00 a.m. - all day trip

Meet: East side of Rosauers Parking Lot

Leader: Cyndi Langlitz 762-0890

Activity: Smith Creek (Boundary Co.) We will look for Boreal Chickadee, Black-backed Woodpecker, White-winged Crossbill, Spruce Grouse and late migrants. Bring a lunch and money for dinner at the 2nd Avenue Pizza in Sandpoint.



REMEMBERING GERTIE HANSON

1936 - 1998

A Center Did Not Rock

*I am glad my wife was quiet,
That she sat and read,
Listened to words spoken,
Fed birds,
And knew their songs.*

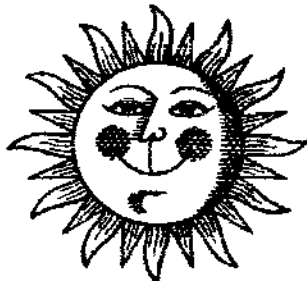
*That she knew of my excitement
Let me labor,
But chose her own way.*

*She was not urgent.
A center did not rock.*

Wes Hanson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Janet Callen



Are we a successful Audubon chapter?

I attended a seminar awhile back and the speaker informed us if at least ten percent of the members were actively involved, we were doing very well as a volunteer organization. I did a little adding and dividing

and discovered Coeur d'Alene Audubon exceeds ten percent.

Does a percentage measure a successful group?

And what, exactly, is active? Certainly, some of the more obvious activities such as serving on the board, attending meetings, going on field trips count. How about manning a booth at a craft show, fair or other activity? Or conducting bird surveys at Mica Bay, maintaining a blue-bird trail, participating in various breeding-bird surveys. What of the members who repair and clean nesting boxes at Mica Bay or the one who donates garage space, tools and expertise to construct bird and bat houses. Then there are those individuals who plant trees at wildlife refuges, or volunteer at conservation events sponsored by other organizations. What about the members who actively look for ways to bring educational conservation material to students or the ones who make Audubon Adventures possible? Some of our members attend community meetings about environmental matters and let government agencies and elected officials know their opinions. Many purchase bird seed, put up feeders and a water supply and landscape for birds and wildlife.

The mission of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society is to promote, perpetuate and protect Idaho's wildlife—particularly birds and endangered species—while preserving and enhancing their habitat through environmental education and activism.

I don't think the success of a chapter can be measured solely by accounting for the noticeably active individuals only, although they are essential to the continuance of our chapter. There are also many members working in their own way to promote, protect and perpetuate Idaho's wildlife, whom I've not had the good fortune to meet. Audubon members are valuable, because they would not be members if they did not care. Thank you all for your contribution.

BIRD SEED FOR SALE

A FUND RAISER FOR AUDUBON

50# Black Oil Sunflower \$16.00

Tax included

Niger (Thistle) \$1.40 a pound

(available at meetings)

Tax included

All proceeds go to the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter

Call Janet Callen at 664-1085

Membership Categories:

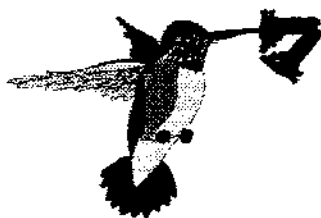
The introductory rate for one year membership in the National Audubon Society is \$20.00. Members will be asked to renew each year, generally in \$5.00 increments until they reach the \$35.00 basic membership rate. There is no longer a separate category of Family membership. Both individuals and Families can renew each year at the same dues rate and we define a family as members who reside within one household.

We offer a special \$15.00 membership rate for senior citizens (age 62 and over) and students. A student must be attending school on a full-time basis to qualify for the student rate.

ARIZONA BIRDING

Shirley Starts

Participants:
Ed and Kris Buchler,
Nancy Aley,
Shirley Starts



When John Shipley said he would lead a field trip for us to Tucson, Arizona in August we thought he must be crazy. John patiently explained to us that while normal people do use Arizona as a winter retreat, birders are just a little strange, they go in August. Why August? It is the month that feeders attract a variety of hummingbird species. Arizona is "hot" for birds in August. Human species that come to Arizona in August have one thing in common. They have binoculars hanging around their necks and a variety of bird field guides in their hands. We felt right at home.

Our first day with John we again questioned his sanity. He not only had us on the road at 4:30 a.m., he took us up in the Coronado National Forest over an incredibly bumpy road. We were traveling 5 miles an hour in places and going through ditches filled with water from the latest rain storm. It happens to be the monsoon season in Arizona. We were headed for California Gulch which is known by birders far and wide as a good birding spot. It took us a while to get with the program - ignore all common birds and concentrate on getting to the target bird of the day, in this case the Five Striped Sparrow. This sparrow is common in Mexico but extremely rare across the border. We spent about 3 hours hiking back and forth in the Gulch before we got a look at this elusive bird and then couldn't see the stripes. Not to be defeated, we repeated this trip a couple of days later with a scope so we could see those stripes. As an added bonus this second trip gave us a close up view of a very friendly Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet and a quick but satisfying look at a Varied Bunting.

Everyday was a new birding adventure with new target birds and John knew right where and how to find them. It made life easy and fun for us as we traveled in our air conditioned van from one birding spot to the next.

We saw a flock of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at a golf course pond in Nogales and a Hooded Oriole at Agua Caliente, a beautiful park in Tucson. In Ramsey Canyon we saw another rare Mexican bird, the Berylline Hummingbird. Feeding with the Berylline were many Broad-billed, Black-chinned and Magnificent Hummingbirds. Near Sierra Vista we learned how to tell a Lesser Nighthawk from the Common Nighthawk and got good looks at a Blue Grosbeak and a male Vermillion Flycatcher.

The next morning while hunting for the Elegant Trogon (unsuccessfully) in Fort Huachuca we added the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, the Hepatic Tanager and Bridled Titmouse to our ever growing list. We then headed for Patagonia. A very nice couple live here who are known among the birding crowd for their backyard hummingbird feeders and their hospitality. These are the feeders to come to if you want to see the Violet-Crowned Hummingbird.

A hard rain storm chased us out of Patagonia and on to Kino Springs to look for the Green Kingfisher (unsuccessfully). Our consolation prize was just as good if not better, a Gray Hawk. At Patagonia Lake State Park we had a good scope view of a Neotropic Cormorant. On our way out of the park a pair of rare Montezuma Quail appeared along the side of the road. We had a hard time seeing these as they have the frustrating habit of scrunching down and becoming invisible to their enemies and friends alike (we being friends).

Dedicated birders sometime end up visiting places that don't smell very good such as sewage ponds and landfills. Being the dedicated types John knew it was safe to take us to the Tucson Sewage Ponds to see the Harris Hawks and to look for shorebirds. Several Black-necked Stilts and 2 Solitary Sandpipers were present. We were even treated to a Peregrine Falcon flying low over the ponds.

Some of our best birding was found on Mount Lemon. John saved the best for our last day. The Red-faced Warbler and Painted Redstart were unbelievably beautiful. The Olive Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler and Grace's Warbler ran a close second. On our way down the mountain we got a great view of a Zone-tailed Hawk.

Continued on page 4

NIC - COMMUNITY EDUCATION - BIRDS OF NORTH IDAHO

Do you want to join the fastest growing group of hobbyists in the United States? North Idaho College is again offering a beginning birding course for those who want to learn: how to begin, what equipment is really needed and how to choose it, how to attract birds to your yard, what to feed and what makes a good birdhouse. The class is listed in the Fall Schedule and classes meet as follows:

BIRDS OF NORTH IDAHO

Wednesdays, 7-9 PM. October 7, 14, 21, 28

Saturdays, 9AM- 12PM. October 10 & 24

Call NIC or Kris Buchler (664-4739) for information.

GERTIE HANSON BLUEBIRD TRAIL SURVEY

Survey and trail maintenance participants: Nancy Aïen, Kris Buchler, Corinne Cameron, Leslie Johnson, Theresa Potts, Jan Severtson, Shirley Sturts, Judy Waring, Susan Weller, Roger Young

Western Blue Bird

29 young fledged from 6 nests

3 nests fledged 4 young each

1 nest fledged 5 young

2 nests fledged 6 young each

Mountain Blue Bird

8 young fledged from 2 nests

2 nests fledged 4 young each

1 nest of 6 young found dead after
period of cold wet weather

Tree Swallow

88 young fledged from 23 nests

MONTANA FIELD TRIP

MAY 23-24

The weather started the weekend looking grim, but the Big Sky Country of Montana opened up for us and provided a great weekend of bird watching.

We toured the Bison Range and Ninepipe Natural Wildlife Refuge and saw a large variety of birds and mammals. The seven participants (Ed and Kris Buchler, Ken and

Sandy Light, Janet Callen, Nancy Aley and Cyndi Langlitz) counted 76 species of birds: Grebes (Red-necked and Western) Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Ducks (Wood Duck, Mallard, American Wigeon, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Redhead, Ring-necked), Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Red-tailed and Swainson's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Prairie Falcon, Kestrel, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Ring-billed Gull, Tern (Forster's, Black), Sora, Coot, Grouse sp., Ring-necked Pheasant, Mourning and Rock Dove, Great Horned Owl, Short-eared owl, Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Western Wood-pewee, Eastern and Western Kingbird, Black-billed Magpie, Steller's Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Golden and Ruby Crowned Kinglet, Swallows (Cliff, Barn, Violet-Green, Bank, Rough-winged), Western and Mountain Bluebirds, Robin, Warblers (Yellowthroat, Yellow-rumped, Yellow, Townsend's), House Wren, Cedar Waxwing, Sparrows (Savannah, Chipping, Grasshopper, Song, Vesper), Spotted Towhee, Blackbirds (Yellow-headed, Red-winged, Brewer's), Bobolink, Bullock's Oriole, Western Meadowlark, House Finch, Evening Grosbeak, House Sparrow,

ARIZONA TRIP

Continued from page 3

The one bird we got the most excited about was the Black Hawk. It was new to all of our life lists and we found it on our own. We had worn John out by this time and he was on an airplane returning home. Before he left he gave directions to the home of the Black Hawk which nests up Aravaipa Canyon and told us we had a 50% chance of seeing it. We were driving along when Kris spotted it sitting in a Cottonwood Tree. It cooperated by sitting in the tree preening and showing off the white wing and tail markings - before flying off. Kris got some good video tape footage as proof of our find.

We were all smiles as we prepared for our own airplane ride home the next morning. As a group we had compiled a list of about 137 species, many new to our individual life lists. We thank John for his patience and excellent leadership on this memorable birding trip.

MICA BAY SURVEY

Participants: Janet Allen, Kris Buchler, Corinne Cameron, Pam Comrie, Bill Gundlach, Jerry and Sharon Hanson, Leslie Johnson, Theresa Potts, George and Katie Saylor, Jan Severtson, Shirley Sturts, Roger Young

*Nests and Young fledged are recorded separately

Species	May 15	May 25	June 12	June 26	July 10	Aug. 10	Aug. 26
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Red-necked Grebe	2 pr	1 pr	1 pr	1 pr	2 pr.	2	2
Great Blue Heron	6	3	3	6	3	2	2
Canada Goose	33	3 pr	8	8	34	-	-
Wood Duck	7	8	1	4	1	3	-
Green-winged Teal	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mallard	17	11	11	32	-	12	12
Cinnamon Teal	2	1 pr	1 pr	-	-	-	1
American Wigeon	6	3	3	1	-	-	-
Turkey Vulture	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
Osprey	-	1 pr	3	4	1 pr	2	1
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hawk (Accipiter sp.)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
American Kestrel	1 pr	-	1	-	-	-	2
Wild Turkey	-	1+	-	-	1+	-	1 fw/10 y
Sora	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
American Coot	4	-	-	-	-	-	5
Killdeer	-	2	2	-	2	-	1
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Common Snipe	4	3	2	3	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Gull Sp.	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	2	3	3	1	2	5	2
Black-ch Hummingb.	2	2	1	-	1	-	-
Calliope Hummingb.	2	1	-	2	1	-	-
Hummingbird, Sp.	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Common Nighthawk	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Vaux's Swift	-	-	-	2	-	-	3
Belted Kingfisher	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red-n Sapsucker	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	2	1	1	1	-	-	-
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1	-	4	-	-	-
Northern Flicker	1	2	1	-	-	6	1
Western W-Pewee	-	-	-	-	-	5	1
Empidonax Sp. (Flycatcher) -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Willow Flycatcher	-	-	2	2	6	4	-
Cordilleran Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	1 pr	-	-
Eastern Kingbird	-	1	1 pr	4	1 pr	1	-
Red-eyed Vireo	-	-	2	2	-	4	-
Swallow sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	200+
Violet-G Swallow	24	12	-	19	12+	-	10+
Tree Swallow	23	24+	24+	10	12+	20+	10+
N.Rough-w Swallow	-	6	-	1	1+	-	-
Cliff Swallow	-	24+	-	2	12+	-	10+
Common Swallow	12	-	12+	3	12+	11	10+
Common Raven	-	2	1	2	2	3	2
Steller's Jay	-	2	2	1	-	-	1

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

MICA BAY SURVEY

Continued from page 5

Species	May 15	May 25	June 12	June 26	July 10	Aug. 10	Aug. 26
Black-C Chickadee	2	1	1	-	4	5	-
Mountain Chickadee	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Red-b Nuthatch	-	1	1	-	2	3	2
House Wren	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
Western Bluebird	1 pr	-	1 pr	1 pr	1 pr	-	-
American Robin	6	7	3	6	4	10	24
Swainson's Thrush	-	-	1	-	2	1	-
Gray Catbird	-	1	1	2	10	6	2
European Starling	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	-	-	2	6	4	18	4
American Redstart	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Yellow Warbler	10	8	6	5	6	10	-
Yellow-r Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Common Yellowthroat	1	-	-	4	2	-	-
Black-h Grosbeak	2	2	3	8	1	-	2
Spotted Towhee	2	1	-	1	2	2	1
Chipping Sparrow	-	1	-	-	-	2+	-
Song Sparrow	11	11	15	11	6	7	2
Dark-eyed Junco	2	1	-	-	-	4	1
Red-w Blackbird	39	32+	18+	9	12	20+	60+
Brewer's Blackbird	-	4	1	-	-	-	-
Brown-h Cowbird	-	1	-	8	4	35	12
Cassin's Finch	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
House Finch	2	1	1	3	-	2	1
Red Crossbill	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	7	6	7	1	-	-
American Goldfinch	2	2	3	4	1	11	1
Evening Grosbeak	6	6	6	3	6	-	-

Breeding Recorded:

Red-necked Grebe 2 pair, fledged 1 young each

American Wigeon 1 f with 3 young

Canada Goose 4 pair with broods - total 36 young

Wood Duck 2 pair with broods - total 9 young

Mallard 2 pair with broods total - 10 young

American Wigeon 1 f with 3 young

Osprey 1 pair fledged 2 young

Willow Flycatcher 1 pair fledged 1 cowbird (adult feeding young one). We did not see any of its own young

Cordilleran Flycatcher fledged 2 young + 1 cowbird. Cowbird fledged a few days ahead of others - all 3 being fed

Eastern Kingbird 1 pair fledged 2 young

Tree Swallow fledged approx. 23 young from 5 nest boxes

Western Bluebird 1 pair fledged 6 young from one nest box

Robin nest adult brooding

Song Sparrow 1 pair fledged 4 young

OBSERVATION POST



Observers: Nancy Aley (NALE), Janet Allen (JALL), Tomi Besser (TBES), Kris Buchler (KBUC), Earl Chapin (ECHA), Janet Callen (JCAL), Marty Collar (MCOL), Corine Cameron (CCAM), Gordon and Pam Comrie (GCOM,PCOM), Bill Gundlach (BGUN), Leslie Johnson (LJOH), Cynthia Langlitz (CLAN), Jan Severson (JSEV), Lynn Shendan (LSHE), Shirley Sturts (SSTU), Susan Weller (SWEL), Roger Young (RYOU)

RBA Rare Bird Alert for Northern Idaho - Eastern Washington - Northeastern Oregon Phone (208) 882-6195 or Internet-Web Site: <http://pimacc.pima.edu/~williamson/index.html>

1. Double-Crested Cormorant 4 Cougar Bay Aug. 9 (RYOU,KBUC,BGUN,SSTU)
2. Virginia Rail 1 Mission Flats June 6 (PCOM,GCOM) and June 7 (SWEL) 1 Kelseo Lake June 22 (LJOH,JSEV,SSTU)
3. Spotted Sandpiper 1+ Salmon River (LSHE)
4. Caspian Tern 4 Cougar Bay Aug. 9 (RYOU,KBUC,BGUN,SSTU) Still there Aug. 25 (RYOU)
5. Spruce Grouse 1 female w/5 chicks Burton Peak (Boundary Co.) (ECHA)
6. Great-Horned Owl 1 East River View Drive Mid July (NALE)
7. Western Screech-Owl 1 East River View Drive mid July (NALE)
8. Barred Owl 1 ad w/2 young Smith Creek Road (Boundary CO.)(MCOL)
9. Pygmy Owl 1 heard CDA (GCOM,PCOM) 1 heard Fairmont Loop Aug. 26 (JSEV)
10. Common Nighthawk 1 flying over Blackwell Hill in Aug. (JSEV) and 1 flying over north CDA home (JCAL)
11. Lewis' Woodpecker 1 Cataldo Mission July 8 (KBUC)
12. Vaux's Swift 1 pr. w/5 young nested in chimney near Moscow Mountain (TBES)
13. Black Swift 1+ Smith Creek Road (Boundary Co.) June 6 (NALE)
14. Eastern Kingbird 1 Lee Metcalf N.W.R. July (LSHE)
15. Least Flycatcher 1-2 Singing Rose Lake June 17 (KDUM), 1 singing June 22 Clark Fork (MCOL), 1 singing Hoo Doo Valley (ECHA)
16. Gray Jay 4 east end of Feman lake July 27 (KBUC)
17. Clark's Nutcracker 1 Steven's Peak (SSTU)
18. Horned Lark 1+ CDA airport area June/July (CLAN)
19. Boreal Chickadee 1+ Smith Creek Road (Boundary Co.) June 6 (NALE)
20. Marsh Wren 2 pr. Cataldo Marsh June (SWEL)
21. Veery 2+ Rose Lake (on Shady Lane) June 20 (SSTU,PCOM,GCOM) and 2+ June 28 (JALL,CLAN,SSTU,KBUC)
22. Hermit Thrush 1+ Smith Creek Road (Boundary Co.) June 6 (NALE) 1+ July 2 (KBUC,SSTU)
23. Townsend's Solitaire 1 Roman Nose Lakes Aug. 9 (NALE)
24. Yellow-Rumped Warbler 1+ Roman Nose Lakes Aug. 9 (NALE)
25. MacGillivray's Warbler 1+ Roman Nose Lakes Aug. 9 (NALE) 1 Sun Valley (LSHE)
26. Wilson's Warbler 1+ Roman Nose Lakes Aug. 9 (NALE)
27. Northern Waterthrush 1 Rose Lake June 20) (GCOM,PCOM,SSTU) and July 28 (JALL,KBUC,CLAN,SSTU)
28. Western Tanager 1 + Roman Nose Lakes Aug. 9 (NALE); 1 Salmon River July (LSHE)
29. Clay-colored Sparrow 1 pr. on territory Copland (Boundary Co.) June 21 - July 15+ (ECHA and several others)
30. Vesper Sparrow 1+ near CDA Airport June/July (CLAN)
31. Bobolink 1+ Tamarack Ridge (Cataldo area) June 7 (SWEL)
32. Pine Siskin numerous at feeders summer (SSTU,KBUC,CCAM,JSEV)

The greatest lessons on Nature through the universe are perhaps the lessons of variety and freedom - Walt Whitman, "Democratic Vistas"

Board of Directors

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member in the National Audubon Society and my local chapter, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter (Chapter Code GO67XCH8).

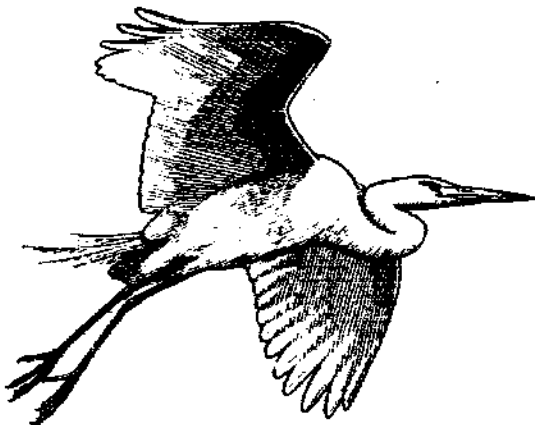
Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Introductory membership is \$20.00 for individual or family. Members receive 6 issues of Audubon magazine and the chapter's local newsletter. Please make check payable to the National Audubon Society and mail to Jan Severtson, Membership Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter, P.O. Box 361, Coeur d'Aene, ID 83816

Subscription to the The Fish Hawk Herald newsletter only is \$10.00. Please make checks payable to the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter and mail to Jan Severtson, Membership Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society Chapter, P.O. Box 361, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

**National Audubon Society
Coeur d'Alene Chapter
P.O. Box 361
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816**



GREAT EGRET
Ardea alba

