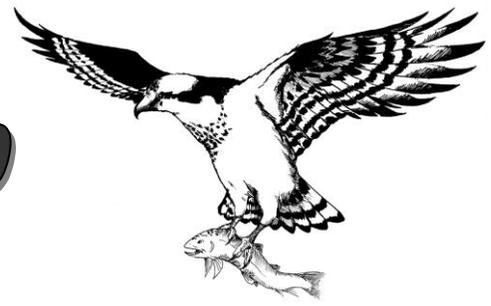


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

September 2010

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 1

FISH HAWK HERALD SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Our September issue is complimentary to all local Audubon members. To receive the October - May issues you need to subscribe: \$15 for one year or \$25 for two years. (See the subscription form on the back of this newsletter.) Some of you have paid for two years, and some have a different expiration date. Please call Jan at 667-6209 if you are unsure of your subscription status. The newsletter is free of charge on our website: www.cdaudubon.org

ALSO: Articles for the newsletters are welcome. Please submit to the editor Shirley Sturts at: shirley.sturts@gmail.com by the 15th of each month, All submissions are subject to editing.

Thank you and happy reading!

FIRST FALL MEETING

DATE: Sept. 14 - Tuesday

This year our meetings will be the 2nd Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise noted.

PLACE: Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800 North Ramsey

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PROGRAM: The meeting will be a potluck style gathering, Bring refreshments and sides, desserts etc. No main courses are required; things like chips and dips, pasta salads, deserts and beverages would be ideal! If you skip dinner, there should be enough to fill up, but if you already ate, save room for snacks and desserts! There may be a surprise speaker but the point of the meeting is to talk about new ideas for the upcoming Audubon year: field trips, activism, learning opportunities, and "extra-curricular activities". Come ready to be involved and ready to socialize and catch up with folks you haven't seen all summer! It will be informal, informational, and hopefully productive!

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Carrie Hugo



Carrie and Iva
Photograph by George Neuner

Welcome back to Coeur d'Alene Audubon! For those of you who regularly attend meetings, I am looking forward to seeing you all again. Audubon is like my second family - so let me know when any of you feel like watching Iva! For those of you who haven't had much time to attend, I hope the new meeting dates will help accommodate your Schedule so that we might see you more often. I think there will be much to look

forward to in the coming months of meetings and activities. I have been working on trying to get some great speakers to expand our knowledge about subjects like wolverine, wolves, pollinators, native plants, and salmon. Of course we will also be learning about birds! Some of the responses to our end of the year survey this spring indicated a desire for more activism in our group. So, I and the board will be exploring opportunities to become more active in our communities and nationally when it comes to issues that concern us all regarding birds, other wildlife, and the environment.

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Continued from Page 1

I have been tossing around a few ideas to shake things up and add a little zest to our regular meetings and "extra- curricular" get-togethers. These ideas include:

- ❖ A "Coffee Tasting" featuring shade grown and organic coffees that benefit the environment- or at a minimum, reduce impacts compared to conventional coffees.
- ❖ A "Wine Tasting" featuring domestic and international organic wines by makers who consider the environment in their wine making process.
- ❖ A "Chocolate Tasting" similar in concept to the above two ideas.
- ❖ A bird or wildlife related crafting get together- if people are interested.
- ❖ A holiday banquet geared toward fund-raising and FUN- including silent auctions and raffles!

In the field trip arena Roland and Janet are busy coming up with ideas for field trips and we are hoping to offer a few new venues this year including local areas and a couple of more "exotic" birding opportunities. We will also be setting up "Birding by Ear" and "Birding by Habitat" skill-building workshops for early summer.

You may also notice our regular meeting format changing a little. I would like to highlight a different bird species every meeting and provide life history information as well as audio sounds for the species. This will help us all start learn the intricacies of our local birds!

On the business front we will be pursuing collaborative funding for projects related to the avian community and the environment. We usually get at least some funding through this grant which totals between \$500 and \$900. If you have any ideas for projects please let me know. Our education committee does more than you'll ever know in their efforts to educate our young people about birds and the environment. Their efforts will be highlighted in a future newsletter!

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Lastly, in the latest survey I asked if people would be willing to contribute no more than \$10 beyond their normal membership dues to put towards refreshments, raffle items, donations to speakers who travel to our meetings, etc. If you could make yourself a note to bring this donation to our first meeting, that would be wonderful!

Anywhere between \$5 and \$10 would be greatly appreciated and will put to use! If you have items you would like to contribute to our raffle, please bring those as well.

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas, suggestions or concerns you may have. I can be reached by phone at (208) 661-9777 or email at carriehugo@wildblue.net.

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts" - Rachel Carson



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

DATE: October 9, Saturday

PLACE: Mica Grange for the ritual fueling up with donuts and juice

TIME: 8:00 a.m.

Plan on about 1-2 hours. Long pants, long sleeves, and water are advisable. Come out and enjoy a fall morning and see if this is the time that one of us finds a treasure out there.

For more information call Mike Zagar 819-5115.

ELK RIVER AND ELK CREEK FALLS

Janet Callen & Roland Craft



**Elk Creek View Point
Photograph by Janet Callen**

May 1, 2010. Six Audubon birders and Mitzi the dog traveled through five counties, including Kootenai, Benewah, Latah, Shoshone and Clearwater, on our way to Elk River, Idaho. We were greeted with light rain, heavy rain, blowing rain, snow, sleet and an occasional glimpse of blue sky. However, with raincoats and umbrellas we traversed the three-mile trail to view the three waterfalls, which make up Elk Creek Falls. They are impressive at this time of the year. At the middle falls viewing platform we spotted eight elk grazing on a hillside so steep that any human trying to stand on it would have ended up in the creek.

We then journeyed to Elk River Reservoir where we spotted various waterfowl, including a female Red-breasted Merganser. A Cooper's Hawk was seen on a short drive through town. Both birds were highlights of the trip.

After a stop for huckleberry ice cream we headed home. We saw American White Pelicans near Black Rock road in Kootenai County. The settling ponds at St. Maries also yielded a good variety of ducks, but The highlight was a small flock Bonaparte's Gulls. We didn't see the Tufted Duck that was seen there between March 27 and April 9th

THE BITTERROOT VALLEY

May 14, 15, 16: 2010

Janet Callen



Photograph by Janet Callen

Sunshine, warm weather, Mountain Bluebirds, Sandhill Cranes, Lewis's Woodpeckers, bighorn sheep, a marmot and a mountain goat, along with some wood ticks and a raccoon were part of the Audubon field trip to Montana. No rattlesnakes showed up but maybe a little sunburn.

Eleven Audubon members and one guest journeyed to the Lee Metcalf NWR and seven sites described in the Bitterroot Valley Birding Trail map. We saw 100 species during the two full days of the trip. With so much to describe, I asked fellow travelers for their impressions.

Phil and Judy

This was a trip where everything went right. The weather was picture perfect, the birding was very productive, the hotel was even better than expected, and the socializing plain fun. Each habitat we visited was different from the one before with new birds to tack on the list. We give it two thumbs up.

Dick Cripe

Great trip! Breath-taking scenery! Diverse habitat. It was fun taking short hikes rather than birding out of a car. Lewis's Woodpecker was first for me, and we saw 427! of them. Also I haven't seen very many Red-Naped Sapsuckers or Pileated Woodpeckers, so it was fun to see so many. Same with Great Egret, American Avocet, and Wilson's Phalarope - they are all on my life list - but I haven't seen many. The Mountain Bluebird we saw was very beautiful.

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THE BITTERROOT VALLEY

Continued from page 3

Lisa Hardy SO--my favorites?

- All the Lewis's woodpeckers flying around in the burned area, proves that some good can come of fires after all.
- The Great Horned owl up in the tree
- Mountain goat outlined on the rock bluff with the sky behind him
- All the spectacular scenery in the area.
- The croaking Sandhill Cranes in flight
- The gorgeous colors on the dabblers in the late afternoon sunlight : Cinnamon teal, Gadwall
- The amazingly graceful avocets
- heron rookery
- Cow Creek = Lewis's Woodpecker Grand Central Station
- The ticks! and how everyone was very animated by their threat
- The mountain sheep - mountain goat
- Dinner at the hummingbird ranch

Theresa Potts

My favorite place was the ponds at Lee Metcalf. Sandhill Cranes, avocets, phalaropes, numerous waterfowl and a raccoon.

A special thanks goes to Ronn Rich for finding the restaurant (Skalkaho Inn?) where we dined with hummingbirds and looked out on mountains and a small valley. I highly recommend a revisit in a year or two. There are more locations to explore.

BONNER COUNTY BIG DAY

Lisa Hardy



Seven Auduboners from Coeur d'Alene set out Saturday morning, June 5, for a Big Day of birding in Bonner County, Idaho. After a brief morning rain shower, the weather turned pleasant and we tallied 113 species by dusk.

We started at Johnson Creek at the mouth of the Clark Fork, a rich riparian area, and by the time we headed north out of Clark Fork around 9 AM, we had picked up 63 species. From there, we drove up Trestle Creek to where a snow slide blocked the road, but we had climbed enough by that point to be in subalpine fir habitat. Next we headed back to the lake and birded Highway 200 from the Clark Fork driftyard to Sunnyside. A quick stop in Sandpoint for late afternoon pick-me-up milkshakes and a few

urban species, and we headed to Morton Slough, where we reached the 100 mark around 6 PM.

Bird #100 was a Black-billed Magpie. We had at that point yet to tally a Red-winged Blackbird, which had us worried and perplexed, but we found them in the Hoodoo Valley, along with most of the other marsh species. We attempted unsuccessfully to find the Say's Phoebes and Sandhill Cranes reported by Earl Chapin a little over a week earlier. A little after sunset, we tallied our final bird of the day, a Common Nighthawk over Granite Lake.

Ducks were in short supply. We had some close calls, including an unidentified accipiter, possible sightings of Say's Phoebes, tentative crossbill flight calls, etc., but only missed a handful of expected common species, namely Ruffed Grouse, Lazuli Bunting, Western Meadowlark, and Red Crossbill. We changed the rules a bit this year to encourage more participation by those who do not usually bird by ear. This resulted in 50 of the 113 species being identified by every team member.

Go to our website to see the total list



BEGINNING BIRDING TRIPS WITH LYNN SHERIDAN

HONEYSUCKLE BEACH

June 15 Hayden Lake Field Trip

At last we had a dry day between rainy ones! Linda Wright, Vera Taggart, Adela Sussman, Nicole Olson and her 3 children, Sydney, Erin and Heide met at the parking lot at Honeysuckle Beach for a morning of birding.

Our first sighting was a string of Canada Geese swimming in a long line, the larger adults at each end. Swirls of Tree, Violet-green and Barn Swallows swooped over water and field. Four male Mallard were sunning themselves on a dock. Lots of American Robin and Brewer's Blackbird were foraging on the ground. The majestic flights of a Great Blue Heron and Red-tailed Hawk caught everyone's eye. Swimmers were few, just 3 Bufflehead. The Olson children were very knowledgeable and helped identify a male Black-headed Grosbeak. Later we found the female. Other birds seen and heard were chickadee (species), Cedar Waxing, Song Sparrow, and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Thank you everyone for coming, and to Adela for being my driver!

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BEGINNING BIRDING TRIPS

Continued from page 4

A WALK IN THE WOODS

July 15, 2010

Adela Sussman kindly picked me up and drove me to Fairmont Loop and Hwy 95 where we met Vera Taggart, Nicole Olson and her 3 daughters: Sydney, Erin and Heidi. From there we drove to the Nature Conservancy parking lot in Cougar Bay

In the bay, which was filled with reeds, we scanned the scattered bird boxes but didn't see any birds using them. Many swallows were in flight, and on the wires. We identified Tree, Violet-green, Barn, and Rough-winged Swallows. The familiar "wichety wichety" song of the Common Yellowthroat was heard, but we couldn't see one. Many Red-winged Blackbirds were clinging to the fluffy cattail heads, but their familiar song was not heard.

Following the trail into the woods we found Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Black-capped Chickadee and a singing Swainson's Thrush. An Osprey flew overhead as we returned to the cars.

Thank you, everyone---next time let/s remember to bring the mosquito repellent, and I need to learn more of the songs I heard.

BIG YEAR LIST PROJECT

Lew Ulrey, Boise

In 2005 Idaho birders started the Big Year List Project, in which the first of each year we start a state "Big Year List" to be maintained at www.idahobirds.net under Facts and Figures. On the list we record the first date that each species of bird was found in each of the participating counties. This project would not be possible without the diligent work of the county compilers who maintain county Big Year Lists. As additions to the county lists accumulate, the compilers report those additions directly to me or via IBLE (a southern Idaho list serve). I then perform the clerical job of recording the additions on the state list.

So far in 2010, 30 of Idaho's 44 counties have contributed to the Big Year List. Twelve counties just do not have compilers.

Look at the list of county compilers at www.idahobirds.net under Facts and Figures. Listed with each compiler's name is a clickable link to his or her email. Interested persons could reach current compilers that way.

Editor's note: As of August 20, 2010, 291 species of birds have been reported in Idaho. The top 8 counties are as follows: Ada (226), Custer (198), Gem (190), Latah (187) Canyon (186), Owyhee(186, Kootenai (185), Cassia (173)

Species reported in all 30 counties are: Northern Flicker, Black-billed Magpie, American Robin and European Starling

You can view Kootenai County "BIG YEARS" going back to 2002 on our website: <http://cdaudubon.org/KootenaiCo2010.htm> Benewah and Shoshone counties are also on our website. I compile Kootenai and Benewah Counties and Lisa Hardy compiles Shoshone County.

ANNUAL PICNIC AND NEW OFFICERS

Ed Buchler

On June 1, the chapter had its annual picnic at the Higgins Point pavilion. During the festivities, Ed Buchler, outgoing President, introduced the new officers to the members. For the next two years, your President will be Carrie Hugo and Secretary, Valerie Zagar. Ronn Rich has kindly consented to continue as our Treasurer. A short time after the picnic, Kathy Cousins accepted the position of Vice President. Meritorious Service Awards were presented to Jan Severtson, Eula Hickam, Janet Callen. Ed also received a gift from the membership for his service.

ROGER YOUNG MEMORIAL COMPLETED

Ed Buchler

During the summer, the inscription honoring Roger Young was added to one of the dedication rocks at the east entrance to the Tubb's Hill trail. Please go and spend a moment or two. As you look down the street above the inscription, you can see his earlier home at the end of the block.

MEETINGS/EVENTS 2010-2011

Our chapter holds a general meeting each month, September through June. We have a guest speaker at our regular meetings. The meetings are open to the public, and provide a good introduction to our group for prospective members. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month (A CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR) at 7:00 P.M. at the Lutheran Church of the Master on the NE corner of Kathleen and Ramsey. Please check our website for any last-minute changes. Our June meeting is a picnic, the location announced in the May Newsletter.

Board Meetings are held once a month at 4:30 P.M. at Mountain West Bank, 125 Ironwood, prior to the general meetings.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Our Audubon chapter has adopted a two-mile stretch of Highway 95 before the turn-off to Mica Bay. Our fall pick up day is Saturday, October 9 (details page 2). The spring pick-up date to be announced

PROJECT FEEDER WATCH

They are now taking sign-ups for the 2010-2011 Feeder Watch season, which begins on November 13. (Go to <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>)

THANKSGIVING DAY BIRD COUNT

Thursday, November 25 - look for information in the November newsletter.

YARD LISTS

January 1st - Time to turn in your personal Yard List totals for 2010 to: Lisa Hardy, basalt@earthlink.net. See Feb. or March newsletter for results

January 1, 2011 start a new Yard List.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

February 18-21 <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

41ST ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

April 22, 2011:

<http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/world/earth-day>

NATIONAL ARBOR DAY

April 27 <http://www.arboday.org/arboday/>

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

May 14 <http://www.birdday.org/birdday>

Check our website for details on events held the second weekend in May.

FIELD TRIPS 2010-2011

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 will share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

REARDAN PONDS & OTHER SITES

Date: September 11, 2010, Saturday

Leader Lisa Hardy 783-1262

Meet: K-Mart, south side at 7:30 a.m.

Time: 7:30 a.m.

This will be a full day trip, Target Birds: Migrating shorebirds

MICA BAY SURVEY

Date: September 14, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Activity: We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Everybody is welcome. Beginner birders are welcome. We will help you with identification skills.

HIDDEN LAKE CRANBERRY BOG

Date: September 16, 2010, Thursday

Leader: Bill Gundlach 667-3339

Meet: Fernan Ranger Station

Time: 9:00 am

Telephone Bill before the trip if you can furnish a canoe or if you will need a ride with someone who will share theirs.

Target: Idaho cranberries.

BOISE AREA

Dates: Early part of October

Leader Lisa Hardy 783-1262

Meet: to be determined

This will be a four-day trip, Target Birds: Migrating hawks and a visit to the "Birds of Prey" area.

MILL CANYON-SPOKANE COUNTY

Date October 17, 2010; Sunday

Leaders: Phil & Judy Waring 765-5378

Meet: K-Mart @ 8:00 a.m.

This will be a full-day trip. Target Birds: Woodpeckers, including Lewis and White-headed.

EXPLORING FARRAGUT STATE PARK

Date: November 7, 2010, Sunday

Leader: Roland Craft 457-8894

Meet: K-Mart

Time: 8:00 a.m.

This will be a hiking trip. There are many trails we can explore. Check later for details.

EASTSIDE CDA LAKE-HARRISON

Date: November 20, 2010, Saturday

Leader: Kris Buchler 664-4739

Meet: Fernan Ranger Station

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Target birds: Loons, Waterfowl, Northern Shrike, Bohemian Waxwing, Tree Sparrow

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FIELD TRIPS 2010-2011

Continued from page 6

CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Dates: Between Decemer. 14, 2010-January 5, 2011

Coeur d'Alene - around December 14

Indian Mountain - between January 2-5

Sprit Lake - between January 2-5

PEND ORIELLE RIVER AND LAKE FIELD TRIP

Date: January 23, 2011, Sunday

Leader: Bill Gundlach 667-3339

Meet: To be announced

Time: To be announced

This will be a full day trip in search of waterfowl.

SEARCH FOR WINTER BIRDS



Date: February 12, 2010, Saturday

Leader: Janet Callen 664-1085

Meet: K-Mart, south side of parking lot.

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Target Birds: Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, Snowy Owls, American Tree Sparrows. This will be a full-day trip.

Snowy Owl - Photograph by Wayne Tree

SEARCH FOR WINTER BIRDS

Date: February to be determined

Leader(s): Shirley Sturts /Lisa Hardy

Meet: to be determined

Target Birds: Winter Gulls, Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks

SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL-OTHELLO WA

Date: March 25,26,27, 2011, Friday-Sunday

ILLER CREEK AND SLAVIN RANCH CONSERVATION AREAS

Date: April 23, 2011, Saturday

Leader Roland Craft 457-8894

Meet: K-Mart parking lot, south side

Time: 7:30 a.m.

WESTMOND LAKE

Date: April 30, 2011, Saturday

Leader: Janet Callen 664-1085

Meet: K-Mart parking lot, south side

Time: 8:00 a.m.

This will be a half-day trip, Target Birds: Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Red-naped Sapsucker, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warble, and others

KAMIAK BUTTE, LEWISTON & ASOTIN

Dates: May 21 and May 22, 2011

Leaders: Janet Callen 664-1085 & Judy Waring 765-5378

Meet: To be determined

Note: This will be a two-day trip. Target Birds: Returning Migrants and Mountain Quail. The trip will include short hikes on Saturday and Sunday. Please note this is a change from the previous newsletter. More details will follow in April.

BEAR LAKE

Date: Late May/early June

Leader: Eula Hickam 661-3228

Details to be announced.

BIKE RIDE-TRAIL OF THE COEUR D ALENES

Date: May or June to be announced

Time: Evening or morning – to be announced

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

An evening bike ride from Blackrock Trailhead to the Medimont Trailhead. Target Birds –Waterfowl, American White Pelican, Black Tern, (Great Egret, Sandhill Crane – if we are lucky), Shorebirds: Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper

LATOUR PEAK/MIRROR LAKE

(Alternate Latour Creek Road/Crystal Lake

Date: June or July to be announced

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

High altitude birding 5,000-6,000 feet. We will hike into Mirror Lake (Kootenai County) or Crystal Lake (Benewah County) and bird along the route to and from the hike. Target birds: Spruce and Blue Grouse, Golden Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Clark's Nutcracker, Gray Jay, Mountain Bluebird, Hermit and Varied Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Rock Wren, White-crowned Sparrow and Pine Grosbeak.

SILVER MOUNTAIN NATURE TRAIL

Date: June/July to be announced.

Leader Shirley Sturts 664-5318

We will take the gondola at Kellogg to the Silver Mountain Ski Resort. From there we will hike the short nature trail that starts from the ledge at the top of the gondola. If the

MARCH / APRIL TRIP LEADERS NEEDED

Some migrants return in late February and early March and some later in April. Anyone wanting to lead a trip to look for the first Northern Shoveler, Common Loon, Osprey, Turkey Vulture Western and Mountain Bluebirds, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird and others, **call Roland Craft 457-8894 or Janet Callen 664-1085**

See our website for spring arrival dates

<http://cdaudubon.org/Springarrivals1.htm>

and "The Idaho Birding Trail"

www.IdahoBirdingTrail.org for ideas

