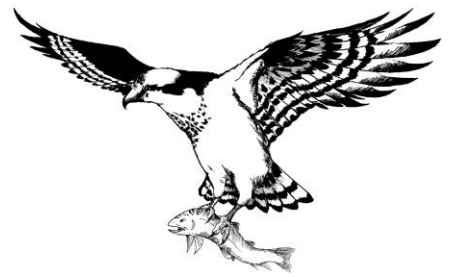


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

September 2018

Volume 29 Number 1

September Program

Date: September 11, Tuesday
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey, CDA
Speaker: Ron Force
Program: "Ethiopia, the Roof of Africa"



Ethiopia is a country of contrasts. It contains some of the highest terrain in Africa, and some of the lowest elevations. It boasts ancient empires that dominated the Horn of Africa and trade with the Middle East. Ethiopians founded and still practice among the oldest Christian traditions (including churches carved from solid rock by angels as the legend relates) and founded monasteries in the Middle Ages that contain precious artifacts. It was the only African country never to be colonized but had to struggle against war and famine in the 20th century. Its high plateaus and low Rift Valley lakes provide a range of habitats for rare mammals, birds and plants semi-protected in national parks and preserves. Ron Force will present an overview of his travel through the country in February of 2017 with emphasis on scenery and natural history.

President's Message



I hope you're all having a great summer of family and travel. Although the summer is 2/3 over and drawing to a close (it always goes so fast), still there is plenty of time to have more outdoor adventures, and fall in North Idaho is great for getting out in nature and looking for birds and wildlife. So there are lots of activities to look forward to before the snow flies. And, so far (knock, knock) we've been spared the adventure of nearby fires (written before the August fires smoke)

The folks who went to the J Bar L in SW Montana report a great time and lots of birds and wildlife. Janet continued to lead Tuesday morning trips to Mica Bay and the Hoodoo Trail was monitored and reported on by volunteers throughout the summer. I had a banner year with my ten bird houses on the Johnson Farm: seven out of ten nesting attempts were successful with 42 chicks successfully fledged, mostly Tree Swallows. It's always a little thrill to see an empty nest (flattened with fecal matter) where chicks previously scramble with open mouths, and upsetting to open the box to a nest of dead chicks. The migratory birds are wandering back south now. They came up a like wave in the spring intent on getting a nest and a mate to procreate. Now, having finished their task, they casually make their way back to their favorite hillside and maybe their favorite tree

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President's Message

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somewhere in Central or South America using navigational skills which we don't share and don't understand. Your board will begin work in early September. In addition to normal activities we will be following the water testing study which we gave funding for testing equipment last spring and where a number of us have volunteered to participate. We will get updated on the Fernan Lake Nature Area and continue working on an educational nature trail. And we have other projects in mind to discuss.

The first general Audubon meeting will be on Tuesday, September 11, 7:00 at the usual place: Church of the Master Lutheran Church on Kathleen and Ramsey Avenues. The first board meeting will be at 4:00, September 4, at the same place. -- Dick Cripe

Fernan Lake Nature Trail



Trillium and Calypso Orchid (Fairy Slipper)
photos by Jan Severtson

Notes on the Fernan Lake Nature Trail
May 5, 2018: 9:00 am -- Janet Callen

Ed Buchler, Shirley Sturts, Jan Severtson, Valerie Zagar, Dick Cripe and I met at Fernan Lake Nature Trail parking lot to walk the trail and assess the potential of the area for a nature trail. I had previously discussed this area with Katie Kosanke, Urban Forester, with the City of Coeur d Alene.

We have \$4500, half received as donations in Kris Buchler's name and half a matching donation

from Wren. Wren is Jenny Taylor's foundation. Potential projects on this trail could be interpretive signs depicting the plants and birds in the area. Perhaps Derek Antonelli would participate.

May 17, 2018; Ed and I met with Katie Kosanke and Bill Greenwood to discuss upcoming fire prevention efforts in the area, our concern being too much "cleaning and clearing". It is a beginning, the city seems eager to work with us, signs could cost \$300 to \$500, depending on the size.

Audubon members, if this seems like a project for you, we need participants and a chairman.

On the Way to the J Bar L Ranch-

Janet Callen

On June 15, 2018 after a visit, in Dillon Montana, to Clark's Lookout State Park where we spotted a Gray Jay among several other birds, my car, with fellow

passengers Sally Gundlach and Mary Deasy, headed south on Interstate 15. A couple of miles south of Dillon we took Montana highway 278 and traveled about 18 miles southwest to the restored ghost town of Bannack. Now a state park, the town, with about 50 buildings in the process of being restored, was the site of Montana's first major gold discovery in 1862. It was also the capital of the Montana Territory in 1864. The area is high mountain desert at 5837 feet. Bannack had a population of 10,000 and was the home of Sheriff Henry Plummer, the vigilantes, numerous hangings and some shady politics. Bannack is worth a visit, and the birding highlight was some nesting Mountain Bluebirds.



The former Court House
Bannack, Montana

Joint Field Trip with the Palouse Audubon Society April 28th- 29th, 2018

George Saylor - photos by Midge Marcy-Brennan



The weather outlook was not promising that late April day as we set out for our joint field trip with the Palouse Audubon Society, and as we drove west to Sprague, we were deluged by a major downpour. Nevertheless, a hardy group of nearly twenty people continued on, and in Sprague we were joined by a somewhat smaller group from the Palouse Audubon Society. They were led by Marie Dymkoski and RJ Baltierra. My co-leader for the trip was Janet Callen. It was very cold and windy in the Sprague area where we spent our first hour or so, but the birding was remarkable, and the weather gradually improved as the day went on.



Each stop on our planned itinerary yielded avian delights. For example, in the Sprague area we saw numerous waterfowl, a tree filled with Double-crested

Cormorants and were dazzled by the whimsical flight of Black-necked Stilts. As we visited Rock Lake, Steptoe Butte and Kamiak Butte our list kept growing. There were Wilson's Phalaropes, Caspian Terns, Least Sandpipers, Belted Kingfisher, Say's Phoebe, Swallows galore,

Golden-Crowned and Ruby Crowned Kinglets, Western Meadowlarks, Hawks of various species, and so much more. We ended our first day having a great dinner in Palouse and a quick walk through their city park looking for more birds. From there it was on to our lodging in Pullman or at Hell's Gate State Park in Lewiston. We were much indebted to our hosts Marie and RJ for their excellent help in finding birds.

The next day the weather had cleared and we began our birding at Hell's Gate State Park. Driving there we were treated to the graceful sight of a large flock of White Pelicans flying in circles on the far side of the river. Walking through the park we witnessed, among other



things, Swainson's Hawks in their nest, saw a fight between two male Chinese Pheasants, had an up close view of a Western -screech Owl in a nest box, and saw numerous Lesser Goldfinches.

Moving on to Mann Lake we saw various species of Swallows, Brown-headed Cowbirds, White Crowned Sparrows, Brewer's Blackbirds and American Goldfinches. Our final stop at Spaulding State Park yielded our first Great - blue Heron and a Merlin.

Thinking back over the trip as we drove home we realized anew what a beautiful and diverse landscape we live in, and how full of amazing birds it is. Our trip total was 87 species seen and seven more identified by sound. We also were reminded that you shouldn't be a fair weather birder. Had we decided to turn around we would have all missed a great birding adventure, and I would have one less life bird.

George Saylor

Earth Day – In April



April Earth Day Display - Midge and Lynn

Midge Marcy-Brennan

Earth Day Celebration at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library has grown over the past few years, I was told. One person who has been a constant there is Lynn Sheridan, always present at the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Booth. By the time I arrived at the Library, she was already set up, thanks to help from George Saylor and Wayne Christofferson. The Theme was "A World without Plastic Pollution", so the booth consisted of pictures of birds (many taken by Larry Krumpelman) with plastic-caused injuries; there were drawings for bird-seed; there were informational booklets from Audubon Adventures and coloring pages from Barbara Christofferson; there was information about our monofilament fishing line recycling stations as well as a HUGE ball of line retrieved by Carrie Hugo from the stations; and there was Lynn, ready to tell each person who paused at our booth, the dangers that birds face in this world of disposable plastics.

It was wonderful to see all the groups there, caring for our Earth and distributing information to young and old about the need and feasibility of living in a world without plastic pollution. Friends of Tubbs Hill were there, as well as a Native Plants group, Birds of Prey, and others, and, of course, Kootenai

Environmental Association. Many activities took place in McEuen Park, such as the Yoga Flash Mob and the Sorensen World Drumming Group. I met two young people from the Lake City High School Environmental Club and gave a short interview that they would share with the other members of their Club. And I bought a shirt with "But First, Save the Earth. Earth Day 2018" printed on it.

The afternoon passed quickly and at 4 pm we packed everything out to the cars and went home. It had been a short afternoon, but a very important afternoon. It is important that we who care about the environment on our Earth get the information out about the harm that plastics are causing. We mustn't assume that everyone already knows just because WE know. I hope that it showed, to each child there, how important that issue is. They saw that these adults feel strongly enough about the issue to spend an afternoon sitting in a booth telling them about it. Yes, it is that important.

Bird Sightings Summer 2018

Sandhill Crane - 1 pair with one chick videotaped by Mike Schleppe on his ranch, Kootenai County - July 8th - this is a first confirmed breeding record for Latilong 2 - see map on <https://idahobirds.net/distribution/maps/cranes/sandhill-crane/>

Sora - 1 - Aug. 14 - Mica Bay Survey - Janet Callen and Carol Ogle

Western Flycatcher - 1 - June 4 - S. Lake Ridge Road - Carrie Hugo

Western Kingbird - 1 - June 9 - Prairie Trail between Atlas and Huetter - Carl Lundblad

Eastern Flycatcher - 3-4 - Trail of te Coeur d'Alenes just north of Harrison - Shirley Sturts

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Bird Sightings Summer 2018

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Alder Flycatcher - 2 - July 12-21 - a possible 1st or 2nd state record - it is well documented by 3 rare bird reports including video recordings and photographs - Alec Hopping, Fred Forssell, and Jay Carlisle - there is also a rare bird report for an Alder Flycatcher - June 24, 2017 - near Coolin by Robert Bond that if accepted by the Idaho Bird Records Committee, would be the first record

American Redstart - 1 - June 7 - Rose Lake - Bob Kemp

Clay-Colored Sparrow - 1 - June 9 - Prairie Trail between Atlas and Huetter - Carl Lundblad

Louisiana Waterthrush - 1 - North of Ketchum, Blaine County - July 16-25 - rare bird report Tempe Regan - many eBird checklist - if accepted another first state record

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 1 - June 10 - Sandpoint area - Fred Forssell and Rich Del Carlo - rare bird report

Activity: This is a full day trip. A few of us did this last year as Roland's Memorial Hike. I've had requests to repeat it, so we'll do it again if those folks sign up. This is an easy hike on a high mountain ridge. But it is a tedious drive up the CdA River past Pritchard, then 20 miles of forest service road. Please call if you're interested as it may be cancelled due to fire, heat, or perceived lack of interest.

Mica Bay Survey

Date: September 11, Tuesday (Held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on the month)

Time: 8:00 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.

Mary Minerva Mc Croskey State Park

Date: September 29.

Time: 8:00 am.

Meet: Former K-Mart Shopping area

Leader: Jane Callen: 208-664-1085

Activity: This is a $\frac{3}{4}$ day trip so bring lunch and enough water.

Audubon Fall litter pick-up

Date: October 6, Saturday

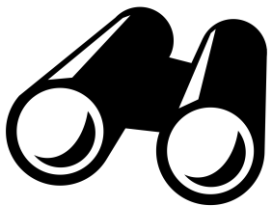
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Meet: Mica Grange building - Arrive earlier and share a donut and a cup of coffee on us!

Leader: Mike Zagar

Activity: If you can attend it would be great to have you. Dress for the weather, pack a pair of gloves and join us for about three hours of highway cleanup. All bags and pickup tools will be provided.

Advance sign-up for those participating is required to comply with IDOT regulations. Attend the September 11th Audubon meeting to Register or Contact Mike Zagar at zagar659@gmail.com - 208 610-3894



Field Trips and Activities

Our field trips are also posted on our Website <http://cdaudubon.org/fieldtrips.html>
Please contact Dick Cripe 208-665-0010 to volunteer to lead a trip or make suggestions

Little Guard Fire Lookout/Shoshone Ridge

Date: September 8, Saturday

Time: 7:30 am.

Meet: Sherman Avenue Forest Service Station

Leader: Dick Cripe; 208-665-0010

Shirley

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- Individual \$10.00
- Family \$15.00
- Individual \$25.00 - with hard copy of the newsletter
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