

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

September 2021

Volume 31 Number 1

Program September



September 14 , Tuesday
Time: 7:00 p.m.

.Place: Lutheran Church of the Master,
4800 N. Ramsey, CDA

Covid 19: Monitor our website for the protocol for this upcoming meeting regarding Covid-19 precautions. Also Shirley will send out a notice on the email list

Speaker: Wayne Brood, North Idaho Regional Director of Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)

Program: Wayne will present photos and talk about conservation efforts of RMEF, which help birds too.

Officers and Board Members for 2021-2022

President: Ralph Kerr 208 660-3220

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Pam Gomes

Treasurer: Janet Callen

Board Members: Ted Smith (field trips),
Patty Beyer

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



President's Mege

Welcome to another Audubon season as we renew our meetings after a "summer recess." I hope each of you have enjoyed some great bird watching, whether it be in your back yard or far afield. Please share your experiences with the members as we resume meetings in September.

First, as the new President of our chapter, let me introduce myself and tell you a little about my interest in birding. I am a native of North Dakota, growing up in the southwestern part of the state, not far from the edge of the badlands. I am the third of six children and spent my childhood on a small farm which gave me ample opportunities to spend time in the out of doors. The song of the Meadow Lark was the sure sign of spring. It remains so for me to this day. Another sign of spring was when my grandfather would offer a nickel to the one of us who saw the first Robin. Summer was a time to find bird nests and watch the new life grow into adults.

Continued on page 2

President's Message

Continued from page 1



**Osprey with fish
photographed by
Ralph Kerr**

The migration of geese and Sandhill Cranes would fill the air with their calls as they flew high overhead on their trip north, and south in the fall. Then came the winter with its cold, snow and wind. One bird image I

remember is looking out the window seeing a small bird huddled

beside a fence post to stay out of the wind during a blizzard.

I received a bachelor's degree in accounting and spent my professional life as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), focusing on the tax side of the profession. (No, I no longer give tax advice). We spent 18 years in North Carolina before moving to Coeur d'Alene, ID, where we have lived for about 30 years. The bird life is very different in these two geographic areas, giving me the opportunity to learn new birds from my beginning in North Dakota.

Currently, my favorite hobby is wildlife photography. Photographing birds presents many challenges as they have a habit of also flying away just before I click the shutter.

That is enough about me. Let's talk about birds. My "first" for this year was finding the nest of an American Dipper with three

babies in it, opening their mouths for food every time the busy adults came to the nest.

The dry summer this year has presented changes and challenges related to birds. The impact on birds shows up when we look for a particular species in a place where we have seen them frequently, and they are not there. As I write this, our skies are filled with smoke at an "unhealthy" level. Please consider your health and follow the guidance offered by health professionals.

Conservation for the benefit of birds is a subject that continues to warrant attention. We will attempt to address conservation issues in some of our meetings.

I'll close with this reminder. The John James Audubon "American Original" exhibit is still on display at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture in Spokane through September 19. If the smoke is keeping you indoors, perhaps a visit to see this exhibit would be a great birding activity.

Good Birding! Ralph Kerr



A Big Year

A Big Year in birder's language is a personal challenge one sets for themselves to see how many bird species they can find in a year. They usually pick an area like a state or county and a number they hope to reach.

Continued on page 3

A Big Year

Continued from page 2

Dr. Stephen Lindsay, birder and local veterinarian (now living in Oregon), did a Big Year in 2001. He attempted to see 200 bird species in Kootenai County during the year 2001. He tallied up only 199 by December 31st. On January 1, 2002 he found a Snowy Owl on Rathdrum Prairie. Had he found it the day before he would have made his 200.

This gave me the idea of doing a Kootenai County Big Year as a group. I started this project in 2002 and published our progress on the two list serves, Inland-NW-Birders and IBLE. The idea of doing county Big Years caught on. Twenty-four out of 43 Idaho counties started doing group county big years. The results were posted on www.idahobirds.net. The state county big year project didn't last very long and other counties are no longer active. Washington State counties also started doing big years with more success and are still active.

I started publishing Kootenai and Benewah Counties Big Year results on our website www.cdaudubon.org in 2012. I am now only doing Kootenai County. We are at 180 species for 2021. You can find the big years results by clicking on "Projects" at the top of the home page. Then scroll down to County Big Years. If you scroll down further you will find charts with first date seen from the years 2002 to the present. Thank you to all who have contributed their sighting to the big years and first arrivals .

Shirley Sturts



Summer Bird Sightings and Observations

From Marilyn Robertson in Sandpoint
maridaho@gmail.com

Notes from Marilyn Robertson, in Sandpoint, Idaho

"A Celebration"

This last Tuesday (Aug. 10th), as I awoke in the morning, I had an event to look forward to, but also felt a bit of regret that I couldn't go to the Mica Bay survey. I stood and walked toward an open window, where a huge River Birch is very close to the window. My cat leapt from the foot of the bed onto the window sill. Suddenly, there were 3 fledgling chickadees on nearby branches, saying "de-dee-dee" as fast as possible, fluttering from branch to branch. Others joined them, for a total of 8 or 10 Chickadees, with the same behavior, which may have lasted for 10 minutes. Gradually other adult birds - Catbird, House Finch, flycatcher, Robin - came to branches that were further away, and just perched to observe.

My guess was that the young chickadees were celebrating that they had discovered the ability to fly. What do others think was happening? Thanks for any knowledge you can share about these wonderful birding moments.

More summer Sighting continued on page 4

More Summer Sightings

Continued from page 3

Notes and photos from Brewster

Moseley, Hope, Idaho



June 9th- We have 3 Cordilleran flycatchers on our property here in Hope. They land on a bush or patio chair 10 feet away and sing with my Audubon app. I just discovered the BirdNET app which will analyze bird songs and tell us which species we're listening to. The Western Tanager comes out of the woods and lands nearby when I play his song. We sing back and forth to each other and sometimes just gaze at each other in silence. The Black-headed Grosbeaks share parenting skills in a nearby

bush. We're still trying to get used to their singing at 3:30 or so in the morning!

June 11 - one more bird - Red-eyed Vireo.



More Summer Sighting continued on page 5

More Summer Sightings

Continued from page 4

Notes from my feeder - Shirley Sturts - photos by WayneTree



June 17th - While working at my computer, I looked out the window and saw a lump of something in our yard. I didn't recognize what it was. I walked down the hall for a better look and saw a female

California Quail squatted down, wings spread, covering up some very tiny babies. She got up and moved to another spot with 15 to 20 babies following her. They were impossible to count. She squatted again with the babies scooting back under her spread out wings. The male, I assume father, was standing next to her, guarding his family. On her next move the family disappeared down the hill and into the woods.

Since then, I have enjoyed seeing them come to the feeder almost every day, a little bigger and more independent on every visit. There are only about 10 or 12 didn't all make it out of babyhood.

A July date - My other observation was an adult Hairy Woodpecker with a fully grown fledging that appeared to be the same size. It was hard to tell which was the adult and which one was the baby. They were clinging to a trunk of a tree across from our feeders. One would go to the feeder, get some seed and take it back to feed the



other one waiting on the tree. This went on for about several minutes and then they left.

Other summer sightings

Virginia Rail - June 8 - Trail of the Harrison area - Charlotte Eberlien

Sandhill Crane - July 31 - Bull Run Lake - Jon Curd

Long-billed Curlew - June 1 - N of the Casino along highway 95 - Ted Smith

Willow Flycatcher - June 7 - Medimont, Trail of the CDAs - Doug Ward

Swainson's Thrush - June 3 - Cougar Bay Preserve - Dan Audet

Lazuli Bunting - June 4 - Rathdrum, at her feeder - Andrea Kidd

Northern Waterthrush - June 3 - Cougar Bay Preserve - Dan Audet

American Redstart - May 31 - Loch Haven, Hayden - Doug Ward

Bobolink - May 29 - River Road fields - Larry and Patty Marsh

Bullock's Oriole - June 3 - 'Cougar Bay Preserve - Dan Audet

Mica Bay Survey results May, June, July, August

Participants Janet Callen (4), Darlene Carlton (4), Carol Ogle, Vera Taggert, Patty Rube, Karen Williams (2), Peggy Schnell, Maureen Benson (from Worley), Marilyn Robertson (from Sandpoint)(2), Ted Smith

The number in () is the number of months it was listed. The number with the month after it is the highest number of the 4 months. If there is no number, there was just 1 seen. This is not guaranteed to be free of errors.

Canada Goose (3) 25 May
Northern Shoveler (1) 2 Aug.
American Wigeon (1)
Mallard (2) 2 June
Bufflehead (1)
Wild Turkey (1)
Pied-billed Grebe (1)
Red-necked Grebe (2) 2 June
Great Blue Heron (4) 3 July
Turkey Vulture (2) 3 July and Aug.
Osprey (4) 2 June and July
Bald Eagle (3) nest 3 June
Red-tailed Hawk (1)
Northern Harrier (1)
Killdeer (1)
Wilson's Snipe (1)
Spotted Sandpiper (1)
Gull sp. (2)
Mourning Dove (3) 7 July
Rock Dove (1) 2 June
Calliope Hummingbird (2) 3 July and Aug.
Black-chinned Hummingbird (1) 2 Aug.
Anna's Hummingbird (1) Aug.
Belted Kingfisher (2)
Downy Woodpecker (1)
Hairy Woodpecker (1)

Pileated Woodpecker (2) 2 Aug.
Northern Flicker (1) 4 May
Western Kingbird (1) 2 July
Eastern Kingbird (3) 5 Aug.
Western Wood-pewee (2) 2 July
Willow Flycatcher (1) 2 July
Vireo sp(1)
American Crow (1) 3 July
Common Raven (2) 2 July
Tree Swallow (4) 25 May
Violet-green (2) 25 Swallow - June
Barn Swallow (3) 35 June
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (1) 30 Aug
Swallow sp. 100s August (Swallows were in great numbers flying overhead. Many so high they were not identifiable. Numbers are not exact.)
Black-capped Chickadee (3) 11 Aug.
Wren sp. (1)
Pacific Wren (1)
Western Bluebird (2)
American Robin (4) 110 Aug.
Gray Catbird (2)
European Starling (2) 30 July
Cedar Waxwing (2) 8 June
Gray Catbird (2) 3 June
Yellow Warbler (3) 3 July
Common Yellowthroat (2) 2 June and July
Western Tanager (1) 2 Aug.
Spotted Towhee (1)
Chipping Sparrow (3) 2 July
Song Sparrow (4) 6 June
Dark-eyed Junco (1)
Black-headed Grosbeak (2) 4 June
Red-winged Blackbird (4) 27 Aug.
Brown-headed Cowbird (1)
House Finch (2) 4 Aug.
American Goldfinch (3) 5 July
Evening Grosbeak (2) 2 Aug.



Field Trips and Activities

Board Meeting

Date: September 14 , Tuesday

Time: 5:00 p.m.

.Place: Lutheran Church of the Master,
4800 N. Ramsey, CDA

Agenda: Discuss our goals for the year,
,field trips, how to recruit more board
members

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

7



Date:
September
14, 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.

Audubon Adopt-a - Highway Fall Highway Litter Pick Up



Date: October 16, Saturday

Time: 8:30 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 _____

Total \$ _____

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

Mail this form and your check payable to: **Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter**
c/o Membership
P.O. Box 361
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

National Audubon
New Member Application

Join Online at:
<http://www.audubon.org>

or

Join by Phone – call:
1-844-428-3826

Reference our Chapter
Code G06



