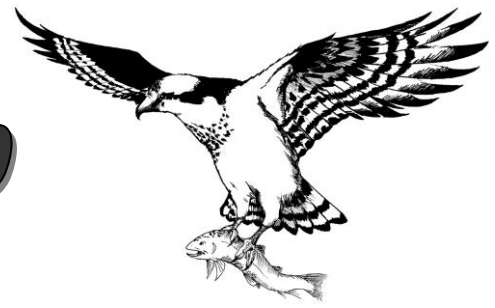


# ***THE FISH HAWK HERALD***



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
[www.cdaaudubon.org](http://www.cdaaudubon.org)

April 2009

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 8

**NOTICE: There will not be a regular Audubon Chapter meeting on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Instead, we are sponsoring the following program on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.**



## **"CREATING A GARDEN ATTRACTIVE TO BIRDS"**

Phyllis Stephens, the premier voice of Inland Northwest gardening, will be speaking at Lutheran Church of the Master (Kathleen and Ramsey) in Coeur d'Alene on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. and will include a question and answer time as well as refreshments to enjoy.

Phyllis, a Spokane native, is a professional horticulture consultant and landscape designer. She will present a great program on this subject.

Birders and gardeners are encouraged to attend. It will be an enjoyable evening for all. For information or to help with treats and publicity, contact Eula Hickam 661-3228 or [ehickam@roadrunner.com](mailto:ehickam@roadrunner.com).

**A \$5.00 donation per adult is requested**

Visit our Website:  
[www.cdaaudubon.org](http://www.cdaaudubon.org)

This Newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper

## ADOPT - A - HIGHWAY PROJECT



Time again for some spring cleaning along the two mile stretch of Highway 95 that our chapter of Audubon has adopted. We meet at the Mica Grange and work our way down the backside of the hill going south. Our first trip out was in the fall of 2003 and every spring and fall we return to do some badly needed tidying up.

The date this spring is **Saturday, May 9**. Meet at the Grange for the ritual fueling up with donuts and juice at 8:00 a.m. Plan on about 1-2 hours. Long pants, long sleeves, and water are advisable. Come out and enjoy a pretty spring morning and see if this is the time that one of us finds a treasure out there.

For more info call Judy Waring at 765-5378.

## SANDPOINT FIELD TRIP

MARCH 7, 2009

Lisa Hardy



Two Palouse Auduboners joined five Coeur d'Alene Auduboners for a late winter trip to Sandpoint. We proceeded around the north end of Lake Pend Oreille as far as Denton Slough, which was largely frozen.

Our first stop was City Beach. We found few gulls in attendance, and no rarities. We had traveled up from Coeur d'Alene on dry roads, but now it began to snow lightly. Our cups of hot coffee steamed the windows as we scoped the lake from our warm cars, and so we were surprised when a handsome young man appeared, clad only in swim trunks and running shoes, having just emerged from the steel-gray waters of the lake. Our mouths agape, we lowered our binoculars to watch him sprint by us, grinning broadly.

Water bird numbers have been reported as rather low this winter, and we found no large rafts of ducks to contradict this impression during our travel along Sunnyside. Terry Gray showed us where he had

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found three Pacific Loons the month before at Hawkins Point. We scoped various loons through the snow, and finally had a few glimpses of a probable winter plumage Pacific. Common Loons were numerous along Sunnyside and off Hawkins Point; we counted at least nine. These were mostly still in drab winter plumage, though two birds showed darker heads that indicated they were starting to molt into their more contrasting summer plumage.

Also at Hawkins Point, Diana called out, "Swallows!" At first we disbelieved her, but after searching through the blowing snow, we found two Violet-green Swallows dipping and fluttering along the ice edge. Like the swimmer at City Beach, these swallows were not waiting for spring.

At Denton Slough, we found small groups of Tundra Swan in tiny pockets of open water. As the snow came down harder, we called it a day, and headed home.

Trip participants: Kris Buchler, Janet Callen, Roland Craft, Dick Cripe, Terry Gray, Lisa Hardy, Diana Johnson

See bird list for this trip on our website:

[www.cdaudubon.net](http://www.cdaudubon.net)

## WEBSITE RECOMMENDATION

Janet Callen



Steve Love, University of Idaho Extension horticulturist, has developed a list of more than 100 trees, shrubs, grasses and perennials that are native to the Intermountain West and garden-worthy throughout Idaho. He has posted this list of his favorite native plants, along with 45 vendors, on U of I Extension's popular Idaho Landscapes and Gardens Website."

[www.extension.uidaho.edu/idahogardens](http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/idahogardens).

**Another website with lots of bird and garden information is:**

[http://enature.com/native\\_invasive/](http://enature.com/native_invasive/)

**They have a quiz you can take: "How Wild is Your Garden?"**

<http://enature.com/challenge/gardenChallenge1.asp>

# TOP WAYS TO COMBAT GLOBAL WARMING AND ITS IMPACT ON BIRDS

News Release from Audubon



**All of us have a role to play in reducing the worst impacts of global warming. As individuals and engaged citizens, we can all take steps to reduce our energy use, switch to cleaner sources of power, conserve habitat and encourage our leaders to take immediate action. Here's a short list:**

## 1. Be an Active Citizen

Join Audubon's activist team and urge our elected official to make global warming a top priority by signing our petition at [www.birdsandclimate.org/](http://www.birdsandclimate.org/). Voice your support for new approaches to help solve global warming, move us toward a 100 percent clean energy future, reduce our dependence on oil, and protect our environment. Stay informed, write letters to your leaders, and support candidates who promise to take the aggressive and farsighted actions necessary to curb global warming.

## 2. Get Involved in Your Community

Support conservation efforts that protect and restore essential bird habitat, keeping it healthy to better withstand global warming. Visit [www.audubon.org/](http://www.audubon.org/) to learn how the Important Bird Areas program is building a national network of conservation stewards. And join in "Citizen Science" efforts like the Christmas and Great Backyard Bird Counts [www.audubon.org/bird/citizen/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/citizen/index.html)

## 3. Determine Your Energy Profile and Carbon Footprint

An energy audit assesses how much energy you consume. A carbon footprint shows how much greenhouse gas you emit into the atmosphere. These figures can help you determine steps you can take to make your home, school, or office more energy efficient. Many footprint calculators are available online.

## 4. Reduce Energy Consumption

Save money and energy by switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs and maximize the use of your natural sunlight for daytime lighting needs. Reduce excessive use of home heating and cooling and weatherize your home. Buy energy efficient appliances such as those that are "Energy Star" compliant.

## 5. Eat Locally Grown and Organic Produce

The fewer miles your products travel, the less energy is used for refrigeration and transport. And buy organic. That reduces the use of pesticides that kill the organisms which help keep carbon in the soil.

## 6. Shop Smarter

Manufacturing, packing, transporting, and selling goods not only use huge amounts of energy but also release excessive amounts of greenhouse gases. When shopping, always ask, "Do I really need this? Does the Earth really need this?" You'll probably save money as well.

## 7. Save Gas and Money

Use public transportation, ride your bicycle, walk, carpool, and drive a more energy-efficient vehicle. Keep tires properly inflated to increase fuel efficiency-it will lower your fuel costs.

## 8. Plant More Trees and Buy Good Wood

An average tree absorbs ten pounds of pollutants from the air each year, including four pounds of ground level ozone and three pounds of particulates. So, plant leafy trees around your house to provide windbreaks and summer shade. When shopping for wood, ask about certified wood to support sustainably managed forests that are bird-friendly.

## 9. Switch to Green Power

Power plants are the single largest source of heat-trapping gases in the United States, but in some states you can switch to utilities that provide 50 to 100 percent renewable energy. You may also want to consider installing solar panels on your home.



See the article in our October/November issue about the Idaho Birding Trail Signs by Kris Buchler. In the October/November issue, we featured the Red-naped Sapsucker sign that is now up in Mica Bay. The Pygmy Nuthatch sign is scheduled to be put up at North Idaho College sometime soon.

Pygmy Nuthatch photo is by Tom Davenport



## PYGMY NUTHATCH



Flocks of these small, social birds forage in their preferred habitat of large ponderosa pine trees. This species feeds primarily on insects in the summer and on pine seeds in the winter. Flocks are easy to find as the birds constantly "chitter" while moving through mature trees.

The Pygmy Nuthatch is one of few songbirds in North America known to have helpers at the nest. Up to three offspring from previous years help parents raise the young in a cavity of a dead ponderosa pine.

These nuthatches employ energy saving methods to endure cold nights. As many as 100 may huddle together in a protected roost site such as a hole in a tree or birdhouse. They also lower their body temperatures.

Timber harvest, fire suppression and grazing have greatly reduced the acres of large, open ponderosa pine forests that are this species' home. North Idaho College is classified as an Important Birding Area because it provides habitat for the Pygmy Nuthatch.



## PYGMY NUTHATCH

The text of the sign reads:

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## SOUTH DAKOTA OSPREY RESTORATION PROJECT

By Dr. Wayne Melquist



**Photograph by Bill Linn**

In an effort to establish a population of Ospreys in southeast South Dakota, in 2004 the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks requested the assistance of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and University of Idaho in providing nestling Ospreys. Northern Idaho is home to a healthy population of nesting Ospreys. Since inception of the project, 72 juvenile Ospreys have been collected from nests (one nestling is always left in a nest) in the Coeur d'Alene River drainage and transported by plane and vehicle to release (hack) sites in SD.

In 2008, the release of 20 birds in Yankton, SD was coordinated by raptor biologist and rehabilitator Jane Fink (Birds of Prey Northwest), with assistance from Greg Kaltenecker (Idaho Bird Observatory in Boise), and a host of volunteers. Similar to other hacking projects, the Ospreys were placed in hacking boxes at approximately 6 weeks old and fed daily. Once the Ospreys reached their normal fledging age of about 7-9 weeks old, the box was opened to allow the birds to fly for the first time. The Ospreys were continually monitored during daylight hours and provided food at the hack site. It took a few weeks for young Osprey to be proficient at catching prey (fish) and thereby independent from the hack site.

Five of these birds received satellite-tracking transmitters in a continuing effort to monitor migration routes and wintering areas. Based on past tracking efforts, the released Ospreys tend to follow the Missouri and Mississippi River drainages to the Gulf coast. Once there, the birds may turn east and migrate down Florida and island-hop through the Caribbean to South America. Migrating young that turn west tend to migrate along the Texas coast into Mexico and Central America. One of the youngsters

appeared to winter in Cuba, while another went west and south into Costa Rica.

The transmitter on 1 of the 5 birds instrumented this summer failed before the bird initiated migration. The remaining 4 instrumented birds (1 male and 3 females) initiated migration on September 7 (A-01), 12 (A-15), 14 (A-04), and 24 (A-00), with the male (A-00) being the last to leave. Female A-01 left the Mississippi River drainage in central Arkansas and headed east, ending up in the Columbus, GA area near the Alabama-Georgia border north of the Gulf of Mexico. A-01 remained in this area for a month when the signal was unfortunately lost on 21 September.

A-15 arrived at the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport, TX on 16 September, 4 days after leaving the hack site. The bird continued down the coast to the La Coma, Mexico area, where it remains today. A-04 arrived at the Gulf coast in Louisiana near the Texas border on 17-18 September, 3-4 days after initiating migration. The bird then migrated east to the Louisiana delta area at the mouth of the Mississippi River, where it remains today. A-00, the only male sporting a transmitter, arrived at the Gulf coast south of Mobile, AL on or before 3 October. From there it migrated east along the coast, staying in the Steinhatchee, FL area for a few weeks before moving again south through the Everglades and settling near Flamingo.

It will be interesting to see if the birds continue migrating south, as expected, or if they choose to remain where they have been for more than a month. Conditions are obviously adequate where they are, or they would have continued their migration.

Young Ospreys remain in the wintering area until they approach 2 years of age, when they migrate north to find a nesting area, often in the location where they were released. Males have a greater tendency than females to return to the area they fledged from. It may take 20 or more released birds to get a single nesting pair established, as 50% or more young Ospreys die before the end of their first year. Thus far, no released birds have been observed back at the hack sites (all the birds were banded with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service numbered leg bands and 52 have either blue or green coded leg bands), but we remain optimistic. This project is scheduled to repeat the release of 20 more Ospreys each year through 2010.

**Continued on Page 6**

## OSPREY PROJECT

Continued from Page 5

### Follow up email from Wayne

**March 2, 2009** The birds remain in their respective locations, as previously reported.

*Wayne Melquist is the former IDFG Nongame Wildlife Manager. Upon retiring from IDFG in 2003, he spent 3 years as a Research Associate Professor at the University of Idaho, where he continues to work part-time on the Osprey and other wildlife projects. He has banded and worked on Ospreys in North Idaho for 36 years and coordinated the collection of these Ospreys.*



## BIRDING FESTIVALS

Are you planning any trips soon? You might be interested in adding a birding festival to your itinerary. *Bird Watchers Digest* has a

Birding and Nature Festival Finder that can help you select from many available festivals occurring all over the country.

[WWW.BIRDWATCHERSDIGEST.COM/SITE/FINDERTOOL/BIRDFESTFINDER/BIRDFESTSEARCH.ASPX](http://WWW.BIRDWATCHERSDIGEST.COM/SITE/FINDERTOOL/BIRDFESTFINDER/BIRDFESTSEARCH.ASPX)

The American Birding Association also has a festival finding site.

[WWW.ABA.ORG/FESTIVALS/](http://WWW.ABA.ORG/FESTIVALS/)

### Here are three Festivals not too far from here

#### JOHN SCHARFF MIGRATORY BIRD FESTIVAL

**Date:** Always the first full weekend in April

**Location:** Burns, Oregon

**Address:** 484 North Broadway  
Burns Oregon 97720

**Phone:** (541) 573-2636

**Fax:** (541) 573-3408

**E-Mail:** [info@migratorybirdfestival.com](mailto:info@migratorybirdfestival.com)

Website: [www.migratorybirdfestival.com](http://www.migratorybirdfestival.com)

#### **Description:**

Spend an amazing weekend witnessing the spectacular spring migration in the Harney Basin of Southeast Oregon. View thousands of migratory birds as they rest and feed in the wide open spaces

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of Oregon's high desert. From waterfowl to shorebirds, cranes to raptors, wading birds to songbirds, you'll see it all! The festival offers non-stop birding activities as well as historical and cultural information sure to entertain you and your family. So whether you're a beginner or a life-long wildlife enthusiast, the festival has something for everyone. Registration opened February 9th!

#### Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

**Date:** April 24th, 25, 26th, 2009

**Location:** Hoquiam High School, Hoquiam, WA. & Grays Harbor NWR

**Address:** Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival  
P.O. Box 470

Montesano, WA 98563

**Phone:** 1-800-303-8498

**E-Mail:** [www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com)

#### **Description:**

This is your chance to see migrating shorebirds at one of their main stops on the Pacific flyway. We have field trips, lectures, a featured speaker, a fun fair for the kids, and a banquet/auction. Grays Harbor is an Important Birding Area and gives festival-goers a real close-up view of some amazing travelers!

#### SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY FESTIVAL

**Date:** May 15-17, 2009

**Location:** Kuna, Idaho - 15 miles southwest of Boise

**Address:** Western Heritage Foundation  
P.O. Box 84 Kuna Idaho 83634

**Phone:** 208-861-9131

**E-Mail:** [DJALyon@aol.com](mailto:DJALyon@aol.com)

Website: [www.snakeriverbirdsofpreyfestival.com](http://www.snakeriverbirdsofpreyfestival.com)

**Description:** The Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA), in southwest Idaho, was established in 1993 to protect a unique environment that supports one of the world's densest concentrations of nesting birds of prey. The festival coincides with the peak of nesting for birds of prey, providing opportunities to see falcons, eagles, hawks, and owls. Friday movie night begins with a falconry demonstration and tribute to Morley Nelson. Field trips and lectures available on Saturday and Sunday.

## APRIL FIELD TRIPS



### New Participants Wanted:

Beginning bird watchers are welcome to join us on our field trips. Required: An interest in birds, a love of the outdoors, and binoculars, if you have them. Our group is composed of friendly people with varied birding skills who will serve as your guides for the day.

**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 share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver (see President's message in the September newsletter).**

### MICA BAY SURVEY

DATE: April 14, Tuesday  
 TIME: 8:00 a.m.  
 MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95  
 LEADER: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318  
 ACTIVITY: We spend about 2-3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Everybody is welcome including beginner birders. We will help you with identification skills.

### TUBBS HILL WILDFLOWER WALK

DATE: April 18, Saturday  
 TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
 MEET: 10<sup>th</sup> Street entrance to Tubbs Hill  
 LEADER: Native Plant Society  
 ACTIVITY: Two hour guided wildflower walk.  
 FOR INFORMATION CALL: Roldnd Craft 457-8894

## NEWMAN AND PEONE WETLANDS

DATE: April 19, Sunday  
 TIME: 8:00 a.m.  
 MEET: K-mart Parking Lot- parking lot behind Mexican restaurant  
 LEADER: Roland Craft, 457-8894  
 ACTIVITY: This is a full-day trip so bring food and water. We will visit a new public area on the north side of Newman Lake for upland birds and waterfowl. Depending on how much time is left, we will look for upland birds and waterfowl around Peone Wetlands

### OTHER 2009 FIELD TRIPS

May 9, Saturday see page 2  
 ADOPT-a-HIGHWAY PROJECT

May 16, Saturday, Phillips Farm and Steptoe Butte,  
 Leader: Janet Callen 664-1085

May 30, Saturday, 1/2 to 3/4 day, Worley and Conkling Park area, Leader: Kris Buchler 664-4739

### CENTURY COUNT, JUNE 5-6, 2009

SELKIRK HOUSE – Your Base Camp to Outdoor Adventure!  
 DATE: June 6, Saturday, dawn to dusk.  
 ACCOMMODATIONS: Selkirk House, Friday - Saturday nightS June 5-6.  
 Three bedrooms, Sunroom, 2 baths (sleeps 6-8)  
 Camper okay.  
 ACTIVITY: Our annual Century Count will explore Boundary County this year. We hope to cover some new territory. Selkirk House has been offered free of charge but we will require a donation to cover housekeeping.

Please reserve early. Bed spaces require full participation in the count. The sun porch can sleep any number in sleeping bags.

Final details regarding food and meals will be decided later.

Fun and games are guaranteed!!!

Contact Kris Buchler: 664-4739 or [eagleroost@roadrunner.com](mailto:eagleroost@roadrunner.com).

HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US! All birders are welcome!

