

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society

April 2006

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 8

BOARD MEETING

DATE: April 17, Monday

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mt. West Bank
125 Ironwood Dr.

APRIL PROGRAM

DATE: April 17, Monday

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: First Presbyterian Church,
521 E. Lakeside, Coeur d'Alene

SPEAKER: Don Johnson, emeritus
Professor of Zoology, University of Idaho

PROGRAM: "Osprey" Since 1970, Don Johnson and his team have banded over 2100 Osprey in the Coeur d'Alene - St. Joe watershed. Come see and hear the results of this sometimes physically-demanding research on Osprey habitat and populations. The Osprey, or "fish hawk", is a well-known summer resident in our area, and, of course, the symbol of our chapter

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

The annual Earth Day fair will be held at the Harding Center, 411 N. 15th St on April 22, 2006, and will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Coeur d'Alene Audubon will be represented, so please stop by and say "hello".

Visit our website:

www.cdaudubon.org

THE OFFICIAL IDAHO STATE BIRDING TRAIL

George Saylor



Idaho has joined the growing number of states with an official state birding trail! HCR 38, which I sponsored, cleared the legislature last week. The resolution declares the birding trail, which many of you worked on in conjunction with the non-game personnel in the Fish and Game Department, to be the official Idaho State Birding Trail, and encourages the Department of Commerce and Labor to promote it in their tourist literature.

The trail consists of approximately 200 high quality birding areas and is divided into four main loops. The northern loop is essentially the area north of Riggins to the Canadian border, and includes such sites as Ball Creek Ranch, Kootenai NWR, Mica Bay, Heyburn State Park, and many others. If you did all the sites on the northern loop, you would cover 700 miles.

The only remaining task is for Fish and Game to finish the creation of the guidebooks and get them published in time for ceremonies dedicating the trail. The official opening is scheduled for International Migratory Bird Day in May, and it includes a number of events around the state, including Coeur d'Alene.

The trail sites and related information can be viewed online at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/ibt>. I was told that the quickest process is to use the grid view link rather than the map link. There is still time to give feedback on specific sites to the Fish and Game Department if you desire.

One of my goals in promoting this trail was to provide economic benefits to communities located near the trail's sites. I presented information in committee that showed the tremendous economic impact wildlife watching has. Information from a 2001 national survey showed that 18,000,000 Americans traveled a mile or more to observe birds. If we attract only a small part of that number via promotion of the birding trail, that will provide important economic benefits. The report stated that on average, birders spent \$138 per day while traveling to observe birds.

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BIRD TRACKS



AUDUBON MEMBERS MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

MEMORIAL

There will be memorial held for Glenn Nyberg, long time Audubon member, on Saturday, May 6th at the Coeur d'Alene Airport, Northern Sky Air Service, Hanger 28 in the Pilots' Lounge. The time of the memorial is 2:00 p.m.

Glenn was a quiet and gentle man who had participated in some really important engineering projects in places as diverse as China, and the Middle East, as well as all the well-known vehicle manufacturers in the US. His wife Carolyn says flying his plane was the thing he loved doing most. He was able to do that for many years. Glenn retired 18 years ago making it possible for him and Carolyn to have many travel and outdoor adventures together and they both loved it. They have a son and a daughter and four grandchildren who are expected to attend the memorial gathering

GARAGE SALE

Our annual fund raiser will be **June 3rd**, Saturday. Please save items for this fun event. We need everything, with clothing the exception.

If you need space to store items, please call one of the members listed on the back of the newsletter.

GREEN TIPS

Green tips will be a monthly feature in our newsletter. It is designed to give you ideas for taking personal conservation action to improve the environmental health and habitat quality of our yards and neighborhoods. *(Members are encouraged to send tips to the editor for inclusion in future*



Fuertes
Collection

newsletters.)

Shirley Sturts

Woodpeckers are handsome birds that reward us by consuming millions of noxious insects including carpenter ants and carpenter bees. Even so, they can create problems for home-owners.

Northern Flickers have already started their drumming activities, waking some of us up early in the morning and in some cases doing serious structural damage to our homes. I read where one home owner solved the damage problem by putting up a flicker nesting box. He said it worked for him, no more house damage.

For suggestions on woodpecker problems and other bird problems go to:

http://library.fws.gov/Bird_Publications/prob.html#2a

AUDUBON ADVENTURES AWARD

Janet Callen

Coeur d'Alene Audubon received an Outstanding Achievement Award for: "Successfully implementing the Audubon Adventures program in 2004-2005, and helping young people in 121 classrooms become aware of and involved in habitat preservation & restoration." The award came from National Audubon with a handwritten note informing us we were second in the United States for the number of classrooms sponsored.

A special thank you goes to Scott and Mary Lou Reed without whose financial support this would never have been possible. And thanks also to Kris Buchler who contacted schools.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Roland Craft

Recent activities of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Conservation Committee include discussing and writing a letter to the USDA Forest Service opposing the sale of Federal land (U.S. Forest Service, BLM, etc.). This land belongs to all Americans, not just politicians. The letter was signed by members of our Audubon Chapter.

Other activities and concerns are: the rapid development of Kootenai County and the designation of open spaces, the clean-up of the Coeur d'Alene Basin, and commenting on the management plan updates for the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.

APRIL FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

1. **PLEASE REGISTER:** Dates and trips could change.
2. **COST:** Participants will share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver at a rate of \$0.25/mile, with the trip leader responsible for collection and distribution of the compensation.
3. **RADIOS:** We will ask participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries as needed.
4. **UNSCHEDULED TRIPS :** Sign up to be on the group email list for unscheduled trips with Shirley Sturts: s.sturts@verizon.net, or get on a call list by calling Shirley at 664-5318.

RATHDRUM PRAIRIE SEARCH

DATES: April 4, Tuesday

TIME: 9:00 - 11 A.M.

MEET: 8732 North Meyer Road (One road east of Highway 41 and between Prairie and Hayden Ave.) home of Stephen Johnson.

LEADERS: Stephen Johnson 765-6516

ACTIVITY: Come help Stephen with his Rathdrum Prairie bird study. He will be reporting from time to time what he finds out about the birds the Prairie. He is asking for our help! It should be fun. Please call Stephen ahead of time and let him know if you are coming. He can then let you know if he needs to change the day or time of the trip.

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES: April 11, Tuesday

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

LEADERS: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318 - Kris Buchler, 664-4739

ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds in the Mica Bay area. Beginner birders are welcome.

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE: April 18, Tuesday

MEET: Tubbs Hill, 11TH Street entrance

LEADER: Lynn Sheridan, 765-2603

ACTIVITY: Take an hour out of your busy day to enjoy the out-of-doors, see how many different species of birds and flowers one can find in an hour and get to know people that share your interest in nature. Beginner bird watchers are welcome.

COLUMBIA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. OTHELLO, WASHINGTON

DATE: Saturday and Sunday, April 8 and 9

Note the date is two weeks after the Sandhill Crane Festival - lots of birds but fewer humanoids.

TIME: 9:00 A.M. (Saturday)

MEET: K-Mart parking lot, south end

LEADER: Roland Craft, 457-8894.

ACTIVITY: Look for Sandhill Cranes and other migratory waterfowl - Leave 9:00 A.M. Saturday and drive to Othello. Bird in the afternoon and following morning. Start home after lunch on Sunday. Stay overnight in motel or make personal arrangements. Roland will have motel information available but you are responsible for making your own reservations.

COMING MAY 7TH CHENEY, WASHINGTON AREA

IDAHO STATE BIRDING TRAIL

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My other motives were to acknowledge the work done by Audubon members and others around the state for their efforts in helping identify sites and developing the trail, and to promote birding and an awareness of the importance of habitat.

I had read an interesting article from an organization called Conservation Through Birding, which is based on three principles: (1) birding is approaching nature through birds, (2) through embracing nature, value and significance are ascribed to the natural world, (3) the recognition of value leads to a commitment to conservation. What we appreciate (birds and nature), we come to value and desire to save. I think the realization that birding, which we love for what it is, also carries economic benefits which will help others want to conserve habitat. In our state it seems that economics is often the bottom line, and if that helps preserve habitat, so be it. If you are interested in the concept, which is much more detailed than my summary, check out

www.conservationthroughbirding.org/positions.

In the grand scheme of things, this is not major legislation, but it was important to me, and hopefully will be important for our state. I am honored to be a part of the Audubon community, and look forward to more active participation. You might be interested to know that I am staying on Wood Duck Lane, and yes, I have seen them in my neighborhood. (Along with 19 other species. I just heard

yesterday from Sharon Kiefer, of the Fish and Game Department, that she saw a Peregrine falcon on top of one of the taller buildings in Boise. Pigeons beware!

NEW BIRDING PRODUCTS

CHEEK SWAB KITS FOR GEESE NOW AVAILABLE



Tired of futilely scanning huge flocks of Canada Geese looking for that Cackling to add to your state list? You know that many of the smaller geese are, in fact, Cackling Geese, but how do you tell? Well, the folks at BirdGenident have the answer to your dilemma.

Bird Genident now produces a line of cheek swab kits that can be used to rigorously differentiate between a Cackling and a Canada Goose. No longer do you need to guess. Instead, simply run one of the provided swab sticks lightly across the roof of a questionable bird's mouth, drop the swab into a sample bag, and put the bag in a foil-lined pre-paid mailing envelope. You will typically be able to access your identification online in 4-7 business days after mailing the sample.

Field testing has shown the kits to be 99% accurate. Two types of kit are now available. The Basic Goose Kit contains swab sticks, sample pouches and mailing envelopes for 6 analyses and retails for \$49.95.

The Professional Goose Kit contains materials for 60 analyses, plus a 30' DuckDuckGoose™ large bird net, a NetJet™ ground-launching cannon (local laws may apply), and instruction booklet, retailing for \$1,059.50.

Company spokesperson Chick Little says that a number of other kits are now in development, including ones for dowitchers, crows and empidonax flycatchers. Chick also wishes you a Happy April Fool's Day.



BIRD QUOTE CORNER

Taken From *Shakespeare's Birds* by Peter Goodfellow

So doth the swan her downy
cygnets save,
Keeping them prisoner
underneath her wings.
- *Henry VI, Part 1*

For all the water in the ocean
Can never turn the swan's
black legs to white
- *Titus Andronicus*

The nightingale, if she should
sing by day,
When every goose is cackling,
would be thought
No better a musician than the
wren.
- *The Merchant of Venice*

By this lamenting Philomel had
ended
The well-tun'd warble of her
mighty sorrow...
- *The Rape of Lucrece*

**WILD BIRDS BELONG IN
THE WILD!
HELP KEEP THEM THERE!**



**Photograph by
Herb Severtson**

FACTS ABOUT BABY BIRDS:

Kris Buchler (Source: Vermont
Institute of Natural Science)

**Most baby birds on the
ground are not orphans.**

Well-feathered young birds which can move about, but are not yet able to fly, are called "branchers." It is normal for them to be on the ground and it is best to leave them alone so that their parents can continue to care for them.

**Birds have a very poor sense
of smell.**

This means that young birds can be placed back in the nest. The parents will continue to care for them, but only if you keep your distance. (Note: these birds may often leave the nest again and then it is best to leave them alone.)

**Baby birds are very difficult to
hand-raise.**

Their nutrition, temperature and housing requirements are very specific. Young birds must be fed every 20 minutes from dawn to dusk.

**All native wild birds are
protected by law!**

It is illegal to keep them as pets or to raise orphans unless permitted by the state and federal governments.

BABY BIRD ALERT

Often, a baby bird found on the ground is in the fledging process. Fledging occurs when the babies have matured to the point of being physically active and begin climbing out of their nest to exercise their wings. Within a day or two they are capable of taking their first flight, which may succeed in getting them safely to the ground, but not back up to the nest or onto a safe branch.

If you are concerned for a young bird's safety while it is sitting on the ground waiting for parental care, simply pick it up and place it out of harm's way, on a branch, in a basket, or opened box secured to a nearby tree. The parents will usually return soon to feed their young, but only if they feel it is safe.

Once you have helped the baby back into a tree, remove yourself and other potential threats (cats, dogs, etc.) from the area. Watch for any activity from inside your house or simply leave and check back in an hour or two. If your cat is an avid birder you may consider keeping it indoors for a couple of days or until your local baby birds have mastered the art of flying.

**HELP PREVENT INJURIES
TO WILD BIRDS!**

Kris Buchler (Source: Vermont
Institute of Natural Science)

Many birds are injured each year from flying into windows or glass doors. Birds fly into glass because they do not perceive

glass as a solid object and may see reflections of the outside.

**Remedies for preventing
injuries:**

1. Pieces of light-colored string or stained-glass ornaments in front of the window may be used to break up the reflective and transparent properties of the glass.
2. Keep a light on near the problem window to eliminate reflections.
3. Hang a decorative windsock or streamers in front of problem windows to create movement to ward off birds.
4. Place feeders away from windows where accidents are likely to occur or place them very close to the window, because the bird must slow down when landing on the feeder. Birds fed on a windowsill will discover that the window is a barrier.

During nesting season some birds, robins in particular, will repeatedly attack their own reflection, mistaking it for an intruder. In time this behavior will cease. However, simply covering the reflective surface will hasten the process.

If a bird does hit your window and is unable to fly away, place it in a safe, secluded spot where it can recover. A planter or large flower pot often works well. An alternative is to place the bird in a box or paper bag (with air holes) and put it in a quiet area for 1-2 hours. If it is unable to fly away after that time, it should be taken to a wildlife rehabilitator to treatment.

Outdoor Nets

Owls and other birds may be injured or killed by flying into, or becoming entangled in, soccer and volleyball nets. Accidental injury may be prevented by lowering or furling nets after

each use and removing them during the off-season.

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...INJURIES TO WILD
BIRDS!

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A Cat's Secret Weapon

Most cats carry a bacterium in their saliva called *Pasteurella multocida*. This bacterium spreads through a bird's system very quickly, often causing infection and death within 48 hours. To assist birds in staying out of your cat's mouth, put a bell on your cat's collar to warn birds of its presence. A bird that has been bitten by a cat must receive medical treatment immediately if it is to survive.

Your Chimney as a Nest

Chimneys are often used as nest or roost sites by cavity nesting birds. Inevitably, a nest may fall or a bird will accidentally find its way into your home. To avoid unwanted visitors and prevent injury, install a chimney screen.

Commercial chimney screens may be purchased at most hardware stores or may be constructed using ½" x ½" galvanized, wire screen. This will prevent wild life from entering your home. Attic ventilation openings, vent pipes and window fans should also be screened.

ANIMAL RESCUE

Rescue an animal only if:

The parents are known to be dead and the animal is too young to survive on its own.

The animal has been injured.

The animal is in immediate or obvious danger.

Do not attempt to handle potentially dangerous animals

such as hawks, owls, herons, loons, bats, raccoons, skunks or foxes. Call Idaho Fish and Game or a licensed rehabilitator.

Steps in rescuing an animal:

Drop a towel over the animal and use leather gloves to gather it up carefully.

Place the animal in a box on a soft towel and place in a warm, quiet, preferably dark spot.

Do not attempt to handle, feed or water.

Call your nearest licensed rehabilitator or Idaho Fish and Game for information.

Contacts:

Idaho Fish and Game – 769-1414. Ask for Beth Paragamian concerning raptors.

Idaho Fish and Game will contact a large animal rehabilitator for deer, bear and wild cats.

Jane Cantwell – (Raptors)

Kris Buchler – 664-4739.
Raptors and other birds. Coeur d'Alene Audubon.

**SEEING EVERYTHING
THERE WAS TO SEE**

Dick Cripe

We made the front page of The Spokesman-Review! Five Auduboners were joined at Liberty Lake Saturday morning, March 18th, by Jonel Aleccia and Kathy Stevens of the Spokesman-Review. The journalists were looking for a story on the arrival of spring; the resulting story was in the March 21 paper. Plenty of birds were in evidence and there was lots of singing. No neotropic songbirds were present - it is much too early for them - but 35 species were spotted. We scoped from the observation platform at the south end of the lake, then walked a mile or so up the trail.

After seeing everything that there was to see, the group drove on to Newman Lake. Enroute, Dick entertained us with lyrics from Rigoletto. At Newman Lake, we identified additional species including three Eurasian Wigeon and two Northern Shrike. The weather for the day began cold and windy, but steadily improved until we had bright sunshine in the mid-afternoon. It was an interesting trip to two areas we seldom visit. The picnic area and trail at the south end of Liberty Lake are well worth the visit as spring advances. Participants: Kris and Ed Buchler, Lisa Hardy, Judy Waring, and Dick Cripe.

BROWN BAG BIRDING

Lynn Sheridan



**Photograph by
Shirley Sturts**

Jan and Herb Severtson, Roland Craft and I met at the edge of Fernan Lake. A young mother and daughter, Ellen and Lauren Helbling were tossing bread to the resident ducks and a few feet away a muskrat came out of the water searching for crumbs! He was not scared, or else very hungry. Ellen took a digital photo and said she'd send me a copy. We showed her

the dozen Great Blue Heron perched in the big pines.

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OBSERVATION POST



From the Field notes of Janet Callen: My Unbirding Trip to New York City March 2006

I recently traveled to New York City to spend time with family and friends, doing every tourist activity possible. I traveled to New York City on Amtrak. Along the way I saw Bald Eagles near Glacier Park and traveling across the northeastern part of Montana dozens of Ring-necked Pheasants and Sharp-tailed Grouse flew as the train neared. Numerous flying small brown birds were also visible, but not identifiable. As we neared Fort Peck Reservoir more than 1000 Canada Geese were in the air, heading for stubble fields. The next day in farm fields of Minnesota and/or Wisconsin, I spotted at least 20 Sandhill Cranes.

As the train headed south from Albany along the Hudson River, there was an area where another river joined, that had at least 50 Bald Eagles, flying, sitting in trees and on gravel bars.

At the island of the Statue of Liberty, I spotted a flock of geese in the water, and am quite

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certain they were Brandt. On our last full day in New York City, three of us walked through Central Park, including the area called the Ramble. I spotted at least 15 male and female Northern Cardinals, a couple of Blue Jays, and more than 20 White-throated Sparrows. And at 927 Fifth Ave I saw Pale Male and Lola. Lola was sitting on the nest which is situated on the façade of an apartment building and Pale Male was flying from the nest. I am aware that "unbirding" is not a word and I discovered that if you are a bird-watcher, "unbirding" as an activity is impossible.

From the Field notes of Judy Waring five years ago

The most bizarre bird behavior that I have witnessed took place about five years ago while hiking near Palouse Falls in central Washington. I saw a raven glide overhead completely upside down with his feet sticking up in the air. He/she did this twice as if to impress us. A fellow hiker noted the same spectacle and we both had trouble believing what we had seen. I recently "googled" ravens and sure enough flying upside down was reportedly seen by others. I don't know the motivation for this trick but I like to think that they are just having a good time.

From the Field notes of Shirley and Keith Sturts - March 2006

My husband returned home after dark from the store a week ago and saw something hanging

onto our bird feeder. At first, he thought it was some kind of a mammal, but then he realized what he was looking at was a wing. The bird appeared to have one wing spread out. It didn't spook when he got out of the car and went in the house, but when he returned with our digital camera it flew off into the surrounding darkness.

In talking it over the next morning, we concluded this night visitor was probably a small owl, possibly the Northern Saw-whet Owl that we have been hearing in our area off and on for the past few weeks. It was possibly dining on a small rodent that was peacefully having a seed feast before being rudely interrupted by becoming dinner itself. This is all conjecture. I need to find out what, if any, little creatures use feeders at night.

BROWN BAG BIRDING

Continued from page 6

About 40 gulls were on a patch of ice on the far shore that were hard to ID until someone else threw down some food scraps, then we saw only Ring-billed. One had a pale pink breast (due to the food it eats). Among the Mallards was an oddity that looked like a cross with a Northern Pintail. We called it a Mall-pin.

Familiar Redwing Blackbirds called, and one close at hand made "tuk tuk" noises too. Other species seen and heard were: Pygmy Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee, House, and Song Sparrow, Canada Goose, and Bufflehead.

It was a nice start to a busy afternoon. Roland and I drove up to Avondale to join Dick Cripe to finish cleaning the nest boxes (postponed due rainy weather). We had to take

a few damaged boxes down,
and will go back soon to replace
them.

Thank you, everyone.

