

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society
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April 2015

Volume 24 Number 8

APRIL PROGRAM

DATE: April 14, Tuesday

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

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

SPEAKER: Jessica Pollock, Research
Biologist for Intermountain Bird
Observatory

PROGRAM: Jessica will be traveling to
Coeur d'Alene from Boise to showcase her
hummingbird banding project. She has
been banding hummingbirds for 10 years
both in British Columbia and Idaho. Join
her for a presentation about banding
these tiny gems and what we can learn
about their biology and habitat.

BOARD MEETING

DATE: April 7, Tuesday

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

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

See minutes on our Website:

<http://cdaudubon.org/board%20meetings.html>



A Lego tribute to the Great
Backyard Bird Count gets a couple of
real-life visitors in this photo from
Gary Mueller in Missouri

Great Backyard Bird Count Breaks Records—and Not Just for the Cold Weather

From the eBird Website

Thanks to everyone who took part in the
18th annual Great Backyard Bird Count on
February 13-16. People sent in more than
147,000 checklists from more than 100
countries. In all, you reported a record
5,090 species, equal to nearly half of all bird
species in the world. In many parts of North
America the cold, windy, snowy weather
made birding challenging, but participants
saw enough Snowy Owls to suggest an "echo
flight" had occurred.

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Great Backyard Bird Count

Continued from page 1

Sightings ranged from winter visitors like Pine Siskins in North America; to an enormous flock of Bramblings in Europe; to reports elsewhere in the world of two birds that aren't even officially described as species yet—an owl and a tapaculo. [Read the full roundup](#) and [see how your region did](#).

President's Report



Eula Hickam
Thank you Sheelagh and Jim Lynn who have built a new bluebird trail on

Bunco and Parks Road north and east of Athol. This will give more opportunities for bluebirds to nest and raise their young. Also, Rob and Nancy Kroese have built a trail off of Bunn Road, south of Coeur d'Alene. They had one pair nest last year and are hoping for more this spring.

Mountain and Western Bluebirds are listed as threatened in the "Audubon Climate Change Report" issued in September. The warming environment has forced them to find nesting sites at higher altitudes than their usual nesting places - so the more boxes the better!

Have you looked at the birds roosting (soon to nest?) on the top of the pilings in McEuen Park? Cameras have been installed so that

we can keep an eye on how things are going. Go to www.cdavid.org to try it out!

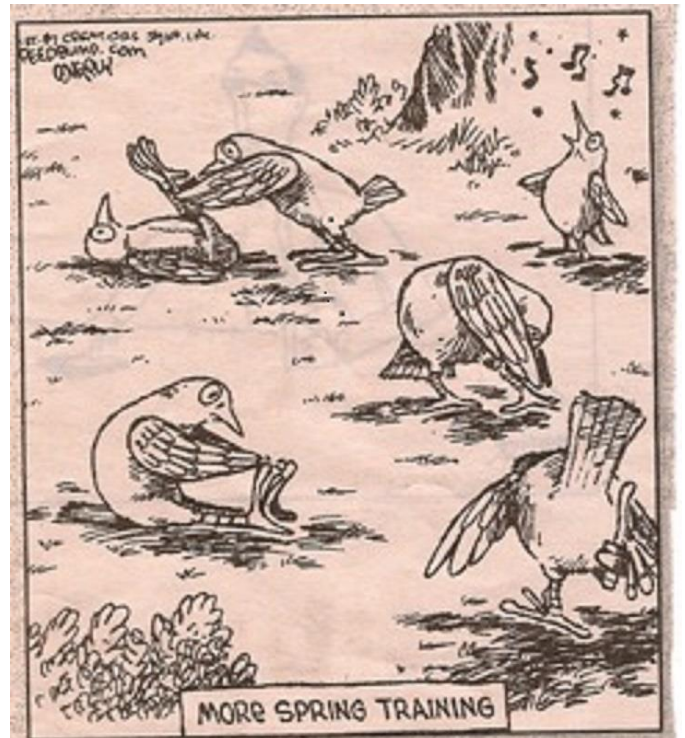
A big thanks to the crew who worked together to hold the "Spring Cleaning Yard Sale" held on Saturday, March 21, at our usual meeting room in the Lutheran Church at Kathleen and Ramsey. It was a great success! Busy all day! Funds will be used to support the "Reel in and Recycle" program.



Be sure to come to the April meeting on the 14th. You will learn so much about hummingbirds! See you there.

Black-chinned Hummingbird
Photo by Wayne Tree

It is time to start your spring training for birdwatching



Spring Sale Success

Lynn Sheridan

I want to thank everyone for helping organize the sale, donating, their time, and contributing wonderful items. Everything was in good condition and a large number of people came. We made a total of \$1,017.49.



Jan Severtson's two raffle baskets were a charm. Ressa Pharp won the child's basket (photo). Diane Lee won the adult basket.

Thanks to the Idaho Youth Ranch for picking up the leftovers. Lastly, gratitude to Eula Hickam and her church members for tolerating the crowds and the clutter.

Cougar Bay Preserve and BLM Trail

Kris Buchler

Seven intrepid Auduboners braved the rain and drizzle to visit The Nature Conservancy's Cougar Bay Preserve and explore the new BLM trail that continues from TNC land along the wetland and eventually up the mountain. There is a loop as well as a spur that leads to an observation platform. We knew birding would be poor due to the season and weather but the trail offers much promise for spring and summer birding.

I did two seasons of bird counts at Cougar

Bay many years ago, but none of the trails then offered good views of the wetlands or the bay. Birding by ear is hampered by traffic noise along Hwy 95 and is still present when hikers make their way on the upper trails.

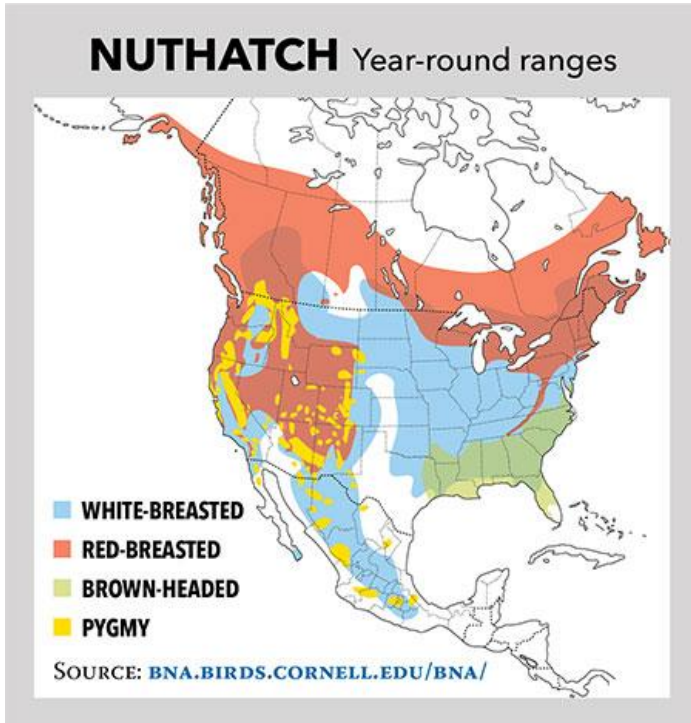
The area south of the small parking pullout used to be a great wetland harboring all 3 teal - Green-winged, Blue-winged and Cinnamon. It has filled in and is more of a meadow now.

Our few birds of note included Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, American Robin, Pacific Wren, Black-capped Chickadee, Canada Goose, Mallard, Bufflehead, Ring-billed Gull, Killdeer and Common Raven. A "mew" was heard and is more likely to have been a Spotted Towhee than a Gray Catbird, which is unlikely this early. Based on the bird counts done years ago, we should expect many Tree Swallows, Cassin's Vireo, Western Tanager, flycatchers, several warblers, Red-winged Blackbird and possibly Yellow-headed Blackbird, Swainson's Thrush, and many more songbirds attracted to the various habitats. Cougar Bay is an important migration stop offering rest and food for many species including swans, American White Pelican, loons and several species of grebes and waterfowl.

Our March 14th trip was joined by Valerie Zagar, Peggy Albertson, Roland Craft, Darlene Carlton, Mary Deasy and Ed and Kris Buchler.

Four Nuthatches, For Ways To Make It Through A Cold Winter

From Cornell Lab of Ornithology



Of all the regulars at your bird feeder in winter, nuthatches are the ones that are just a tad quirky. They move differently than other birds, scaling the trunks of nearby trees up, down, and sideways with the erratic motion of a wind-up toy. They also sound different, giving a funny little nasal *nyuk-nyuk-nyuk* or peeping or squeaking. And they look different, sort of plump with a straight, sharp bill.

Winter is the perfect time to observe how nuthatches earned their common name, as they jam large seeds and nuts into tree bark before whacking them with their sharp bill to hatch out the seed from the inside.

Nuthatches are also into caching, meaning they store food to eat later. They often store seeds, one at a time, under the loose bark of a tree, typically hiding their cache with a piece of bark, lichen, moss, or snow. Scientists have observed nuthatches retrieving and eating more cached seeds when the weather gets colder, meaning they may use caching as a strategy for keeping a ready food supply throughout winter.

In North America there are four species of nuthatch; each one using a slightly different suite of behaviors to make it through the cold winter months. Match the species to the map, and let us know if you've seen any of these behaviors near you.

North America is home to four species of nuthatch, each with special strategies to survive cold winter months.



Photo by Bill Linn

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*): In winter, White-

breasted Nut-hatches survive by staying in mixed flocks and using caching to have a steady supply of food. These birds join foraging flocks led by chickadees or titmice, perhaps partly because more eyes in a group make food easier to find and predators easier to spot.

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Four Nuthatches ... Continued from page 4

The winter feeder watcher may notice that male White-breasted Nuthatches can be rude, by human standards, pushing females aside at a platform full of bird seed. And nuthatches may steal from each others' caches, so they tend to fly off in opposite directions from a feeder to avoid leading an on looking bird to their secret stashes of seeds.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*):



Photo by
Wayne Tree

Red-breasted Nuthatches live in the North Woods and mountain forests of the West, where their excitable *yank-yank* calls sound like tiny tin horns being honked in the treetops. These little birds survive the cold months by migrating to areas with a more reliable winter food supply.

Red-breasted Nuthatches at the northern end of their range in Canada migrate south every year, though southern populations don't move unless the conifer seed crop is poor. When that happens, large numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches can irrupt as far south as the Gulf Coast.

Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*):

One of the few birds found almost exclusively in the United States, the Brown-headed Nuthatch lives in the pine forests of the

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southeastern states (with another small isolated population in the Bahamas). Like other nuthatches, Brown-headed Nuthatches may rely on caches of food for the winter, but they also have another trick up their sleeve: they are one of the few birds that use tools, utilizing a piece of bark as a lever to pry up the bark on a tree and look for food. Their tools give them access to additional sources of food in the winter, and they may carry their bark tool from tree to tree and also use it to cover up a seed cache.

Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*):

Small even by nuthatch standards, Pygmy Nuthatches are tiny bundles of hyperactive energy that climb up and down ponderosa



Photo by
Wayne Tree

while squeaking like a rubber ducky. They are highly social and use their sociability to get them through the winter. During the cold months, they pile into a hole in a tree and roost communally; as many as 100 may share a roost. Pygmy Nuthatches survive cold nights by huddling together and going into torpor, letting their body temperature drop into hypothermia in order to conserve energy. They are the only birds in North America that combine these three energy-saving mechanisms (roosting in tree cavities, huddling together, and torpor) into one winter-survival strategy.

Coming Events

Adopt - A - Highway

Date: April 11, Saturday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: Meet at Mica Grange Hall for donuts, coffee and road assignments. If you have not signed up yet, you must contact Mike Zagar 819-5115 and sign a waiver.

Earth Day Event

"Protect Our Gem"

Date: April 18, Saturday

Place: Coeur d'Alene Public Library

Lynn Sheridan will have booth at this event featuring our state bird, the Mountain Bluebird. She will include information on building bird boxes and where to put them up.

Migratory Bird Day Event

Date: May 9, Saturday

Volunteers needed: See our home page for more information or contact Carrie Hugo chugo@blm.gov

Birds and Beans

Shade Grown Organic Coffee

George Saylor - 664-2787

Information about the coffee and ordering is on our Website: www.cdaudubon.org

Blue Bird Trail Helpers

We check our three trails - Hoo Doo, Mica Bay, and Mica Flats - once a week April-August to record activity in the boxes. Lynn Sheridan manages a trail on the Avondale Golf Course.

For information or to volunteer:

shirley.sturts@gmail.com - 664-5318

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*Northern Hawk Owl
Photo by
Larry Krumpleman*

Coming Field Trips

Participants should contact the trip leader at least 24 hours in advance of the field trip for any changes in the meeting place, time or destination.

Participants will share in mileage reimbursement for the driver.

Additional field trips will be added if we have someone to lead them. Please contact our field trip coordinators, Janet Callen 664-1085 and Roland Craft 457-8894, for suggestions or volunteer to lead a trip.

Mica Bay Survey

Date: April 14 Tuesday

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318 and Janet Callen 664-1085

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

Walla Walla Bird and Wine



Dates:

April 24-26, 2015.

Leaders: Mike and Valerie Zagar
Email,

bagfox@live.com - Phone 208 819-5115

Activity: Join us for a spring getaway in southeastern Washington. We plan to stop at McNary National Wildlife Refuge, outside of the Tri-Cities as we make our way to Walla Walla. We will end the day tasting wines of the region.

Saturday we'll take a tour of Bennington Lake, a 52-acre lake created by the U. S. Corp of Engineers. There are several trails that wander through varying habitats. Cottonwood trees and willows provide nesting sites for Lazuli Buntings, Yellow-breasted Chats and Black-headed Grosbeaks.

A third stop on Washington State Birding Trail will be the Whitman Mission National Historic Site. This is not only a great riparian habitat for birding, but gives us the opportunity to walk part of the trail.

So, if your passion is birding, tasting wines, visiting historic places or shopping quaint boutiques, Walla Walla has it all. If you would like to sign up or need more information, please contact us at 208-819-5115 or via e-mail, [bagfox@live](mailto:bagfox@live.com)

City of Rocks National Reserve/Castle Rocks State Park.

Dates: May 14-18, 2015.

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

Activity: We will travel to Boise on May 14th and spend the night there. On the 15th we travel to City/Castle via Bruneau Dunes State Park, Thousand Springs, and Hagerman Wildlife Refuge. Lodging has been secured at the Lodge in the Park (contact Judy) and at the Almo Creek Inn (contact Janet). We will bird the area with Wallace Keck who is a former CdA Audubon Member and now is the Park Superintendent. The morning of May 17 we will head north via Shoshone, Stanley and stop for the night at Challis. We are planning lodging at Challis Hot Springs. The area has numerous bird sites. On the 18th we will head home on Highway 93 to I-90 at Missoula. Some travelers will camp along the way. Contact either Judy or Janet if you are interested in joining us.

Annual Century Count Bonner County

Date: Saturday, June 6 (travel to Clark Fork, Friday afternoon, June 5)

Lodging: Clark Fork Lodge - Friday night

Itinerary: See under field trips on the Webpage

Please join us!!!! Let Kris Buchler (664-4737) or Lisa Hardy know if you are interested.

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 \$ _____

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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*

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Eula Hickam 661-3228
Vice President:
George Saylor 664-2787
Recording Secretary:
Valerie Zagar 819-5115
Treasurer:
Janet Callen 664-1085
Board Members: all officers +
Peggy Albertson, Midge Marcy-Brennan, Darlene Carlton, Carrie Hugo, Jim Lynn, Lynn Sheridan

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Publicity: open
Field Trips: Roland Craft 457- 8894
Janet Callen 664-1085
Education: Valerie Zagar 819-5115
Conservation: Midge Marcy-Brennan 772-5068
Membership: Peggy Albertson 664-1616
Hospitality: Darlene Carlton 691-6160
Newsletter: Shirley Sturts 664-5318
Mailing: Peggy Albertson 664-1616
Webmaster: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Become a member of the National Audubon Society, Join online at www.audubon.org or use this form.

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP

- Regular \$20.00
- Two Years \$30.00
- Seniors and Students \$15.00

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STATE _____ Zip _____

Send this application and your check payable to:

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P.O. Box 361
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

