

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

April 2016

Volume 26 Number 8

April Program

Date: April 12, Tuesday

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

Speaker: Wayne Melquist

Program: "Idaho Osprey Translocation
to the South Dakota Project and Nest
Monitoring:"

Wayne will talk about 111 Osprey nestlings being relocated and released in S.E. South Dakota. He will also discuss nest monitoring, which will begin in May and involves citizen participation in collecting nest productivity data for Osprey in Northern Idaho.

CdA Audubon Anniversary Party

Date: April 17, Sunday

Time: Starting at 5:00 p.m.

Place: Greenbriar Inn, 315 E. Wallace,

Tickets: \$40.00. Contact George Saylor 664-2787 or Janet Callen 664-1085 for tickets and dinner choices.

We will honor our 25 years of bird education, monitoring, and protection of birds and wildlife habitat. See page 3 for more information



This is an Election Year!

Of prime importance is the election of a President of the United States, of course, but also of Coeur d'Alene Audubon. Eula Hickam has very capably served our organization for the past two years. Coeur d'Alene Audubon is growing and thriving. Thank you very much, Eula. But it is time for someone else to step up.

Our president does not need to be a skilled birder, although we have had several who are. However, we have had a greater number who are not, including yours truly. All that is required is our common bond, and a desire to see our organization continue to thrive for many years. Dear members, please consider this request. Contact any board member if you might be open to taking on the job. And....we also need a vice president.

Thanks in advance.

Janet Callen for the Board of Directors.

New Signs On Osprey Nests



Part of the proceeds from the CDA Audubon Society's 25th Anniversary on April 17 will go towards purchasing signs to be placed near area Osprey nests.

President's Report - April, 2016

Eula Hickam, President

We are continuing this year's outstanding programs by having Wayne Melquist speak about Osprey - the CDA Audubon's mascot. He has been part of relocating and monitoring the transfer of birds to S.E. South Dakota. It should be very interesting. Don't miss it.

Tickets are still available for the 25th Anniversary Dinner on April 17, being held at the Greenbriar Inn in Coeur d'Alene. Menu choices vary, but all sound good. I hope to see all of you there!

Our June picnic will be held on June 14, at the CDA City Park in the picnic shelter. There is room for all - bring something to barbeque and a dish to share. Soft drinks only are allowed. Plan to come - it's a lot of fun. This is also our annual meeting, so we want everyone's participation.

Birds are coming back - so get out there and see what you can find!

Global Big Day—14 May 2016

There are many ways to get involved with Global Big Day. At its simplest, participation just means that you go birding and submit an eBird list from that day. May 14th is also International Migratory Bird Day, the day of the North American Migration Count, and just a neat time to be outside in nature.

For more information about eBird and how to participate on Global Big Day go to: <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/savetheadategbd2016/>



Adopt - A - Highway Spring Cleaning!

Date: April 16, Saturday

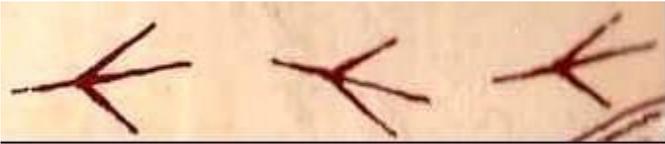
Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: Meet at Mica Grange Hall for donuts, coffee, and road assignments.

We will start the pick-up effort at about 8:20. Wear appropriate clothing (which could mean rain gear), bring a pair of gloves and a lot of ambition! We are typically finished before noon. It is essential that you SIGN UP for the event to allow us to comply with IDOT regulations. Do that at the April Audubon meeting. Contact Mike (755-0560) or Val Zagar (819-5115) for more information.

The 2015 Yardlist Challenge

Doug Ward



It's Coming Soon!

Coeur d'Alene Audubon's 25th anniversary celebration is just days away. Do you have your tickets? We will be celebrating at the Greenbriar Inn, April 17th, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The tickets are \$40.00 and your choices for dinner are beef sirloin, baked salmon, crab cakes or eggplant parmesan. Dinners are a full three course meal with coffee or tea provided.

We have two silent auction items for you to bid on. Both involve very nice accommodations on or near the water. We are working on a third which will consist of a collection of bird-related items. If you have anything related to birds or birding, from books to birdsong that are in good condition, please bring it to the meeting or call me at 644-2787, and I can make arrangements to pick them up. We hope to make this collection of bird-related items something that everyone will want to bid on!

Our celebration will include a program highlighting major achievements and events, and maybe a few personalities, from our 25 year history. Join your Audubon friends for a delightful evening of good food and good fellowship.

George Saylor

Welcome to the 2015 compilation of the Great CdA Audubon Yard List Challenge. We received lists for ten (10) yards this year, despite my lack of "advertising", which is a good turnout. On that note, if you did keep track at your place last year, but didn't get the memo, please feel free to send your list to me (dougward@frontier.com) and I can append the summary table for the website. While the total number of species reported this year (2015) was about average (114 vs. 5-year avg. of 115), there are always some good ones.

First, here are the basic statistics. Six species were seen by everyone this year, including Calliope Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco, and Pine Siskin. The Calliope and Pine Siskin were kind of a surprise to me. On the flip side, twenty-five species were seen in only one yard, so there was some good diversity. Eurasian Collared-Doves continued their invasion with five yards reporting them around; the first one was only four years ago!

As mentioned previously, everyone saw at least one of those "fun" species that keeps us peering out the window. Probably the craziest story came from Judy Waring who turned in the only Northern Pygmy-Owl in her house list (literally!); if you haven't heard the tale, ask her. The most unusual bird to show up this year was a Clay-colored Sparrow that came in briefly this fall with

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Yardlist Challenge

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some White-crowned Sparrows to the Wards' front yard. The Wards also had a couple of Anna's Hummingbirds spend the winter. Alan Robertson up in Bonner County had a Least Flycatcher, a first for our Yard List Challenge.

Janet Callen saved us from getting skunked with the only Varied Thrush of the year. The Hansons always contribute several from down on the Chain Lakes including American White Pelican and Mountain Bluebird, but their best one was a Vesper Sparrow which was also new to the Challenge. Speaking of bluebirds, Westerns were reported from a record three yards (the Buchlers', Moens' & Wards'). The Moens' Gray Jay returned again as did a White-breasted Nuthatch, neither of which is easy to find around here. Several folks have water views and turn up some good species including the Sturts' Common Loon and the Buchlers' Red-necked Grebe. Lisa Hardy had both Common Nighthawks and Vaux's Swifts at her "suburban" place. Lastly, I'm guessing Lynn Sheridan keeps that Blue Jay in a cage as it showed again this year - definitely one of those "fun" ones!

See a summary table of what everybody saw at their places this year (2015) on our Webpage:

<http://cdaudubon.org/Projects/yardlist2015.pdf>

Good luck in 2016!

Field Trips

Mica Bay Survey

Date: April 12, Tuesday (2nd Tuesday of each month-times vary) **Time:** 8:00 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Leaders: 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.

Malheur Wildlife Refuge

Date: April 28, Thursday, through May 1, Sunday

Leader: George Saylor 664-2787

Target Birds: Migrating waterfowl and songbirds. The refuge has recorded 320 bird species and 58 mammal species. More information: www.fws.gov/refuge/malheur

Phillips Farm/Genesee Sewage

Lagoon

Date: May 7, Saturday **Time:** 8:00 a.m.

Meet: K-Mart parking lot, south side.

Leader: Janet Callen 664-1085. We will be looking for spring arrivals, and shorebirds in Genesee. If time permits, we'll visit the U of I Arboretum and stop at the Tensed sewage pond. This will be an all day trip. Bring lunch and appropriate clothing.

Turnbull Beginning Birdwatching

Plans Have Changed. When Roland and I planned field trips last year, I intended to transport birdwatchers who wanted to attend a beginners' class to Turnbull Wildlife refuge.

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Classes had been held there in prior years with members of Spokane Audubon and refuge staff conducting the classes. A field trip at Turnbull would follow. However, plans change and no classes are being held at the refuge this year. On May 9, 11, and 13, however, Spokane Audubon will be holding bird identification workshops at a site to be named later, followed by a field trip to Turnbull on May 14. They are asking for a \$20.00 donation to attend the class. For more information contact Gary Blevens at (509) 533-3661 or garyb@spokanefalls.edu. I will not be able to transport anyone to the classes or field trip because I will not be in the area at that time. I apologize for this mix-up. Janet Callen

Ball Creek Ranch, Boundary Creek Wildlife Management Area, Smith Creek

Dates: Friday, May 20, Saturday, May 21 And Sunday, May 22. (Two nights but some may need to return Saturday night).

Lodging: There are limited beds at Selkirk House, a large home at the southern tip of the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge. It will be our headquarters for the trip and everyone will potluck there for dinner Saturday night. It has a huge kitchen and plenty of room, big deck and horseshoe pits.

Notice: The house is full but participants may stay in local Bonners Ferry motels. The Log Inn has rooms as well as the

Kootenai River Inn (casino) and a couple of other motels. We will all gather at the Selkirk House for breakfasts, dinner Saturday, and social hours (Warning, wine etc. may be included). The current plan is to leave late afternoon (about 3:00 p.m.), travel to Bonners Ferry, have dinner at the Kootenai River Brewery, and then gather at Selkirk House for evening birding and/or social time.

Our itinerary **Saturday** will depend on the latest bird sightings we will get from local birders and records of spring arrivals. We will target Long-billed Curlew, Lewis' Woodpecker, Hermit Thrush and the elusive Boreal chickadee. We will visit TNC's Ball Creek Ranch, BCWMA, Smith Creek and all areas in-between, as well as the KNWR. **Sunday** we will cover any areas we missed or revisit one in the early hours. There will be some walking at Ball Creek Ranch along the old dike of the river. There are also several trails nearby for those who wish to do hiking on Sunday.

Contact Kris Buchler, 664-4737, or eagleroost@roadrunner.com. to register for this trip and if you have questions. Lisa Hardy will also be guiding this trip and adding her expertise.

I will need to know if anyone can stay for only one night.

We will contact trip participants about the potluck and what you need to bring.

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Send this application and your check payable to:

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