

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

April 2018

Volume 28 Number 8

April Program



Date: April 10, Tuesday

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Lisa Langelier, retired wildlife
refuge manager

Program: Lisa will talk about her delights and dilemmas managing national wildlife refuges in the Inland Northwest (Little Pend Oreille, Turnbull, and Kootenai NWRs) and share images taken by noted photographer Tom Munson of wild residents of these refuges. She will also read some essays from her book, "The Wild Eye: Field Notes from a Wildlife Refuge".

President's Message



Spring has sprung and the migratory birds are arriving back into our area. Everyone is setting up house-keeping. In our yard we have the pairs of Black-capped Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Eurasian Collared-Doves, Ringed-necked Pheasants, and Song Sparrows. But there is only one Northern Flicker. We have had a pair of flickers raise a family in our backyard, I believe, all twenty-five years we have been living here. But there is only one so far this year, calling and calling and calling. I feel bad for him, calling and not getting an answer.

The flicker reminds me of an osprey we saw a couple years ago as we kayaked up the thoroughfare at Priest Lake. This was a female osprey at a nest, calling and calling and calling. It wasn't an alarm call; because she was calling long before we got anywhere close to her and long after we went far up the thoroughfare. The nest had been unused that year, at least for egg-laying and young-raising purposes. I felt really sad for her, thinking that she showed up at the nest and waited; and no one showed up to share her summer.

So seeing the flicker made me wonder: What happens to the birds that don't show up?

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President's Message

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Tundra Swan flying over Killarney Lake February 16, 2016

photo by Larry Krumpelman

I know that cats and collisions with windows and cars take their toll on the local birds, but what happens during migration? Really, cats and collisions happen during migration season as well as stationery periods; Hayden is not the end of their journeys; many birds ore just traveling through. I love to see the thousands of swans at the Chain Lakes area every spring, but I also get sad when I watch them. I know that they have made it through the winter and are traveling to their nesting areas north of us to raise a family and, because of man's pollutants from the mines; there will be tens to dozens that die here. They have come so far and we kill them.

Threat 1: The swans and other birds are hungry and eating the polluted plants; one of the major threats to migrating birds is starvation. They fly from food source to food source and, with loss of habitat and use of pesticides; good food sources are farther and farther apart. There are places that used to be good food sources, but the feed has been depleted due to increase of other species, such as white-tailed deer. In *Scientific Reports*, researchers confirm that White-crowned Sparrows become disoriented and lose as much as 17 percent of their body weight after eating just four seeds a day treated with neonicotinoids. This would be

enough, they said, to experience migratory delays and changes in flight routes that would decrease their chances for survival.

Threat 2: Exhaustion goes hand-in-hand with starvation. Many birds have to fly over large bodies of water with no areas for respite. Exhausted birds become less careful and are more apt to collide with obstacles or become less able to evade predators.

Threats 3 and 4: That brings us right back to cats as a major predator, and collisions, the most common obstacles are windows, electrical wires, and wind turbines.

Threat 5: Birds migrate in large flocks where an outbreak of a Disease or Parasites can devastate a large portion of the population.

Threat 6: We saw last year the effect of hurricanes on many species; natural disasters also come in the form of blizzards and wildfires.

Threat 7: Hunting and poaching kill migratory birds.

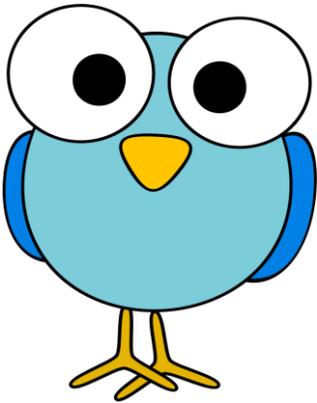
OK, yes, I know all the threats; I have helped with International Migratory Bird Day. But what are the odds of not making it back to Mrs. Osprey at Priest Lake? According to Henny and Wight, 1969, it was estimated in New York and New Jersey that annual returns of ospreys were 85% annual survival rate of adults three years old or more. Raymond H. G. Klaassen and associates state that, after their study of long-term satellite tracking of raptors, mortality rate of raptors was six times higher during migration season than during stationary periods. ("When and where does mortality occur in migratory birds? Direct evidence from long-term satellite tracking of raptors". Klaassen, Hake, Strandberg, Koks, Trierweiler, Exo, Bairlein, Alerstam, 16 Sept. 2013).

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President's Message

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But this didn't answer my question. According to Paul Kerlinger, in a "typical year" 100 adult birds and 200 young birds are present in June; of these 300 birds, 120 return to breed in the subsequent year, 50 adults and 70 of the young birds. In a year of "severe weather", only 20 adults and 30 of the young return. ("How Birds Migrate", 2009, Stackpole Books). In a study of Eurasian spoonbills of the Netherlands, they found that spring migration mortality was 18% of those birds that traveled to Mauritania, 4500 KM trip, due to "suboptimal fueling and unfavorable weather conditions in route" ("The Cost of Migration", January 14, 2015, Lok, Overdijk, Piersma).



Threat 8: When we add in the element of Global Warming in the calculations, the losses can be staggering. The number of Sooty Shearwaters that summer off the coast of California has dropped by more than

90 percent in the last decade, a loss of 4 million birds, probably linked with the loss of zooplankton in the region due to the sharp rise in water temperature. In another *Scientific Reports* article, climate change is triggering spring plant growth earlier than normal in the eastern portion of North America and later than normal in the West, both altering the emergence of insects. This results in some bird species from benefiting from the food source in order to produce healthy young. J. P Myers, a biologist who helped form the International Shorebirds Survey and worked to draw attention to the need to preserve habitat for stopovers for migratory birds, wrote in 1991, "In our lifetime, migration, as we know it, will fade away, its

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thread unraveled tattered and diminished beyond recognition...The migration events that now occur across the hemisphere each fall and spring ...these spectacles will become events of the past -- avian buffalo reduced to ecosystem irrelevancies if not eliminated altogether." (From "Living on the Wind. Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds", Scott Weidensaul, 1999, North Point Press. Perhaps the situation is not quite as glum as Mr. Myers saw it in 1991, but the threats to migratory bird survival are real and documented. And it is up to us to educate those people around us to the needs of migrating birds. We can do that daily on a one-to-one basis, or in organized manners, such as being involved with the upcoming Earth Day events on April 22, and the International Migratory Bird Day doings on May 19. Give the birds a break from the threats when they are passing by your house; it has been a hard trip for them.

Midge



Audubon spring litter pick-up

Audubon spring litter pick-up this year has been

scheduled for Saturday, April 7.

Gather at the Mica Grange location for an 8:30 a.m. collection start; arrive earlier to share a cup of coffee and a donut. Dress for the weather and pack a pair of gloves, we go rain or shine. Collection effort is usually complete by 11:30 a.m.

Advance sign-up for those participating is required to comply with IDOT regulations; attend the March 13th Audubon meeting to Register. Contact Val Zagar ([208-819-5115](tel:208-819-5115)) for

2018 Migratory Bird Day At Blackwell Island!



Coeur d'Alene Audubon will be co-hosting International Migratory Bird Day with the Bureau of Land Management on May 19th from 9am-2pm this year! This fun family event includes activity stations like:

- A Migration Obstacle Course
- Pinecone feeder Stations
- Hummingbird Feeder Stations
- Nests and Eggs
- Live Birds
- Fill The Bill Station
- Join the Flock Coloring Station
- Bird Song DJ Station
- Get Banded at our Banding Station
- Guided Bird Walk and Scavenger Hunt

Normally Blackwell Island is closed to the public during this time in May. But the gates are opened just for this event which means lots of room to spread out and no traffic! It is a perfect place for all of the different stations and activities. The location next to the river and amongst the cottonwoods guarantees birds for the bird walk and habitat scavenger hunt. Stations all have picnic tables and many have shade. The covered pavilion is where the live bird presentation occurs and also where you can find the Sweet Tween Café! Kids that participate go home with passports, bird journals, stickers, tattoos and bird band bracelets!

The theme this year is "2018 The Year of the Bird". In 2017 Bird Day had to be cancelled due to rain, but the previous event in 2015 attracted well over 300

people! This event has lots of potential to grow and to become a community tradition, much like Eagle Watch, BUT we need your help! Each station needs the help of volunteers. So there are lots of ways you can help:

- Getting outreach to the local community through posting flyers, advertising to churches and local community groups, writing letters to the paper, and spreading the word to schools and local kid's organizations (Scouts, 4-H, etc.).
- Helping with set-up and take-down on the day of the event.
- Providing baked goods.
- Working at a Station on the day of the Event.
- Helping with preparing supplies and organizing prior to the Event.
- Helping out at the Sweet Tweet Café, which serves bird friendly coffee and baked goods.

Bird Day could not happen without the help of the CdA Audubon! So please consider lending your time and/or expertise to this worthwhile effort. It is a great way to connect Birds and Communities and it's one of the best ways to nurture the appreciation of Nature and Birds in our younger generations!

To help out please contact Carrie Hugo at 208-769-5048 or at chugo@blm.gov. To donate to this event, please give your donation to CdA Audubon with a note to please provide funds in support of Bird Day at Blackwell Island!



CDA Audubon Yard list Challenge 2016 and 2017

Doug Ward

I have to lead off with an apology. While I did actually compile the Great CdA Audubon Yard List Challenge for 2016, you may have noted it never made it to the website - that was my fault even though Shirley did keep on me. So with that admission out there, thought I'd sum up those results before moving on to 2017.

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Yard list Challenge continued from page 4

Nine (9) yards did actually report their lists for **2016** spotting a total of 117 species. This was a pretty good outcome overall (10 year average = 113) considering the low number of yards. A total of nine (9) species were seen by everyone - the usual cast of characters (Calliope Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Black-capped & Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, and Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)) plus a couple of surprises (Black-headed Grosbeak and American Goldfinch). Speaking of surprises, we always have a few. In 2016, twenty-six (26) species showed up only in a single yard. Of these, it is always tough to pick a "winner", but the Purple Finch at the Ward's, and the White-winged Crossbill at the Zagar's certainly were unusual. The Buchler's, Farr's, and Sturts' provided much of the waterfowl while the Hanson's place came through again with many Chain Lakes specialties.

So again, I am sorry about the slip in 2016, but now on to what we collectively saw in **2017**. Once again, we had nine (9) yards participate this year, but our total species seen dropped to 105. Contributing to this lower than average result were several big misses, notably Pacific Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Nashville, McGillivray's, Townsend's and Wilson's Warblers all of which had been seen most every year for the past 17 years. Following this trend, only seven (7) species were seen in everyone's yard (California Quail, Northern Flicker, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon), and Pine Siskin).

Notwithstanding this seemingly bad year, there are always bright spots that keeps this challenge fun. This year twenty (20) species were seen in only a single yard, a few of which had only been spotted a couple of times in the past 10 years: the Waring's American Kestrel, the Robertson's Least Flycatcher, the Moen's Northern Shrike,

the Hanson's Bewick's Wren & American Redstart, and the Ward's Veery. Anna's Hummingbirds continued to show up in our area with a nice female ("Louise") staying at Janet Callen's place for several weeks. Finally, and always a treat were Northern Pygmy Owls at the Saylor's and Sturts' places.

Here's to a good year around your yard in 2018, and if you do keep track please forward your list to me (dougward@frontier.com) to continue our successful Coeur d'Alene Audubon Yard List Challenge.

Yard bird lists in excel files are on our Website. For 2016-2017 go to:

<http://cdaaudubon.org/Projects/yardlist2016-2017.htm>

Then click at the chart links at the bottom of the page which will download them to your computer.



Bird Sightings

Tundra Swan - 21 - March 18 - flew over his yard
Loch Haven (Hayden) - Doug Ward
Eurasian Wigeon - March 11 - Lane Marsh - Will Young
Tree and Violet-green Swallow - March 10 - NIC Beach - Carl Lundblad
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1 - March 13 - Mica Bay Survey - Janet Callen and others
Western Bluebird - March 8 - South Vista /Conkling Park Roads (Benewah County) - Del and BermaDeane Blackburn and March 18 - Rathdrum Prairie - Doug Ward
Mountain Bluebird - March 12 - Loch Haven (Hayden) - Doug Ward and March 19 - St. Maries - Donni Moen|
Western Meadowlark - March 13 - in their yard - Midge and Jim Brennan
Common Redpolls - 30 - Loch Haven (Hayden) - March 18 - Doug Ward

Friends of the Clearwater

Hello CDA-Audubon Chapter thank you very much for hosting us last night. We appreciated the opportunity to share the important forest planning information! Our staff would love to give another program when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is released for public comment. It should be released in December.

In the meantime, please consider sending an email to the Forest Planning Team fpr_npclw@fs.fed.us requesting the agency to list Friends of the Clearwater's *Citizen Alternative* in the DEIS. This alternative would recommend the remaining roadless areas on both forests for wilderness, while also having measurable/enforceable standards for water quality, old growth and fish and wildlife habitat.

If you have any questions, or if you are ever in Moscow don't hesitate to contact us. And feel free to tell others that our staff will be back in Coeur d'Alene on Thursday April 4 at the Kootenai Environmental Alliance's office from 4-6pm to give another presentation about the forest plan.

Brett Haverstick-Education & Outreach
Director -Friends of the Clearwater
Moscow, Idaho -208-882-9755
foc@friendsoftheclearwater.org



Eliminating Threats to Birds

Copied from *Inside Bird Conservation* - November 2016 - Special Edition on Eliminating Threats to Birds - This is continued from the January newsletter

Lead Poisoning

At IUCN's World Conservation Congress in September, delegates [approved a resolution](#) to help reduce the needless poisoning of birds and

other wildlife from lead ammunition. The resolution, *A path forward to address concerns over the use of lead ammunition in hunting*, encourages members to "promote, where feasible, the phasing out of lead shot used for hunting over wetlands and lead ammunition used for hunting in areas where scavengers are at particular risk from the use of lead ammunition, and the replacement of it with suitable alternatives."

[If Lead Ammunition is Bad for People and the Environment, Why do We Still Use It?](#) By Andy McGlashen.

[California Condors](#): Chick born in wild flies from nest at Pinnacles National Park for first time in a century. (*East Bay Times*)

[Condor Country](#), launching this week for IOS and Android devices, is the first mobile game to simulate what it takes to recover an endangered species based on real-life conservation practices used by the California Condor Recovery Program. (Birding Wire)

[Eliminating Threats to Birds](#) - to be continued in our May newsletter)



Sandpoint/Pend Oreille Lake

Field Trip- March 3

Dick Cripe

It was a fantastically beautiful day - fresh snow, bright sun, blue sky, and sparkling lake. Those who participated felt sorry for those not there. With binoculars and scopes we saw plenty of birds, including: Bald Eagles (10), American Crow, Northern Flicker, European Starling, Common Raven, Mountain Chickadee, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Merganser, American Coot, Bufflehead, Canada Geese, Hooded Merganser, Tundra Swan (300+), Northern Pintail, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Widgeon, Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, (19 species).

Participants were: Dave Moughmer, Marilyn Robertson, Janet Callen, and Dick Cripe.



Field Trips

Our field trips are also posted on our Website

<http://cdaaudubon.org/fieldtrips.html>

Please contact Dick Cripe 208-

665-0010 to volunteer to lead a trip or to suggest places to go.

Mica Bay Survey

Date: April 10, 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.

To be announced April 14

Dick will be asking at the meeting for ideas for a field trip – check with Dick to see if a trip is planned,

Palouse, WA and Lewiston, ID

Date: April 28 and 29.

Time: 8:00

Place: K Mart Parking Lot. Overnight in Pullman.

Leader: Palouse - George Saylor - 208-755-3815; Lewiston - Jane Callen -208-664-1085.

Activity. CdA and Palouse Audubon Societies are partnering for a joint field trip April 28-29. Our first stop will be Sprague Lake, then we will move on to Rock Lake, Steptoe Butte, Palouse Park in the town of Palouse, Kamiak Butte, Rose Creek Nature Preserve, and finally on to Pullman. We overnight in Pullman, then bird the Lewiston area visiting Mann Lake, Anatone Flats, Swallows Park, and the Clarkston area. Tired, but happy, we head back home early in the evening of the second day. Arrangements for a motel in Pullman are being arranged by the Pullman Chamber of Commerce. Bring your own lunches for both days. Breakfast in Pullman up to each participant. Most likely we will have dinner together the evening of the first night at a local

restaurant. For information or sign up contact George Saylor at gsaylor@aol.com, or by phone above.

June 14 - 17 Thursday-Saturday

J Bar L Ranch Trip in Montana

Numbers need to be set, soon, to make reservations. If you are interested, notify Midge SOON. Midgemb@outlook.com.

We will rent cabins on the Ranch and spend three nights there. We need to take our own food - all utensils, barbeque and linens are provided. We will be able to spend our days birding the ranch and refuge areas. The Refuge Headquarters should be open on Friday for us to tourist.

We will set up a food plan once we know how many want to go. The cost should be about \$500.00 PER NIGHT for the cabins, which house 10, total of \$50 apiece plus 7% tax. Repeat, that it \$50.00 apiece per night for total of a little less than \$200.00 per person IF 10 people sign up. It will be more if I don't get 10 to sign up.

Jim and I will be heading from Red Rocks toward Wyoming; I am assuming that most everyone will want to stay somewhere on the 17th -- Maybe Dillon, maybe Butte -- and not drive all the way home. You can bird all the way back out to the highway at Monida on the morning of checkup and bird all the way back to CDA. There are also refuges south of Dillon that can be explored....

This information will be forthcoming after I hear back with numbers of people interested.

Thanks, Midge

Future spring trips in the planning stage

May: Cataldo, Old River Road Loop.

Late May or First of June: Century Count.

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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