

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society

www.cdaaudubon.org

April 2021 - Volume 3 Number 7

Zoom Meeting April 13th 7:00 pm Program

Robert Flager will do a presentation on Monarch Butterflies.



Shirley will be sending out a Zoom link and information to those on the Audubon Chapter email list a day or two before the meeting. If You do not get the link, send a request to shirley.sturts@gmail.com OR Patty Beyer at pattybeyer1020@gmail.com



President's Message

The spring migration is underway. I was at the Chain-O'-Lakes last week and there were hundreds of swans at Lane Marsh and Cave Lake. Not so many ducks, but I saw some American Wigeon. There were ducks in the flooded fields along River Road near

Cataldo. The Scaup sp. were showing their blue bills, and there were Canvasback, Redhead, Northern Pintail, as well as Mallard. They were not in large numbers, however, so the main wave is yet to arrive. When you read this message they probably will have arrived.

You do have to wonder at their fantastic journey. Millions of birds must have died in the big freeze that hit Texas and the region a few weeks ago. They fly across the Gulf of Mexico to the warmth of Texas and what do they find there - everything frozen. As I write this, Colorado and region has had another spring blizzard, so that will slow down migrating birds in the area.

The board has decided to meet face-to-face, out-of-doors, in April and May. We've all had our two vaccinations. Unless there is a setback in the pandemic, we are planning to have the June picnic in person, out-of-doors as usual, either at Blackwell Island, City Park, or McEuen Park. Whether or not to hold the May chapter meeting live at the church is open for discussion depending on how events unfold and how comfortable people are meeting face-to-face.

The pandemic is ending! We are traveling to Portland this coming week to visit our daughter and family. We haven't been there for 18 months. The grandsons will probably have grown a couple more inches. Next, we'll go to Denver to visit that family. We have to make up for lost time. **Richard Cripe**

HUMMINGBIRDS RETURN

We have three hummingbirds that are common in North Idaho during the summer: Calliope, Black-chinned, and Rufous. They all return in early April. I have been keeping a record of first arrivals since 2002. The earliest arrival I have is for the Calliope, April 5th. These photos were all taken by Wayne Tree from Montana. The adult males are easy to identify because of their colorful throats. The females and immature take a little more study.



Calliope Hummingbird

- Our smallest Hummingbird - length 3 1/4 "
- Very short bill and tail, the primary tips extend well past the tail
- Carmine streaks on the throat of the adult male
- Females immatures are similar but no colored throat
- Earliest arrival date April 5, a male



Black-chinned Hummingbird

- Larger than the calliope Length 3 3/4"
- A violet band at the bottom of a black throat in the male
- White underparts with sides and flanks a dusky green
- Females and immatures throats can be all white or have faint greenish streaks
- The male immature may start to show purple spots
- While feeding, if not perched, they pump their tail up and down
- Earliest arrival date April 18



Rufous Hummingbird

Continued on page 3

Hummingbirds Continued from page 2

- Larger than the Calliope -Length $3\frac{3}{4}$ "
- Males have a rufous back
- And an orange red gorget
- Females and immatures are similar with a slight golden cast above, white below
- Earliest arrival date April 10

Anna's Hummingbird

We have a 4th Hummingbird, the Anna's, that is a casual visitor to Idaho from September through April. It is common on the west coast year around. In Idaho, it is rare in summer. The Idaho Bird Records Committee requests rare bird reports for any summer sightings. Doug Ward has often reported Anna's at his feeder, which he keeps up all winter. Janet Callen also reported one in her yard. If you see a hummingbird after September it is likely an Anna's.

Other Idaho Hummingbirds

If you look at two of the signs depicting common birds found at Higgins Point, , you will see the Broad-tailed Hummingbird is common there. Wrong, for Costa's you will need to drive to south Idaho where it is common. The closest it got to Higgins Point is one that was reported (and accepted by the Idaho Birds Records Committee) in Red Ives Ranger Station, Shoshone County, July 14, 1992.

There are three other Hummingbirds that have wandered way out of their normal range to visit Idaho but all in the

south part of our state: Ruby-throated, Costa's, and Broad-billed.

There are 3 accepted records for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Their normal range is the eastern United States but they do cross into Alberta, Canada.

The Costa's Hummingbird is found in southern California, Nevada and Mexico. There is one confirmed sighting in southern Idaho. Then there was a mystery bird that for awhile we thought might be a Costa's in our area. Here is what is posted on the Idaho Birding Website about it: "**7-30 May 1996** - 1 - Squaw Bay, Coeur d'Alene Lake, Kootenai County, Latilong 2 - Barbara Dorrell, Susan Weller, Steve Lindsay, Dan Svingen, Dan Goble, Shirley Sturts, and others - Mike Patterson reviewed photo evidence. Dan Svingen (editor) of "Field Notes", Fall 1996 50:3 wrote "An enigmatic male hummingbird coming to a feeder along Coeur d'Alene Lake, May 7-30 intrigued dozens of birders. Even though excellent views were obtained, there was little consensus on the bird's identification. After much debate, expert review of the evidence determined that the mystery hummer was an Anna's X Costa's hybrid (SHS,SW, DG, DNS, m.ob.). Idaho has about 35 Anna's records but no Costa's." Rare Bird Report for Costa's #:7-A-96 Voting: 0-7 rejected"

The Broad-billed Hummingbird is mostly a bird of Mexico with it's range going just a little way into Nevada. Idaho has one confirmed record. **Shirley Sturts**



Lincoln County - Davenport

Our Feb. 6 field trip had 5 attendees from CDA Audubon and 2 folks from the Spokane Audubon. It was a cold overcast day but the winds weren't too bad so we did see a few interesting things. My wife Heather and I kept track of species from the time we left CDA until we got home so our list may be a little different from what others had. All in all we saw 30 species.

Highlights of the trip were a Northern Saw-whet Owl and a large flock of Canvasback ducks. Our list includes (in the order Heather and I observed them) Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Crow, Starling, Canada Geese, Raven, Kestrel, Eurasian Collared Dove, Mallard, Redhead, Canvasback, Northern Pintail, Scaup sp., Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Gray Partridge, Rock Dove, Northern Saw-whet Owl, California Quail, Northern Shrike, House Sparrow, Common Goldeneye, Blackbird sp., Magpie, Bufflehead, Horned Lark, Ring-necked pheasant, and Coot.

Ted Smith



Recent Bird Sightings

Wood Duck 2- March 3 - Pond near River Road - Sally Jones

Eurasian Wigeon - March 5 - Lane Marsh - Sally Jones

Barrow's Goldeneye - 12 - March 14 -pond along Hardy Loop - Sally Jones

Osprey - March 18 - Treaty Rock Park - Susan Ballinger

Killdeer - March 3 - Cave Lake - Sally Jones
Violet-green Swallow March 3 - Lane Marsh - Sally Jones

Townsend's Solitaire - March 14 - Lane Marsh area - Sally Jones

Western Bluebird 2 males - March 7 - Killarney Lake Road - Terri and Bob Farr - also Darlene Carlton

Mountain Bluebird - March 18 - Farragut State Park - Sally Jones

Horned Lark 4 - March 5 - Williams Road, Worley - Jon Isacoff

Western Meadowlark - March 5 - Williams Road, Worley - Jon Isacoff

Mica Bay Survey

March 9, 2021

Participants: Janet Callen, Sally Jones, Darlene Carlson, Vera Taggart, George Sayler, Peggy Schnell

Mallard - 34

Canada Geese - 60+

Black-capped Chickadee - 12

Wood Duck - 2

Song Sparrow - 10

American Crow - 3

Common Raven - 4

Northern Flicker - 2

Red-wing Blackbird - 10

Ring-necked Pheasant (a Rooster Jerry has named Rudy)

Dark-eyed Junco - 3

Bald Eagle - 1 (however one on nest also, but we couldn't see it)

Red-breasted Nuthatch - 2

Tundra Swan - 41

American Wigeon - 2

Horned Grebe - 2



Hoo Doo Valley Bluebird Trail

We will be checking Bluebird nest boxes on the Hoo Doo Valley trail,

weekly, from April 22 thru August 15, 2021. If you are interested in volunteering for this activity, please contact Nancy Kroese at 208-651-3620, or at rnkroese@gmail.com, by no later than April 1. If you are interested in joining us, please let us know which dates you will NOT be available, so that we can make up the schedule accordingly. Please let us know if you have not participated in the past, and we will set up an orientation session prior to the start of the schedule.



Field Trips

On all trips folks should plan on bringing a lunch, dress appropriately for the weather and plan on enjoying some time outside. Covid safety is still an issue. Masking and social distancing are encouraged though I have no problems with folks carpooling with friends if everyone has been vaccinated. Beginner birders are encouraged to attend and those of us that have been at it a while are more than happy to help folks learn.

Ted Smith - Field Trip Leader

Mica Bay Survey

Date: April 13, 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 (208) 664-1085

Activity: We spend about 3 hours once a

month counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome.

Rose Lake and Chain of Lakes

Date: April 14, Wednesday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: SW corner - old Kmart parking lot

Leader: Ted Smith - (406) 540-2673

Activity: We will spend the morning birding the area. Our focus will be early migrants and waterfowl

Highway Clean Up

Date: April 17, Saturday



Time: 8:30 a.m.

Meet: Mica Bay Grange

Leader: Ellie and Susie

Activity: Susie and Ellie

will have a drive-up area where you can sign the liability waiver, get some coffee, a muffin, trash bags and gripper and be given your assignment without leaving the comfort of your car. We haven't been able to clean the roadside for a year and a half so the more people we can get the lighter the task for all. Any questions please call Ellie @ 970 744-0104 or Susie @ 208 818-1881

Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge

Date: April 24, Saturday

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Meet: SW corner - old Kmart parking lot

Leader: Ted Smith - (406) 540-2673

Activity: This will be a full day of birding so bring a lunch and dress for the weather

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 \$ _____

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

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*

CDA Audubon Chapter Officers

President:
Dick Cripe 208 665-0010
Vice President:
Ralph Kerr
Recording Secretary:
Valerie Zagar 208 819-5115
Treasurer:
Janet Callen 208 664-1085
Board Members:
All officers, Pam Gomes, Ted Smith, Patty Beyer

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Publicity: open
Field Trips: Ted Smith
Education: Barbara Christofferson
208 667- 3931
Membership: Peggy Albertson
208 664-1616
Hospitality: Elli Emm
Mailing: Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616
Webmaster: Shirley Sturts 206 678-6187
Zoom Provider – Patty Beyer
Historian: Open

National Audubon New Member Application

Join Online at:
<http://www.audubon.org>

or

Join by Phone – call:
1-844-428-3826

Reference our Chapter

Code G06

