

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society
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Upcoming Events

Next meeting April 9

The regular monthly chapter meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, at the Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey Road, Coeur d'Alene. Meeting program TBD. Come and meet our new members!

Field Trips for April-May

April 17th, Wednesday. Slavin Conservation Area- Day Trip, Rosa Butte area near the Spokane West Plains. The meeting place will be announced at the April meeting.

April 27th and 28th. Saturday and Sunday. Walla Walla Birding trip. Overnight. Blue mountain Audubon Society. Website: <https://blumtn.org/> BMAS. I'm working on places to stay and things to do. Contact Theresa for schedule: tshaffer@uidaho.edu

May 11th, Saturday. Chain Lakes- Day trip, then to Wallace for dinner.

President's Message

Greetings to all!

What a crazy late winter we have had. Snow, rain and more rain, then 70 degrees for three days. The plants in my yard are totally confused and so am I. Migration seems to be beginning, as the Sandhill Cranes have arrived in the Columbia Basin and other early spring migrants are beginning to make an appearance.

The Beginning Birding class our club put on at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library was a rousing success. We limited the initial class to 20

students and added a couple of drop-ins along the way. We had 21 in attendance the first day and had 16 people in each class the next two Saturdays. The field trip for the class had 17 people show up at Saltese Wetlands for some practical birding experience. Several people from the class will be joining the club which is good news.

My hearty thanks to Ralph Kerr and George Saylor for helping me team teach this class. Mark Launder attended the third week and the field trip and was very helpful teaching beginners how to use their binoculars and pointing out birds. We will plan on offering this class again in the future – the library already has a waiting list.

A very important piece of legislation is currently held up in our U.S. Congress. The Migratory Bird of Americas Conservation Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation, has had no action since a sub-committee hearing in November. This legislation is crucial to building and maintaining hemispheric partnerships to protect and enhance migratory bird numbers. You can help move this along.

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President's Message Continued

PLEASE contact Representative Russ Fulcher and urge him to help advance this bill. You can contact Representative Fulcher by mail at: Representative Russ Fulcher, 1250 Ironwood Dr., Coeur d'Alene, ID. 83814. You can also call and leave a message at 208-667-0127. To send an email simply type in "Email me Congressman Russ Fulcher", and you will be directed to a form to fill out with your contact information and a place to write your message. The more constituents he hears from the more likely he is to act. Be there for the birds!

Happy Birding, Ted

March Field Trip Report

The Mica Bay field trip was held on March 12. Eight members and friends attended on what looked, from the weather forecast, to be a wet morning.

Fortunately the weather was beautiful for the first two hours before clouding up for the last hour. Birds were out and about and counted 23 species composed of all the usual suspects. The red-necked grebes on Mica Bay were probably the highlight birds. The calf moose bedded just off the road a short way was also a hit.

On March 17 the Beginning Birding class took a field trip to Saltese Wetlands to test their new skills. Several Coeur d'Alene Audubon members joined the trip as well. I think we ended up with about 25 species, mostly waterfowl.

Mark Launder and Ellie Emm managed to find the elusive long-eared owl and a few American tree sparrows. It was a fun morning helping new birders hone their skills and master their binoculars.

Test Your Avian Awareness: Birds of a Feather...

Directions: Complete the phrase "XXX of XXXs."

Example: Clue is *Homicide/Feathered Facial Recognition Experts*; Answer is "Murder of Crows."

These are all real! Combine clues to come up with the right bird group name. Answers, page 3.

1. Spray snow on a Christmas tree/shore bird at home in the Winco parking lot
2. Old cigarette Brand/Harry's "Hedwig"
3. Architectural Style/Vegas Casino
4. Tic/Boo Radley's Sibling Tormentors
5. Fallen Jack's Break/Larry + Carrie
6. Banksy Specialty/Flag Material
7. Felonious Partnership/E.A.P. Rapper
8. Sheepskin Ceremony/Two Under
9. Our MAC/Mozart's "Vogelstar"
10. Joyous News/Chatterbox
11. Immigrant's Goal/Black Forest Timepiece
12. Drop a Dry Fly/Name that Magician!
13. Armed "Team" Activity/Insect Nemesis
14. Count Basie's Crew/Elegant Wader
15. Aquatic Therapy/Flamingo Distant Cousin



Trumpeter Swan
On Killarney Lake
Photo By Doug Albertson

Quiz Answers

1. Flock of Seagulls
2. Parliament of Owls ("Harry Potter" reference);
3. Flamboyance of Flamingos;
4. Trembling of Finches (Scout and Jem, that is);
5. Crown of Kingfishers;
6. Mural of Buntings;
7. Conspiracy of Ravens;
8. Convocation of Eagles;
9. Museum of Starlings;
10. Tiding of Magpies;
11. Asylum of Cuckoos;
12. Cast of Merlins;
12. Swatting of Flycatchers;
13. Orchestra of Avocets;
15. Waterdance of Grebes.

Earth Day— Now More than Ever

The First "Earth Day" was held on April 22, 1970, inspired by a growing awareness of serious threats to our planet's environment. In 1969 the heavily polluted Cuyahoga River in Ohio was actually on fire (Randy Newman sang sadly about this event). An oil spill spoiled miles of coastline and killed seabirds near Santa Barbara. These widely publicized unnatural catastrophes inspired then-Senator Gaylord Nelson and Pete McCloskey, a US Congressman, to organize "teach-ins" on college campuses across the country. Earth Day was born.

Their efforts were instrumental in the passage of the nation's significant environmental laws, including the National Environmental Education Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts and the Endangered Species Act.

Now, more than half a century later, the planet is in environmental peril like never before. We need Earth Days every day, to celebrate, honor, and protect our home.

Earth Day-Related Birding Opportunities

George Sayler and Ted Smith will be leading two birding trips in April in celebration of Earth Day, one April 20, and the other April 24.

George's group is scheduled to gather at the East Entrance of Tubbs Hill at 8:30 a.m. on the 20th; Ted's birding excursion will begin at 9 a.m. on the 24th at the same location.

Please plan to celebrate Earth Day by getting out in the natural environment and admiring our local bird species like the one pictured below.

Pileated Woodpecker Hard at Work!



--Photo by George Sayler

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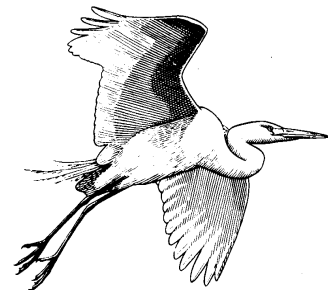
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