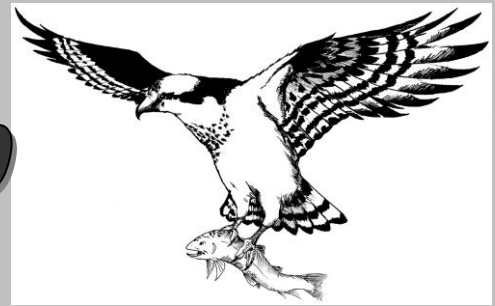


THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society



December 2002

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 4

COMING EVENTS

Note: Because of the CBC we are holding our meetings 1 week earlier this month.

BOARD MEETING

DATE: December 3, Tuesday

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mountain West Bank
125 Ironwood Dr.

DECEMBER PROGRAM

DATE: December 9, Monday

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: First Presbyterian Church, 521
Lakeside

PROGRAM: "TEST YOUR BIRD IQ". Kris Buchler will put us through our paces with a fun quiz and bird identification review to prepare us for the coming CBC.

THEN

A COOKIE EXCHANGE: In keeping with the holiday tradition of overindulgence we are going to have a cookie exchange at the December meeting. This is how it works: everyone will bring two to three dozen of their favorite cookies and a container to bring home an assortment of all the goodies. Wear loose clothing.

●—————●
Visit our website:
www.cdaudubon.org

NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS AND THE IDAHO BIRD REPORT

Dave Trochlell

Idaho Bird Report editor and Regional Editor Idaho-Western Montana Region, *North American Birds*

Fuertes' Eastern Bird Collection



Williamson's Sapsucker

I encourage Idaho birders to report sightings of unusual birds to two publications that feature the most interesting and important birds seen in the Gem State. One is a time-honored national journal and the other is a monthly bird report.

North American Birds is the quarterly "journal of record" for birders. Previously published as part of *Bird Lore*, *Audubon Field Notes*, *American Birds*, and *Field Notes* by the National

Audubon Society, it has been re-born as *North American Birds* and is now produced by the American Birding Association. The mission of the journal is to provide a complete overview of the changing panorama of North America's birdlife, including outstanding records, range extensions and contractions, population dynamics, and changes in migration patterns or seasonal occurrence. *North American Birds* is edited by Ned Brinkley, and features knowledgeable regional editors who analyze and compile the reports of many field observers. The magazine features thirty-one regional reports, each organized in taxonomic order and produced by some of North America's top birders. Idaho is in the Idaho-Western Montana Region, which encompasses the entire Gem State and Montana's mountainous western one-third.

The *Idaho Bird Report* is a monthly column that features the most newsworthy bird sightings and bird-related events in the Gem State. It includes sightings of rare or very local birds, changes in bird populations, seasonal bird irruptions, record bird counts, and latilong changes. Topics addressed include bird-related weather events, news of Boise's Lucky Peak Banding Station activities, seasonal changes in bird populations, and others.

Continued on Page 4

BIRD TRACKS



Audubon Members make a difference

CONGRATULATIONS GEORGE!

George Sayler, a longtime Coeur d' Alene chapter member and a former member of the board, won his bid for seat 4-B in the House of Representatives in the Idaho Legislature. (See article in the October 2002 newsletter)

2002-YARD LIST CHALLENGE

How is your yard-list coming along this year? You have one more month to whip it into shape. On January 1, tally up your species and submit to:

Lisa Hardy
basalt@earthlink.net
 2153B Old River Road
 Kingston, Idaho 83839

You will need to submit a list of species and information about your location. Note whether you are in city limits, urban, suburban or rural, whether you have a water view, type of vegetation and cover available, feeders provided etc. Remember, your list should include all birds seen or heard *from* your yard, so you can include, for example, the geese that flew over at 3000', or the owl you heard one night in the neighbor's yard. What was your favorite bird? Share any interesting bird behavior you noted while observing birds in your yard.

Look for the results in the February ***Fish Hawk Herald***

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS AND POTLUCK

Beginning and experienced birders are all welcome and needed to participate in our three local Christmas Bird Counts. You can join a team in the field or count at your feeder if you live within the count circle. See "Field Trips" on page 3 for details.

Christmas Potluck After the Dec 15 bird count--Please Come!!

You are all invited to come and share potluck whether you have "counted" birds or not. The sign-up sheet will be at the Dec 9th meeting or please call Jan at 667-6209. Bring your own beverage and dish with servers to share: appetizers, salads, desserts, bread and butter. Jan is making lasagna, both vegetarian and traditional. Place settings will be provided. We start at 4 p.m. Hope to see you!!

THE BIRDHOUSE NETWORK

See article on page 4

Our Chapter has taken part in this program for three years. This year 14 of our 50 boxes were used by Western Bluebirds and 1 by a Mountain Blue Bird pair. Western Bluebird, 85 eggs were counted - 61 of these hatched and of those, 43 young fledged. The Mountain Bluebird pair laid 5 eggs, 4 hatched and they all fledged. Tree Swallows laid 153 eggs, 116 hatched and 71 fledged. Other species using the boxes: 1 pair of House Wrens and 1 pair of Mountain Chickadee. Theresa Potts and Shirley Sturts, trail coordinators, want to thank the many Audubon members who have helped to monitor and maintain this trail.

BALD EAGLE SURVEY AND WATCH PROGRAM

For information or to help out with this program contact Scott Robinson at the BLM office.

For the past 5 years Corrine Cameron has been counting eagles at Wolf Lodge and Beauty Bays for the BLM. She counts once a week between mid November and the first of February. Other Audubon members help at Bald Eagle viewing areas in Wolf Lodge and Beauty Bay between Christmas and New Year's. They supply viewing scopes and answer questions.

BLUEBIRD SLIDE PROGRAM

Our chapter currently has two established slide programs available for presentation to local organizations and schools. Our newest program is "The Gertie Hanson Memorial Bluebird Trail". Kris Buchler first presented this program last April to the American Association of University Women. Last week she presented it to "Family Night" at the Post Falls Library. Displays of bluebird nests and those of other cavity nesters accompanied the program. Guests learned about the history of Gertie's trail in the Hoo Doo Valley, about establishing nest box trails and the natural history of the Mountain and Western Bluebirds. The Friends of the Library supplied beautiful bluebird cookies.



"If I were to make a study of the tracks of animals and represent them by plates, I should conclude with the tracks of man"

Henry David Thoreau

DECEMBER FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

1. Please register with the leader ahead of time.
 - a. It helps the leader plan the trip.
 - b. You will be informed if the trip time or location is changed or if the trip is canceled.
2. Fees: (to paid to the driver of the car) \$5.00 - all day trips \$3.00 - 1/2 day trips.
3. We sometimes use radios to communicate between cars. If the radios are used we are asking participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries.

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES: December 5, Thursday, and December 16, Monday

TIME: 1:00 p.m. (NOTE CHANGE IN DAYS AND TIMES)

MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

LEADERS: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318

ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours twice a month counting birds in the Mica Bay area. Beginner birders are encouraged and welcome to join us.

HAYDEN LAKE

DATE: December 8, Sunday

TIME: 8:00 a.m.

MEET: Carpool @ K-mart parking lot, behind Fast Burger

LEADER: Lisa Hardy, 682-4808 or basalt@earthlink.net

ACTIVITY: 1/2 day of birding starting at Honeysuckle Beach. Optional lunch at a nearby restaurant.

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE/TIME: December 10, Tuesday, 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

MEET: Independence Point, City Beach

LEADER: Lynn Sheridan (leave messages for Lynn with Kris Buchler, 664-4739)

ACTIVITY: We will look for unusual gulls and other feathered friends along City Beach.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

DATE: There is a participation fee of \$5.00 for counters in the field. There is no fee for feeder counters. The money goes to the National Audubon Society to help pay for expenses involved in organizing, compiling, analyzing and publishing the results. In addition we ask you to help the driver out with gasoline - \$5.00 full day, \$3.00 half day.

December 15, Sunday - Coeur d'Alene - Compiler: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Breakfast: 6:00 a.m. Michael D's Eatery, Lake Coeur d'Alene Drive

Potluck: Home of Herb and Jan Severtson -1364 Fairmont Loop Road - RSVP Jan at 667-6209.

December 29, Sunday- Indian Mountain - Compiler: Don Heikkila 589-3349

Breakfast: Planned by each team.

Potluck: Home of Don Heikkila on O'Gara Road east of Harrison. RSVP Don at 589-3349 . . .

Sign up: call Shirley 664-5318

January 4, Saturday - Spirit Lake - Compiler: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Breakfast: 6:00 a.m. Rustler's Roost, Hayden Lake

Pizza and salad: Each team brings a salad and something to drink. Cost of the pizza will be shared.

Location to be announced at breakfast that morning.

WINTER TRIP SCHEDULE

January 26 – Gull identification, Coeur d'Alene area

February 8 – Sandpoint – full day

To volunteer to lead a trip or to suggest places to go, call or email Lisa Hardy 682-4808 or basalt@earthlink.net

NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS AND THE IDAHO BIRD REPORT

Continued from Page 1

Please contribute your bird sightings to these publications! Document and report birds that are rare or unseasonal, birds that occur in record numbers, and bird sightings that change the latilong status. To determine whether your bird sighting is unusual, you can look up its status in *Idaho Bird Distribution*, *A Birder's Guide To Idaho*, or the *Idaho Bird Checklist*, three good information sources that should be in every Idaho birder's library. From these publications you'll learn which birds are rare statewide (e.g. Magnolia Warbler), rare and local breeders (e.g. Upland Sandpiper or Yellow-billed Cuckoo), or only rare in certain parts of the state, but expected in other areas (e.g. White-headed Woodpecker or Bewick's Wren). One of Idaho's data shortfalls applies specifically to Blue Jays in north Idaho. Although there have been several reports of Blue Jays from north Idaho in summer, no one has yet been able to confirm nesting in Idaho. If you observe Blue Jays in summer, please try to locate and document a nest!

To report a sighting or for more information please contact Shirley Sturts at <s.sturts@verizon.net>. Who knows? Maybe your bird sighting will add important data, change the local breeding status, and increase our understanding and knowledge of a bird's geographic range.

Thank you and good birding,
**THE BIRDHOUSE
NETWORK**

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

**(Taken from the website of the
The Birdhouse Network)**

The Birdhouse Network (TBN) is a citizen-science monitoring program in North



America. It is intended for people of all ages and backgrounds

who provide birdhouses (nest boxes) for cavity-nesting birds, then record their observations of these fascinating birds up close throughout the breeding season.

By monitoring the breeding cycle of cavity-nesting birds, Birdhouse Network participants enjoy getting to know their bird neighbors, and learning about birds and science through "hands on" activities. Participants feel the satisfaction of contributing important observations to an Internet database that can then be used by the scientific community, conservation groups, and bird enthusiasts alike to benefit the birds.

The Birdhouse Network is for everyone across North America, from children and grandparents to 4-H clubs, schools, and scouts. Anyone looking for a fun outdoor activity, a science project, an educational web-based activity, or an interactive learning opportunity will enjoy participating in The Birdhouse Network.

Objectives

- Involve people of all ages and backgrounds in valuable ornithological research.
- Gather long-term data about the breeding biology of cavity-nesting birds across a large geographic region.

- Teach people about cavity-nesting birds, features of good birdhouses (also called nest boxes), placing nest boxes, and monitoring nest boxes.
- Help people to understand and conduct scientific research.
- Use the world wide web to allow people from all walks of life to get involved in conducting research with scientists, leading to benefits for the birds, the participants, science, and the environment.

To join The Birdhouse Network or to acquaint yourself with some of the studies they are currently conducting, visit their website at: www.birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse

For only \$15, you'll receive a Welcome Packet, access to e-mail discussion groups, and a subscription to Birdscope, the Lab's quarterly newsletter. In addition, you will have access to our on-line database where you can store, organize, retrieve and share your valuable nest box data.

Editors note: Our chapter reports the results of the Gertie Hanson Memorial Bluebird Trail, located along Kelso Lake Road in the Hoo Doo Valley. We have monitored 50 boxes and recorded our results on the TBN Website for the past 3 years - see story under Bird Tracks on page 2

FACTS ABOUT BALD EAGLES

Information taken from "Bald Eagles in Idaho" Nongame Leaflet #12. This publication is

available from your Idaho Fish and Game Department.



Photograph by Wayne Tree

- In 1978 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service(USFWS) listed the Bald Eagle as endangered in all but five of the lower 48 states.
- With this protection, public awareness, appreciation and a ban on the use of DDT, populations increased and by 1996 the USFWS reclassified the Bald Eagle from Endangered to Threatened.
- In Idaho Bald Eagle nesting territories have gradually increased from 11 in 1979 to 90 in 1996.

- They require (as does all wildlife) four habitat elements to survive and reproduce: food, shelter, water and space.
- Nests are among the largest in the bird world - up to seven feet across and 10 feet deep.
- Most nests are built in either mature or old-growth timber near a water source with adequate food supply.
- Females lay one to four eggs in late February to early April and after 35 days of incubation, eaglets hatch in mid-April or early May.
- The Bald Eagle is sometimes mistaken for a Golden Eagle because in its first four years of life it wears mostly dark brown plumage with varying amounts of white.
- When the Bald Eagle reaches sexual maturity (the 4th or 5th year) the head and tail become all white.
- The Bald Eagle stands 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 feet tall with a 6-8 foot wingspan. The female's average weight is 10-14 lbs. compared to the smaller male which weighs only 8-10 1/2 lbs.
- Kokanee salmon that have spawned and are dead or dying provide the winter food source that attracts these birds to Wolf Lodge Bay.

- We have active nests at Cougar Bay and Fernan Lake.

TRAIL OF THE COEUR D'ALENES

Lisa Hardy

On Saturday, October 26, nine Auduboners birded the new Rails-to-Trails from Medimont to Harrison. The trip through the Chain Lakes on this crisp, sunny day convinced me that birding by bicycle is viable, at least on a paved, level biking trail through good wetlands habitat. We stopped to scope out Cave, Swan, Black, Anderson and Thompson Lakes as well as Coeur d'Alene Lake from the marina at Harrison.

The trail provides access to a stretch along the Coeur d'Alene River between Black and Anderson Lakes not accessible by road, and it was along this stretch, in flooded fields, that we found several of the trip highlights - a flock of Long-billed Dowitcher and a Double-crested Cormorant. Other highlights were large numbers of elegant Canvasback and a handful of Bonaparte's Gull mixed in with Ring-billed Gull. Only a few duck hunters were in evidence, one of which had a fluttering decoy that gave us pause. The water level in Thompson Lake was low, and the numbers of waterfowl were lower than expected. (see article on our website for the complete list of species)

Trip participants: Richard Cripe, Joan & Bill Gundlach, Lisa Hardy, Russ & Jean Hersrud (welcome!), Shirley Sturts, Judy & Phil Waring.

BIRD THE SUPERFUND

Lisa Hardy



Photograph by Wayne Tree

On a rainy Sunday morning (November 10), eight of us birded the Page-Smelterville-Silver King area, all within the Bunker Hill Superfund "box".

At the Page ponds, we found a banquet of 30 Common Ravens working over a discarded deer carcass, and had good close-ups of both Common and Barrow's Goldeneye. Walking up the Page road, we picked up only a few passerines, namely Black-capped Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet and a Song Sparrow. After an espresso stop, we checked out the airport, where Shirley spotted the best bird of the trip, a Northern Shrike.

Birding was slow up Silver King, the draw where the Bunker Hill smelter and zinc plant were located. Dick regaled us with the story of his "job from hell" in the zinc plant, and how thankful he was the next summer to be assigned a nice job in the smelter. Others remember driving through the yellow fog around Kellogg that was common when the smelter was still operating.

The US Fish & Wildlife Department monitors the fauna and flora of the Superfund site to assess how effective remediation projects are in reducing exposure to heavy

metals. Their work has implications for human health, and includes surveys of the birds, amphibians and reptiles, small mammals and flora. In 2001, F&W initiated an annual survey using Breeding Bird Survey protocols. Some of the interesting species they have noted are California Quail, Rock Wren and Pine Grosbeak.

(See complete trip list on our Chapter website)

Trip participants: Kris Buchler, Janet Callen, Roland Craft, Dick Cripe, Bill Gundlach, Lisa Hardy, Jan Severtson, Shirley Sturts

BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

Lynn Sheridan

November 12

It rained in the morning but by 12 noon it had stopped. Avice McMillen was the first to arrive, then Shirley Sturts, and we set off to walk to the Ponderosa Golf Course. I heard a Northern Flicker near home, but along Pennsylvania Avenue there was no avian activity. At the corner of 22nd Street there is a small brushy patch with an old apple tree and a stream, now dry. I usually find birds here and occasionally deer, but today it was quiet. Further along 22nd Shirley spotted a dozen House Finch high in a leafless tree, adding a touch of color.

Nearer the Golf course an American Crow and Common Raven flew by, clearly showing their tails! We heard a Red-breasted Nuthatch, but nothing else. Even the ponds were still, and the stream drained.

On the way home it began to rain, so we picked up the pace. Thank you for the company. At my feeder I saw 56 more House finch, 7 House Sparrow, 4 Pygmy Nuthatch and 1 Mountain Chickadee, when I first looked

out the window. Do they count? ☺

9th ANNUAL BIRD FEEDER WATCH

Sign up to count the birds at your feeder 4 times during the winter (starts Dec.15). The purpose of the survey is to share information about the birds coming to our feeders. The results will be summarized in the March issue of the newsletter.

If you participate in the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology "Project Feeder Watch", you could use the same data for our local feeder survey.

You can pick up survey forms at our December meeting or call Shirley Sturts - 664-5318, and she will send you one.

Some obsolete English Names for birds:

- Baldpate = American Wigeon
- Bluebill = scaup, sp.
- Bull-bat = Common Nighthawk
- Bay-winged Bunting = Vesper Sparrow
- Burrion = House Finch
- Butcher Bird = Northern or Loggerhead Shrike
- Butterball = Bufflehead
- Buzzard = hawk or vulture
- Wild Canary = American Goldfinch or Yellow Warbler
- Cedar-bird = Cedar Waxwing

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!!

The following people have

joined The Audubon recently: Martha Andrews, Jack Knox, Thomas Hellawell, Elesa Anderson, Glynda Brown, Denise Clark and Nils Wagenhal, Sue Williamson. We look forward to meeting you!

OBSERVATION POST

OSERVERS: Ed and Kris Buchler (EBUC, KBUC), Janet Callen (JCAL), Corinne Cameron (CCAM), Bill Gundlach (BGUN), Lisa Hardy (LHAR), Eula Hickman (EHIC), Earl Kendle (EKEN), Nancy Mertz (NMER) Terry Prichard (TPRI), Theresa Potts (TPOT) Lynn Sheridan (LSHE) Shirley Sturts (SSTU), *Mica Bay Survey October 22, November 11 Kris Buchler, Roland Craft, Bill Gundlach, Jerry Hanson, Jan Severtson, Shirley Sturts*

Common Loon 1 Mica Bay Survey Nov. 11; 1 Silver Beach, CDA Lake Nov. 18 (KBUC)

Red-necked Grebe 7 & 3 Mica Bay Survey Oct. 22 & Nov. 11

Horned Grebe 3 & 4 Mica Bay Survey Oct. 22 & Nov. 11

Northern Shoveler 3 Page Ponds (Shoshone County) Nov. 1 (LHAR)

Common Goldeneye 5 Page Ponds Nov. 1 (LHAR); 10 Silver Beach, CDA Lake Nov. 18 (KBUC)

Barrow's Goldeneye 2 Page Ponds (Shoshone County) Nov. 1 (LHAR)

Lesser Scaup 8 Honeysuckle Bay, Hayden Lake Nov. 2 (LSHE)

Bald Eagle 1 Mica Bay Survey Oct. 22; 3 Bald Eagle Survey Nov. 18 (CCAM)

Osprey 1 (last fall sighting) CDA River near Enaville Oct. 22 (BGUN)

Rough-legged Hawk 2 (1st fall arrival for Kootenai County - they winter here) Rathdrum Prairie Nov. 20 (CCAM)

Great Horned Owl 1 heard Arrowhead Road CDA Nov. 3 (TPOT)

Northern Pygmy Owl 1 near feeder Armstrong Hill, CDA Nov. 1 and 6 (KBUC)

Mourning Dove 6 at feeder Fernan Lake Nov. 23 (SSTU)

Belted Kingfisher 1 Mica Bay Survey Nov. 11; 1 Fernan Lake Nov. 19 (SSTU)

Pileated Woodpecker 1 English Point Nov. 16 (EBUC,KBUC), 1 Hayden Lake home seen off and on during Nov. (EHIC)

Downy Woodpecker 1 at her feeder daily Armstrong Hill, CDA in November (KBUC)

Northern Shrike 1st fall arrival (they winter here) in her yard CDA Oct. 25 (JCAL); 1 Mica Bay Survey Nov. 11

Blue/Steller's Jay Hybrid 1 Nov.18 (assume same one that was seen in Sept. and then stopped coming) CDA Nov. 18 (NMER)

Gray Jay 3 Gotham Bay, CDA Lake Nov. 14 (EKEN)

Pygmy Nuthatch 19 English Point Nov. 16 (EBUC,KBUC)

Mountain Chickadee 3 English Point Nov. 16 (EBUC,KBUC)

Chestnut-backed Chickadee 2 at feeder Armstrong Hill, CDA in November (KBUC); first time at her feeder CDA Nov. 18 (NMER,TPRI)

Canyon Wren 1 Gotham Bay, CDA Lake Nov. 4 (EKEN) rare for out area and a first for Kootenai County

Bewick's Wren 1 Mica Bay Survey Nov. 11

American Dipper 2 Gotham Bay, CDA Lake Nov. 16 (EKEN)

American Goldfinch 1 Armstrong Hill Nov. 15 (KBUC)

Long-toed Salamander (a non-bird ☺) 1 Mica Bay Survey Nov. 11. Bill Gundlach found this little salamander in a tire track. He thought it had been run over, but much to our delight, after warming up in Bill's hand, it

started moving around. Bill released it in an area away from the road.