

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
[www.cdaudubon.org](http://www.cdaudubon.org)

December 2013

Volume 23 Number 4

## DECEMBER PROGRAM

**DATE:** December 10, Tuesday

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

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

**PROGRAM:** Program will be presented by Carrie Hugo. She will be talking about winter birds in our area, with a focus on some of the species that are more unusual or difficult to identify. This is partly in preparation for the Christmas Bird Counts, but will also be useful to any local birder wishing to learn more about winter birding in our area!

**COOKIE EXCHANGE!** Bring 2 dozen of your favorite home-made Christmas treats – one dozen to trade and one to share!

### BOARD MEETING

**DATE:** December 3, Tuesday

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

**TIME:** 4:00 p.m.



## BOOKS FOR TOTS

7th Annual Children's Book Drive

Please help our chapter in its effort to collect new books for less fortunate children. We will have a donation box at our December meeting and at the CBC Annual Christmas Potluck. Since these books are coming from Audubon, books that include birds or wild animals might be considered.

What is Books For Tots? It is a children's book drive designed to collect new books for underprivileged kids in Kootenai County. The books collected by Books For Tots are given to the local chapter of Toys For Tots and are distributed to needy children in the community (along with toys collected by Toys For Tots).

What is our vision? To broaden the minds of children by ensuring that needy kids receive brand new books for the holidays. The trickle-down effect of reading is powerful and everlasting, and we want children to be exposed to as many new books as possible.

Goal: To collect 8,000 kids books (infant -12 years). There are approximately 3,000 underprivileged kids in the county, and we hope to give each child 2 or 3 age-appropriate books.

When is the book drive? It will begin on November 1<sup>st</sup> and end on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Our Contact: Linda Rohlinger (208) 819-9988 or [linda@rohlinger.net](mailto:linda@rohlinger.net)

"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.

— Jacqueline Kennedy

# Audubon Adventures

Valerie Zagar

Thanks to the generosity of the Margaret W. Reed Foundation, our Coeur d'Alene Audubon chapter is proud to sponsor Audubon Adventures kits to 129 classrooms. Not only Coeur d'Alene's elementary students (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades) are receiving this great educational tool, but also children in Post Falls, Rathdrum, Kellogg, Wallace, Mullan, Spirit Lake, St. Maries and Plummer.

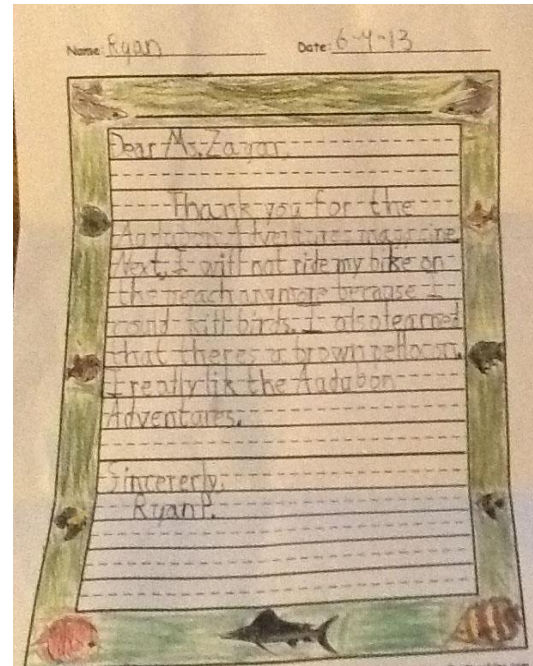
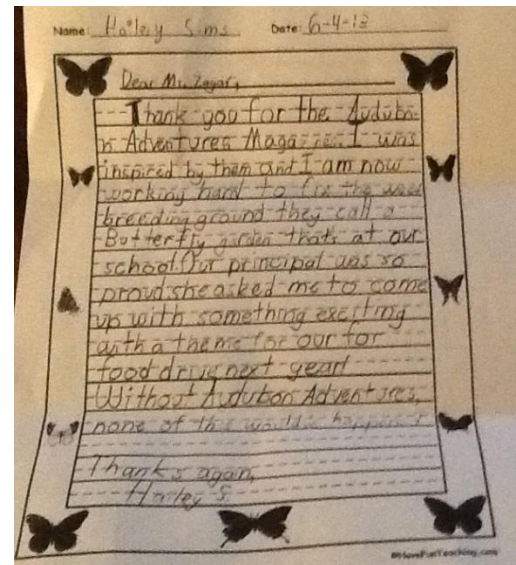
This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Audubon Adventures and they are celebrating with the theme of "Sharing Our World with Birds!" What a great title. The students will receive 4 different magazines throughout the school year: "Raptors, Birds of Prey", "Hooray for Hummingbirds", "Seabirds-Feathered Ocean Travelers" and "Caring for Our Planet".

At the end of the last school year, I received thank you letters from two students from Ponderosa Elementary in Post Falls. I would like to share these letters with you as it shows how kids do learn from this informative program. A special thanks again to Scott and Mary Lou Reed for their support in helping to give the next generation such a positive attitude about nature!

*"Dear Ms. Zagar*

*Thank you for the Audubon Adventures magazine. I was inspired by them and I am now working hard to fix the weed breeding ground they call a Butterfly garden that's at our school. Our principal was so proud she asked me to come up with something exciting with a theme for our food drive next year. Without Audubon Adventures, none of the would've happened.*

*Thanks again,  
Hailey S.*



*"Dear Ms Zagar*

*"Thank you for the Audubon Adventures magazine. Next, I will not ride my bike on the beach anymore because I could kill birds. I also learned that there is a brown pellocon. I really like the Audubon Adventures.*

*Sincerely,  
Ryan P. "*  
December Newsletter

# Audubon Chapter Happenings



George Saylor

My first newsletter of the fall was written on one of those 90 degree August days, and this one when the temperature is less than half of that. Soon we

will be preparing for the annual Christmas Bird Count! It seems time flies faster than a speeding Peregrine.

Our December meeting will focus on the Christmas Bird Count. There will be opportunity to finalize team sign ups, get directions, have a review of identification tips for some of our more challenging species, and there will be a short review of the historical background, development, and current significance of the CBC. To top it off, there will also be our annual Christmas cookie exchange.

Looking further ahead, the board has approved two fundraising efforts for next year. We adopted our annual budget in November, and it has a small surplus. However, to make this budget work, we are counting on two fundraising events. One will be a separate drive to raise money to support this year's International Migratory Bird Day event, and the other will be a gala fundraising banquet to raise money for our club's operation and to help fund a conservation project that is yet to be determined.

It is going to take a group effort to achieve success with these efforts. If you would like to help with the IMBD fundraiser, contact Carrie Hugo at [carriehugo@wildblue.net](mailto:carriehugo@wildblue.net), and if you would like to help with the other fundraiser, contact me at [gsaylercda@aol.com](mailto:gsaylercda@aol.com). Our IMBD

event last year was a big success, and our last major fundraiser was the Valentine's Day banquet two years ago, which seemed to be a big hit. I believe these events help our club fulfill its mission by educating the public (IMBD), helping finance our programs, and energizing our membership. I hope you will participate.

We have two good programs lined up for next year that I think you will find interesting and enjoyable. However, there are probably others that you know about that I don't, so if you have suggestions for a program, please let me know. We want to keep our programs relevant. Thanks!

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## The Idaho Bird Conservation Partnership: A Coordination Point for Bird Conservation in Idaho

Jay Carlisle, Coordinator, [jaycarlisle@boisestate.edu](mailto:jaycarlisle@boisestate.edu)  
*Research Director, Idaho Bird Observatory; Assistant  
 Research Faculty, Boise State University*

### What is the Idaho Bird Conservation Partnership?

The Idaho Bird Conservation Partnership (IBCP) is a recently-formed collaboration that represents a joining of "forces" to unite for bird conservation. In particular, a high overlap in priorities, objectives, and organizations has existed between the Idaho Partners in Flight (PIF) chapter, with expertise in research and monitoring, and the state chapter of the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV), with expertise in habitat conservation and restoration. Given the current economic climate with regards to funding for natural resources, we recognized the need to help focus limited monitoring and restoration dollars to benefit many partners. Directed by a steering committee composed entirely of relevant professionals donating their 'in-kind' service, the IBCP is an emerging

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## The Idaho Bird Conservation Partnership

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collaborative effort that seeks to blend the research/monitoring expertise of PIF with the conservation delivery expertise of the Joint Ventures, and build on these foundations with complementary tools such as outreach, education, and citizen science.

The IBCP is designed to contribute to the management, science delivery, outreach, and conservation of birds and their habitats in Idaho. In particular:

- The IBCP will provide leadership, inter-organizational communication, organizational support, science delivery, outreach, and management to this conservation effort.
- The IBCP will strive to implement strategic management and conservation efforts that contribute to the achievement of high priority regional and continental bird objectives aligned with national and state bird conservation initiatives and Idaho's State Wildlife Action Plan.

To achieve the above goals, we have organized into the following seven working groups: **Conservation Delivery, Funding Acquisition, Information Management, Monitoring and Research, Outreach/Education/Citizen Science, Pressing Bird Conservation Issues, and State Wildlife Action Plan Revision.** The IBCP has been gaining momentum since early 2011 and we recently (November 2012) held our most productive "working" meeting to date, at which all working groups formulated and began progress on specific action items (ranging from

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

shorter- to longer-term goals). Examples of current action items/priorities include: addressing direct mortality threats such as uncapped pipes, maintaining flood-irrigated agriculture for wetland birds, developing a statewide database for completed and ongoing research and monitoring projects, and more.

We plan to continue to meet twice per year to sustain activity. Our next meeting will occur in the Fall of 2013 in Boise.

### GET INVOLVED!

Please contact me (jaycarlisle@boisestate.edu; 208-426-5203) to be added to mailing list and/or if you'd like to participate in a specific working group. Involvement could include: helping us achieve progress on action items, participation in citizen science projects, events/trainings, and possibly providing data you've already collected. Also, please visit our website <http://iwjv.org/partner-state/idaho-bird-conservation-partnership> and/or see us on [Facebook!](#)

### Working Groups (*with current leaders and examples of current action items*)

Conservation Delivery – *Don Kemner (IDFG) and Karen Fullen (NRCS)*

- Develop request for EQIP Initiative for riparian enhancements
- Work to create competitive payment rates for NRCS conservation practices benefiting bird habitats
- Address rapid conversion of flooded agriculture to center pivot, and impacts to foraging birds in Upper Snake region

Funding Acquisition – *Beth Waterbury (IDFG) and Chris Colson (Ducks Unlimited)*

- Create funding sources resource for IBCP members & support other working groups in funding procurement

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# The Idaho Bird Conservation Partnership

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Obtain multi-year capacity funding to support and sustain the IBCP coordinator position (3 months/year)



Carrie Hugo

## Outreach/Education and Citizen Science – Carrie Hugo (BLM) and Deniz Aygen (IDFG)

- Design IBCP logo      • Engage each local Audubon chapter      • Develop IBCP Facebook page
- Create webpage profiles for partners and Pressing Issues      • Help connect volunteers with projects

Create IBCP overview article for organizational newsletters      • Photo contest for Idaho TWS meetings in March Information (Data) Management – Ben Studer (IDFG) and Brent Thomas (IDFG)

- Data sharing/data mining: eBird, agency offices, etc.
- Inventory of existing datasets and ongoing research/monitoring projects; then prioritize gaps and needs

Monitoring and Research – Jay Carlisle (IBO/Boise State) and Beth Hahn (USFS-R1)

- Widespread raptor monitoring (focus on migration) in relation to energy development
- Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) – develop pilot sampling frame for Idaho
- Seek opportunities for effectiveness monitoring - work with “Conservation Delivery” to identify likely projects

Pressing Bird Conservation Issues – Colleen Moulton (IDFG) and Toni Holthuijzen (Idaho Power)

- Role: identifying/prioritizing pressing issues; field suggestions, rank issues, suggest actions, evaluate progress
- Has created initial ranked list with input from IBCP Steering Committee
- Top-ranking current issues: (1) uncapped pipes, (2) scientific bird collecting, (3) entanglement in monofilament, (4) info need for raptor distribution (migration & winter), (5) conversion from flood irrigation to center-pivot

State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) revision – Rita Dixon (IDFG) and Terry Rich (USFWS/PIF)

- Revised SWAP due 2015 and IBCP can play a critical role; revised list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) by December 2013
- Prioritization scheme to include criteria such as: social, political, and biological values; status; threat; urgency
  - Try to refine scheme for consistency across partners
- Range maps: exploring different sources (NatureServe, eBird STEM, Northwest ReGAP) for consistent use across organizations



Northern  
Harrier

Photo by  
Bill Linn

## Winter Raptor Survey Project

Doug Ward

"The Winter Raptor Survey Project is a collaborative effort sponsored and administered by the East Cascades Audubon Society out of Bend, Oregon. The primary purpose of this project is to collect population density information for the raptors (hawks, eagles, owls, and falcons) which utilize our region during the winter months. Regular surveys began back in the winter of 2004-05 in central Oregon, but now cover most of Oregon, Idaho, as well as much of Washington and Northern California. The data collected by this project can be, and is being, used by land and wildlife managing agencies to help guide their decision making processes.

These surveys, which are affectionately called "Raptor Runs", are carried out once a month from November through March by volunteers who cover a set route and record their sightings. Each route is typically 40-50 road miles and is intended to transect favorable wintering habitat for the large raptors; primarily the *buteo* hawks which are near the top of the food web and thus good indicators of ecosystem health. Monthly sightings are then compiled and sent in to the project coordinator to be combined with the other surveys to create what has become an extensive database. The heavy lifting in terms of organization and data reduction falls on Jeff Fleischer as Project Coordinator who now oversees more than 250 survey routes in the region - that's a lot of miles and data!! To further his pain, Jeff has decided to upload

previous surveys, as well as future routes, into eBird so that this information can be seen and utilized on a broader scale; at least he has now enlisted help as this is a monumental task.

Turning to our local "Raptor Run", we began surveying the Rathdrum Prairie last winter (2012-13) on a trial basis. Several of us (Janet Callen, Shirley Sturts, Doug Ward, and Judy Waring) developed a route, worked out the kinks, and are now settled for the coming years. We hope to include each month's survey as a regular Coeur d'Alene Audubon field trip so check your monthly newsletter for dates and details. Results of our surveys will be posted on the website as time permits. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact Doug Ward (208) 699-9327 (c) or [dougward@frontier.com](mailto:dougward@frontier.com)



Mineral Ridge  
Hike: Fernan  
Lake, Wolf  
Lodge Bay,  
Beauty Bay

**Janet Callen.**

On November 2, 2013 it rained, sometimes lightly, sometimes heavily, but consistently. Five somewhat soggy, but still smiling, Audubon members birded Fernan Lake, Wolf Lodge Bay and Beauty Bay. Although the numbers of birds weren't great, some of the sightings were. Hooded Mergansers are always a delight to see as are Western, Pied-billed and Horned Grebes. The highlight of the day, and our target birds, were two Common Loons between Beauty Bay and Wolf Lodge Bay. Needless to say, we didn't hike Mineral Ridge trail, but we did establish the "Foul Weather Fowl Spotting" award. Roland Craft, Judy Waring, Jan Severtson, and Shirley Sturts participated.



## Field Trips 2013-2014

PLEASE REGISTER: *Watch the website or newsletter for updates to our field trip schedule. Participants should contact the trip leader at least 24 hours in advance of the field*

*trip to find out if the meeting place, time or destination has been changed. Participants will share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver.*

### Mica Bay Survey

**Date:** December 10, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - **Note the time change**

**Meet:** Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

**Leader:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318

We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome. We will help you with identification skills.

### Raptor Survey

**Date:** December 7, Saturday

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Meet:** K-Mart parking lot

**Leader:** Doug Ward 762-7107

We drive a set route across the Rathdrum Prairie and record hawk species and numbers. This a regional survey being coordinated by the East Cascades Audubon Society. Please join in the survey and help spot hawks. Beginners are welcome. This is an excellent way to learn hawk identification. The survey takes around 2-3 hours. Bring water and snacks if you wish. .

### Coeur D'Alene CBC

**Date:** December 14, Saturday

**Compiler:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318

[shirley.sturts@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.sturts@gmail.com)

Meet at Michael D's Eartery for breakfast at 6:00 a.m. or 7:00 a.m. to join your team.

### Annual Christmas Potluck

**When:** December 14th, following the Bird Count

. All are welcome, not just the bird counters! Bring a dish and something to drink.

**Where:** Armstrong Park Club House –RSVP Kris – 664-4739, [eagleroost@roadrunner.com](mailto:eagleroost@roadrunner.com)

### Spirit Lake CBC

**Date:** January 2, Thursday

**Compiler:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318

[shirley.sturts@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.sturts@gmail.com)

Meet for breakfast at 6:15 a.m., Rustler's Roost, Hayden Lake, Highway 95 and Hayden Avenue, or 7:00 a.m. to join your team.

### Compiling and Pizza Party

Following the Spirit Lake CBC, about 4:30 p.m.

**Where:** Janet Callen's home **RSVPS:** Janet, 664-1085 or email, [jgoldfinch@roadrunner.com](mailto:jgoldfinch@roadrunner.com) .

Please bring money to share the cost of the pizza and something to add to a green salad (greens will be provided). Hot tea will be provided. Bring whatever else you want to drink.

### Indian Mountain CBC

**Date:** January 5, Sunday

**Compiler:** Don Heikkila 659-3389 -

[idfinn@sm-email.com](mailto:idfinn@sm-email.com)

Team organizers: Shirley Sturts 664-5318 - [shirley.sturts@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.sturts@gmail.com) and Lisa Hardy 783-1262 [basalt@earthlink.net](mailto:basalt@earthlink.net)

Meeting location and time - made by each participating team

**NEW MEMBER APPLICATION**

Become a member of the National Audubon Society, Join online at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) or use this form.

**INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP**

- Regular \$20.00
- Two Years \$30.00
- Seniors and Students \$15.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send this application and your check payable to:

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 422248  
Palm Coast, Florida\ 32142-6718

**C9ZG060Z**

**CDA Audubon Chapter Officers**

**President:**  
George Saylor (208) 664-2787

**Vice President:**  
Eula Hickam (208) 661-3228

**Recording Secretary:**  
Valerie Zagar (208) 819-5115

**Treasurer:**  
Jenny Taylor (208) 755-4216

**Board Members: all officers +**  
Peggy Albertson, Darlene Carlton, Carrie Hugo, Rob Kroese, Jan Severtson, Lynn Sheridan

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Publicity:** Carrie Hugo

**Field Trips:** Roland Craft (208) 457- 8894  
Janet Callen (208) 664-1085

**Education:** Valerie Zagar 819-5115

**Conservation:** Volunteer needed

**Membership:** Jan Severtson (208) 667-6209  
Keith Sturts (208) 664-5318

**Hospitality:** Carrie Hugo (208) 689 -9600

**Newsletter:** Shirley Sturts (208) 664-5318

**Mailing:** Peggy Albertson 664-1616

**Webmaster:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318

**Historian:** Carrie Hugo (209) 689-9600

**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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TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

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