

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

December 2015

Volume 26 Number 4

DECEMBER PROGRAM

DATE: December 8th Tuesday

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

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PROGRAM: Winter Bird Identification -
A Primer for the Christmas Bird Count

SPEAKER: This will be a cooperative effort from Janet Callen (generated the list), Carrie Hugo (created the PowerPoint), and Kris Buchler (will do the commentary).

How do I tell if I'm seeing a House Finch or a Cassin's Finch? Or, is it a Pine Siskin? What about that loon? Is it Common or Pacific Loon? Those darn gulls! Call Lisa! She can figure them out!

Our December program will be our traditional review of common winter birds YOU may encounter while doing one of the three Christmas Bird Counts. We'll focus on fine points that help distinguish similar species and hopefully enable old and new birders on the count to accurately ID the birds they see.

The President's Report

Thank you all for your support of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society! Those of us on the Board really appreciate the many members and friends who attend the monthly meetings and join in other activities as well. I'm looking forward to the events of the months ahead.



In December, our meeting will focus on bird identification which will help as several groups go out on the December 14 Christmas Bird Count to count birds in our area. Also in the December meeting, we will be holding the annual **"Christmas Cookie Exchange."** Bring some cookies to share and take some home for later (be sure to bring some for eating that evening as well). Also bring a book for **"Books for Tots" (ages 2-12)** to our annual campaign to collect new books for underprivileged kids in Kootenai County.

See you at the meeting! Eula Hickam

Membership Reminder

Local Membership



In fall 2012, Coeur d'Alene Audubon began collecting annual membership dues for our local Chapter. These donations help sustain our mission statement to support and protect Idaho's wildlife. As a 501(c)(3) organization, any contributions are tax deductible. Payment is due each September to cover the fiscal year - August through July.

As of November 17th, we have 107 members that are "active" in our chapter. At our first meeting in September we had only four paid memberships. We now have 49 of our 107 annual memberships paid and THANKS so much to all who have taken the time to do so. If you have overlooked paying dues this year - now is the time! It takes everyone's participation to meet the goals of our organization. Dues are \$10/year for individuals and \$15/year for a family. Please use the "cut-out" on the back page of this Newsletter and submit payment to:

CDA AUDUBON CHAPTER
P.O. Box 361
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

If you have questions regarding your membership status, please contact Peggy Albertson at fourseasonscards@yahoo.com, or 664-1616

Thanks!

Birds and Beans

George Saylor



Coffee Lovers!! The first order is on its way to those of us who ordered coffee. George will be sending in orders periodically throughout the year. If you missed this first order or are planning ahead so you don't run out of coffee, contact George and get in on the next order. 664-2787 - gsaylercda@aol.com



Ronn and Roberta Rich birding the rain forest in Costa Rica

Birds and Beans is shade grown, organic, fair-trade certified coffee. We do it as a fundraiser and to help protect bird habitat in Central America. Go to our website for prices and varieties available. Help save the rain forests by choosing to drink shade grown coffee:

<http://cdaudubon.org/Birds%20and%20Beans.pdf>

Ten Rules of Nature



Northern Hawk Owl
Photo by Larry
Krumpleman

From "Finding
SUBIRDIA", *The Nature
Conservancy Magazine*,
Feb/Mar 2015.

1. Do not covet your neighbor's lawn.

Landowners can increase bird use of their turf by reducing its extent, mowing it less often, and skipping the fertilizers and

pesticides. Providing shrubs and trees, especially native species, increases food resources. Thickets, brush piles, rocks, standing dead trees and logs contribute cover from predators and safe nest and roost sites.

2. Keep your cats indoors. Ouran favorite felines are called "house cats" for a reason. Free-ranging cats kill one in ten wild birds. Plus, living inside extends the average cat's life by a decade.

3. Make windows visible to birds. Collision is the second most deadly and preventable threat for urban birds. Obscuring just 5 percent of a large window with artistic etching, frosting or simple striping can help, or use decals that reflect ultraviolet light, visible to birds but not humans.

4. Do not light the night sky. Use light only when necessary and from as dim a source as possible. Bright bluish light is the

most disruptive, soft yellow the least. Face outside lighting downward, not skyward, and especially avoid illumination that shines horizontally.

5. Provide food, water and nest sites. Most birds that use feeders prefer black oil sunflower and white proso millet seed. In urban settings, birds also benefit from the provision of nest boxes. But preserving dead trees or limbs is the best way to ensure a steady supply of cavities for the species

6. Do not kill native predators. "Subirdia" needs the natural checks and balances that predators such as hawks and owls provide. Exercise restraint when applying pesticides. The toxins we use to control insects and rodents are deadly to small birds and mammals.

7. Foster a diversity of habitats.



Promote natural variability within and around backyard landscapes. Many native plants could be retained if we carved lots carefully from existing vegetation, rather than scraping entire lots bare and replanting them with a standard mix of nursery stock.

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Ten Rules of Nature

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8. Make roads safer for wildlife. Creating crossings for reptiles, amphibians and mammals increases biological diversity, which is good for suburban birds. Enable natural grasses and shrubs to fill in along road verges and medians, and limit roadside mowing of these sites during nesting season.



9. Ask local planning authorities to ensure functional connections between land and water. These might include buffers along waterways, vegetated corridors, golf courses or a series of small parks strung together along an abandoned transportation route.

10. Enjoy and bond with nature where you live, work and play! When humans live in the city and nature lives only in distant reserves, we can suffer what has been called "environmental amnesia". To remember what biodiversity is and why it is important, we must also conserve nature in urban settings.

Fernan Lake, Wolf Lodge,
Beauty and Blue Creek Bay
November 14, 2015

Janet Callen



Common Loon
Photo by Peggy Albertson

Although a few sprinkles of rain fell, it wasn't enough to deter Lynn Sheridan, Roland Craft and Valerie Zagar from joining me for what turned out to be a most satisfactory day of birding. Bufflehead (57), Hooded Merganser (18), and Mallard (82) were the "duck" stars of the day.

Grebes, included one Red-necked and numerous Westerns, Horned and Pied-billed which were on all bodies of water. Several **Bald Eagles were already surveying Wolf Lodge Bay.**

At a stop along the bay Lynn spotted a Brown Creeper. Our target birds, Common Loons, were spotted in Wolf Lodge and Beauty Bay and we counted 5 adults and 3 juveniles. To round out this pre-Thanksgiving birding adventure were 79 Wild Turkeys and our total species count was 25.

FIELD TRIPS

Mica Bay Survey

Date: December 8, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318 and Janet Callen 664-1085

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

Rathdrum Prairie Hawk Survey

Surveys will take place once a month from November through March. Doug Ward is the leader. This two hour, fast-paced journey across the prairie is a learning experience that is a lot of fun. Details will follow.

Christmas Bird Counts

Coeur d'Alene CBC

Monday, December 14

Organizer: Shirley Sturts - 664-5318

Meet: 6:30 a.m... for breakfast at Michael D's Eatery, 203 E, Coeur d'Alene Lake Drive
7:30 a.m. for those not having breakfast.

There will be a potluck dinner after the count to celebrate and compile the team lists. Theresa Potts has graciously offered to host the potluck at her home again this year. Thank you Theresa.

Indian Mountain CBC

Saturday, January 2nd

Organizers: Shirley Sturts (west side of circle Spokane Pt to St. Maries) Janet Callen 664-1085 (east side of circle) Medimont to Harrison) Call either Shirley or Janet for time and meeting place.

Spirit Lake CBC

Tuesday, January 5th

Meet for breakfast Country Boy Café in Athol at 7:00 a.m., 7:45 a.m. to join your team. **Compiling and Pizza Party** about 4:30 p.m. **Where:** Janet Callen's home
RSVPS: Janet, 664-1085 or email, 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.

Malheur Wildlife Refuge

Plan ahead for this one

Date: April 28, Thursday through May 1st.
Sunday 2016

Time and Meet: To be determined

Leader: George Sayler 664-2787

George is making reservations at the Frenchglen Hotel. **He would like to know right away if you are interested in going on this trip.** Contact him for more information.

Target Birds: Migrating waterfowl and songbirds. The refuge has recorded 320 bird species and 58 mammal species.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Become a member of the National Audubon Society, Join online at www.audubon.org or use this form.

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

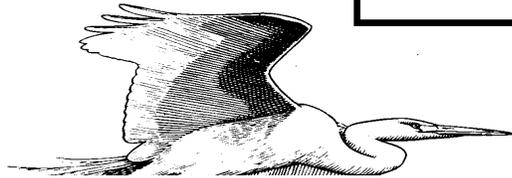
CITY _____

STATE _____ Zip _____

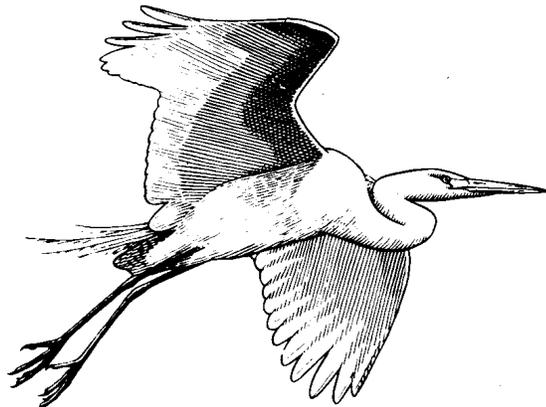
Send this application and your check payable to:

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Attn: Chance Mueleck
225 Varick Street
New York, NY 10014

C9ZG060Z



National Audubon Coeur d'Alene Chapter
P.O. Box 361
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816



CDA Audubon Chapter Officers

President:
Eula Hickam 661-3228
Vice President:
George Saylor 664-2787
Recording Secretary:
Valerie Zagar 819-5115

Treasurer:
Janet Callen 664-1085
Board Members: all officers +
Peggy Albertson, Midge-Marcy Brennan, , Barb Christofferson
Carrie Hugo, Jim Lynn, Lynn Sheridan

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Publicity: Open
Field Trips: Roland Craft 457- 8894
Janet Callen 664-1085
Education: Barbara Christofferson 667-3931
Conservation: Midge Marcy-Brennan
Membership: Peggy Albertson 664-1616

Hospitality: Open
Newsletter: Shirley Sturts 664-5318
Mailing: Peggy Albertson 664-1616
Webmaster: Shirley Sturts 664-5318
Historian: Open

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 _____

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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