

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD

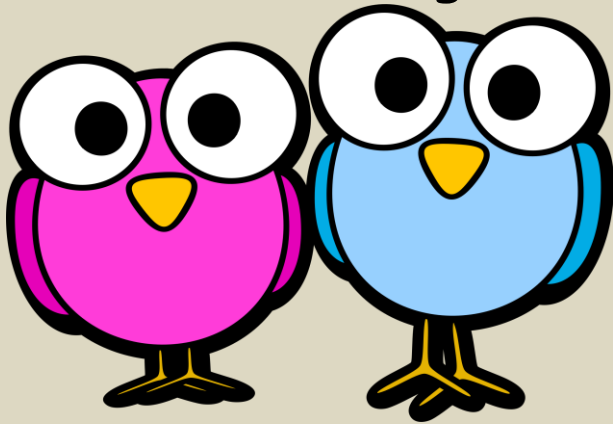


Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
[www.cdaaudubon.org](http://www.cdaaudubon.org)

December 2017

Volume 28 Number 4

## December Program



**Date:** December 12, Tuesday

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

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Speaker:** Barbara Christofferson

Barbara's presentation is an overview of the National Audubon Convention held this past July in Park City, Utah. She will cover her visit to the Gillmar Audubon Sanctuary and South Shore Preserve and will give a recap from some of the seminars she attended: "Water and Land Birds in the West", "How to Become an Advocate for Birds", "Bird Friendly Buildings", and more.

Barbara will also give a report on Audubon Adventures.

## Cookie Exchange



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.

## President's Message

Good December, Everyone. I hope that your Thanksgiving weekend was a happy time, whether it was eating too much, enjoying family and friends, or (shudder) tussling with the crowds in the stores.

When I was a kid, I LOVED *My WEEKLY READERS*. Remember them? They were the weekly newspaper that was issued for elementary school children. One week the featured world area was the Galapagos Islands;

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## President's Message

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I was hooked. I wanted to go to the Islands. I wanted to see all the animals and birds in their natural setting without harm from people and pollution. Over the years I have looked at the possibility of visiting the area, but have discovered that people are ruining even there. So I gave up that dream not wanting to add to the number of people going and disturbing the area's peace.

So I was very interested in an article in the December issue of Scientific American titled "Could Genetic Engineering Save the Galapagos?" The basic problem identified was that invasive species have been killing the endemic species of the Galapagos Islands since man first arrived there. (And for each invasive species, i.e. donkey, goats, cows, pigs, rats, etc. brought in; there were thousands of the local species like the tortoise shipped off to the markets of the world.) There have been many programs designed to eradicate invasive species. For example, in 1971, the Galapagos National Park Service attempted to eliminate goats on Pinta Island. At the end of the program they had removed all but 10 goats. But 10 goats were 10 too many and so now the Island is once again overrun with goats.

But in 2004, the Park Service and the Charles Darwin Foundation looked at eradicating goats on

the Island of Isabela. They shot them from the air in Phase 1, in Phase 2 they used ground hunters and dogs to flush out the survivors, and in Phase 3 they used 700 Mata Hari Goats, female goats, with the thought they would attract males to the area for easier killing. But they outfitted the female goats with hormonal implants that induced a permanent state of estrus, which would mean that they would constantly seek and attract male goats. This project killed 62,818 goats, at a cost of \$4.1 million.

They are now formulating the "Project" which calls for helicopters to drop 360 million of 1 gram pellets of the rodent poison, brodifacoum, literally painting the Island of Floreana to eliminate the rats and mice. The problem, as noted with the goats in the past, you have to get every one; AND every child and pet and small animal would have to be moved off the Island or protected in some way for up to six weeks; the large animals kept in large shipping crates at the docks; and every water source would have to be somehow protected.

Poisoning a whole Island has its problems just on the face of it. So scientists are discussing genetic manipulation (the tweaking of sex inheritance in rodents) as an option to eradicate the rats and mice. This would produce an all-male population, which would doom the species very quickly. A pest management scientist, Karl Campbell stated "For me, these are issues we've created, and to sit back and do nothing, there's going to be grave consequences. We know where things are heading. To actually NOT do something is...just irresponsible. If you have the tool, and you don't use it, YOU'RE culpable."

Is this what we have come to? No way to protect the endangered endemic birds, such as the flightless cormorants, Galapagos petrels, Galapagos penguins, flamingos, mangrove finch and Floreana mockingbird from the effects of human ignorance and greed except genetically?

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## President's Message

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And then how is the technique controlled to keep it only to "do good" and not become a tool of power-hungry money-worshippers? And what are the unknown risks involved?

The whole thing makes me sad. I am sad for the goats; I am sad for the tortoises; I am sad for the finches.

The only thing I can do about it is protect the birds in my yard, giving them water, food and shelter; let everyone I know how I feel about the need to protect animals and the earth; write letters and sign petitions to politicians; and contribute to the charitable groups and environmental law firms that I trust. Time will tell.

-----Midge Marcy-Brennan

"If you aren't careful, you'll spend your whole life doing nothing besides waiting for your ordinary-person hopes to someday be fulfilled". - Kodo Sawaki Roshi



### Award-Winning Nature Photographs on Display at

Coeur d'Alene Library

Roadshow of 2017's Best Avian  
Photography

Visit the Coeur d'Alene Library between March 14 and April 4, 2018 to walk among the winning bird photographs from this year's Audubon Photography Awards and learn more about your local birdlife.

Selected from more than 5,500 entries, the winning photos were published in the [summer 2017 issue of Audubon Magazine](#) and show

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birdlife at its most vivid, vulnerable, formidable, and elegant. Photographers from 49 states and eight Canadian provinces submitted images in three categories: professional, amateur, and youth. A panel of five judges had the daunting task of sifting through the stunning images and grading them based on technical quality, originality, and artistic merit.

Meet a winning bird:

### Grand Prize Winner, Deborah Albert



Gentoo Penguins  
Deborah Albert/Audubon Photography Awards  
2017 Grand Prize Winner

Gentoo Penguins. Photo: Deborah Albert/Audubon  
Photography Awards



Book Review by Suzanne Marshall

### *Listening to a Continent Sing*

By Donald Kroodsma

Published May 2016 by Princeton University  
Press

Birds and their songs, provides an engrossing tale about his bicycle trip across America listening to birds along the way. He and his son, mounted their bikes, panniers filled with camping equipment, and set off on a journey from Virginia to Oregon where the elder Kroodsman attended grad school and developed his desire to study bird song in 1968.

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## *Listening to a Continent Sing*

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After spending twenty-three years at the University of Massachusetts doing his research, publishing academically, and teaching, Kroodsma wanted a change. He left on the 2003 trip a tenured full professor and ended the ride with a decision to retire. He wanted to write about birds for a general audience and inspire people to understand birds, to care about them, and appreciate their importance to the environment. His first publication, after being liberated from University Life, was the excellent *Singing Life of Birds* in 2005, followed by the Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology *Backyard Birdsong Guides* in 2008 and *Birdsongs By the Season* in 2009.

The father-son cyclists had different goals for the spring/summer 2003 trip. Physical skill and travel for young David Kroodsma and birding across the continent while cycling for the elder. Both wanted to enjoy each other's company in a unique way. Donald planned stops and camp nights in places that would be rich with birdsong and reveal the changes in birds and their song life from east to west. He discusses the various species they encounter, their habitat, their behavior and their vocalizations. And as he travels he describes the history, the landscape, the geology, the people, and the environment that influence bird lives and humans too. He provides recordings of the birds he hears as he cycles for ten weeks across ten states including our own Idaho. I first read the book on my kindle and had no way to listen to the recordings. I bought the "real" book just so I could read it again and listen. What a great way to try to improve my birding skills. The trip was a physical challenge for a 50- something dad, but he met the 50, 65, 80- mile days with alacrity and some pain medicine now and then. He looked forward to each new habitat where birds he had not heard in years resided and sang. He loved to

awaken before dawn and spend time listening to the various species he found and the different eastern and western dialects they used. Meanwhile, his son often preferred to sleep later, but ride faster to catch up. Donald describes cycling through eastern Kentucky with huge coal trucks bearing down on narrow, curvy roads. He glories in the crossing of the Mississippi and the long stretches across the plains hearing meadowlarks. The mountain terrain of Idaho and Oregon brought new challenges, and the birdsongs he had studied as a young man. His vivid writing and descriptive skills along with his enthusiasm and love of birds is intellectually exhilarating for the reader.

Caring about birds means caring about their environment. Certainly KEA's many projects here in northern Idaho on water quality, climate change, and organic gardening are important for birds as well as humans. Read, learn, enjoy birding and work along with KEA to protect the environment for all.



copied from the Audubon Website

<http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>



History of  
the  
Christmas  
Bird Count

How the count started, and how the data is used today.

Prior to the turn of the 20th century, hunters engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt." They would choose sides and go afield with their guns—whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won.

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## Christmas Bird Count

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Conservation was in its beginning stages in that era, and many observers and scientists becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, an early officer in the then-nascent Audubon Society, [proposed a new holiday tradition](#)—a "Christmas Bird Census" that would count birds during the holidays rather than hunt them.

So began the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to the inspiration of Chapman and the enthusiasm of 27 dedicated birders, 25 Christmas Bird Counts were held that day. The locations ranged from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California with most counts in or near the population centers of northeastern North America. [Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied around 90 species on all the counts combined.](#)

### CBC in the Modern Era



Each November, birders interesting in participating in the CBC can sign up and join in through the Audubon website. From December 14 through January 5 each year tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas

brave snow, wind, or rain, and take part in the effort. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this long-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations, and to help guide conservation action.



Hooded Merganser  
Photo by Wayne Tree

Fernan Lake -  
Wolf-Lodge  
Bay - Beauty  
Bay

Field Trip -  
November 11, 2017  
Janet Callen

Our target bird was a Loon, but none were seen. Among the waterfowl seen were Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Double-crested Cormorant, Hooded Mergansers and two rafts of Western Grebes with up to 30 in each group. A juvenile Red-Necked Grebe kept us puzzled for a while. Both Pygmy and Red-breasted Nuthatch were seen at the Fernan Lake (west end) boat launch. East of Fernan Lake we spotted a hawk, which I believe was a Rough-legged, but we did not arrive at a positive identification. Close to the road, a great view of a Downy Woodpecker working a stalk of mullet. We counted 23 species. Participants were Dick Cripe, Judy Waring and Valerie Zagar.



### November Bird Sightings

Those with a \* are on the Idaho Bird Records Committee's "Review List". A rare bird report is requested. To see the "Review List" go to <https://idahobirds.net/idahobrc/review-species/>

**\*Black Scoter** - 2 - November 20-26 near Hagerman, Gooding County - Austin Young - and on several eBird checklists

**Pacific Loon** - 1 - Honeysuckle Beach, Hayden Lake, Kootenai County - Doug Ward

**Lesser Yellowlegs** - 1 - Mica Bay, Kootenai County - Mica Bay Survey led by Janet Callen

**Glaucous Gull** - 1 each - November 25 - Wolf Lodge and Blue Creek Bays, Kootenai County

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Common Redpoll  
Photo by Wayne Tree

## November Bird Sightings

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**Lesser Black-backed Gull** - 1 - November 10 - Coeur d'Alene City Beach, Kootenai County, Mike Scott and November 25 - 1 - Blue Creek Bay, Kootenai County - Carl Lundblad

**Anna's Hummingbird** - 1 male immature - All November (at 2 feeders in Kootenai County) - Loch Haven Hayden, - Doug Ward and 1 off of Dalton Avenue - Janet Callen

**Prairie Falcon** -1 - Rathdrum Prairie, Kootenai County ( rare north of Latah County) - Jon Isacoff

**Blue Jay** - November 2 - Loch Haven, Hayden, Kootenai County - Doug Ward

**\*Palm Warbler** - 1 - November 23 - Mann Lake, Nez Perce County - Austin Young

**Lapland Longspur** - 1 female immature - Rathdrum Prairie, Kootenai County - Doug Ward

**\*Le Conte's Sparrow** - 1 - November 18-23 Ted Truebloods WMA, Elmore County - 1st seen by Bryce Robinson on a field trip and on several eBird Checklists later

**\*Swamp Sparrows** - 1 - November 11- Lewiston Sewage Plant, Nez Perce County - Carl Lundblad

**\*Swamp Sparrows** - 2 - November 23 - Mann Lake, Nez Perce County - Austin Young

**Song Sparrow** (eastern subspecies) - 1 - November 14 - Loch Haven, Hayden, Kootenai County - Doug Ward

**\*Purple Finch** - November 7 - Hells Gate State Park, Nez Perce County - John Hanna

**Snow Bunting** - 50 - November 5 - Rathdrum Prairie - Doug Ward

**Common Redpoll** - 40 - November 24 Sandpoint Fish Hatchery, Bonner County - Carl Lundblad - there have been several other sightings in Idaho

## Idaho Birding Website

Copied from: <https://idahobirds.net/>



### Welcome to Idaho Birds

A rich diversity of birding opportunities awaits those visiting or living in Idaho. Its scenic landscapes and unique geologic features, with large lakes and wild rivers, rugged soaring peaks, heavily timbered forests, and high desert seas of sagebrush interspersed with oasis for migrating and wintering birds, combine to make Idaho a highly desirable, and underappreciated, birding destination.

Whether you want to challenge yourself physically by climbing a mountain to find Rosy-finches, add those hard to find lifers to your list, park next to a marsh to view breeding plumage waterfowl, or just enjoy the bird life amidst natural beauty, Idaho has many possibilities to offer.

Within these pages you will find compilations of state listserv traffic, latest eBird sightings, feeds from Idaho's birding Facebook groups, birding details and maps for destinations, species distribution maps- everything you need to plan your birding vacation or afternoon outing, and to stay in touch with what's going on in Idaho birding. Idaho Birds is also home of the Idaho Bird Records Committee. All of this adds up to your one stop internet resource for comprehensive information on birding in Idaho.



### [Explore Idaho Birds Sightings, News, and Birding Events](#)

Idaho Birds' Blog page- Listserv Posts, Facebook Feeds, Upcoming Events and Announcements, Conservation News. All the latest from Idaho Birders in one place.

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## Idaho Birding Website

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### Birding Idaho

Where to go and resources to help plan your birding in Idaho. Find Idaho's Audubon chapters, links to some of the best birding sites, and county lists.

Download *A Birders' Guide To Idaho*.

### Idaho Bird Distribution

Distribution maps of every species documented in Idaho. Lists of records, and photos contributed by Idaho birders. Information and history of mapping Idaho bird distribution by Latilong. (



Submit a Latilong status change report.(but wait for it to be updated)



### The Idaho Bird Records Committee

Search rare bird records.  
Download the Checklist of Idaho Birds

Find Idaho Review Species.  
Learn about the IBRC  
Report a rare bird.



## Field Trips

Our field trips are also posted on our Website  
<http://cdaudubon.org/fieldtrips.html>  
Please contact Dick Cripe 208-665-0010 to volunteer to lead a trip or to suggest places to go.

### Christmas Bird Counts

**Coeur d'Alene CBC** - December 16 Saturday  
Contact: Shirley Sturts - 208 664-5318 - [shirley.sturts@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.sturts@gmail.com)

**Indian Mountain CBC** - Time not set yet -

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usually between January 2-5 Contact: Lisa Hardy  
- 208 783-1262 - [99basalt@gmail.com](mailto:99basalt@gmail.com)

**Spirit Lake CBC** - Needs organizer/compiler -  
for information and to volunteer, contact: Shirley  
Sturts - 208 664-5318 - [shirley.sturts@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.sturts@gmail.com)

**Bonnars Ferry CBC** - December 28, Thursday  
Contact: Kathy - 208 267-8295

**Sandpoint CBC** - will post on our Website when  
the date and contact are available

**Spokane CBC** - December 30 Saturday  
contact: Alan McCoy (509-448-3123 or  
[ahm2352@gmail.com](mailto:ahm2352@gmail.com))

**Moscow-Pullman CBC** - December 16, Saturday -  
Contact: Kas Dumroese - [dumroese@moscow.com](mailto:dumroese@moscow.com)

**Lewiston-Clarkston CBC** - may be December 17,  
Sunday - will post on our Website when date and  
contact are available



American kestrel  
Photo by Wayne Tree

### Rathdrum Prairie Hawk Survey

Will take place once a month from November Through March. Doug Ward is the leader. This two-hour fast-paced, one-vehicle journey across the prairie is a learning experience that is a lot of fun. We travel in

one car for safety. To reserve a spot call Doug 762-7107 or 699-9327

### Mica Bay Survey

**Date:** December 12, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)

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

**Meet:** Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

**Leader:** Janet Callen 664-1085

**Activity:** We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome.

**New Member Application**

**Join Online**

Become a member of the  
National Audubon Society, Join

Online at:

[https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation2?df\\_id=8080&8080.donation=form1](https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation2?df_id=8080&8080.donation=form1)

**Pick Chapter Code G06**

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You may also call National  
Audubon at **1-844-428-3826**

And remember to reference our

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Janet Callen 208 664-1085  
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George Sayler 208 664-2787  
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3931  
**Conservation:** Midge Marcy-Brennan  
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**Mailing:** Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616  
**Webmaster:** Shirley Sturts 208 664-5318  
**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\_\_\_\_\_*

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