

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

December 2018

Volume 29 Number 4

## December Program

**Date:** December 11, Tuesday

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

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

**Speaker:** Doug Ward

**Program:** Local Raptors - How to Identify - Doug will discuss and illustrate the identification of raptors found regularly in our area with some color commentary on their habits, timing, and distribution. Given time, he will also discuss possible vagrants and how to separate them from our locals. Lastly, we will close with a question and answer session where we can talk.

## President's Letter



Bald Eagle - Photo by Larry Krumpleman

It's December and that means several things for Audubon members. First, the Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 15. This is an annual event of National Audubon Society and CdA Audubon. On that day we will form teams and survey the area in and around Coeur d'Alene. This is not an arduous do-gooder thing. This is a fun social activity that you'll want to be a part of. It is also not an event limited to expert birders. All levels of skill can participate and it's a good way to expand your skills. So join a team and get outdoors and count the birds. See the detailed description of the event elsewhere on this newsletter.

## 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).

## Books for Tots



Also bring a book for "Books for Tots" (ages 2-12) to our annual campaign to collect new books for under-privileged kids in Kootenai County.

Continued on Page 2

## President's Letter

Continued from Page 1

Second, the December meeting features the Christmas Cookie Exchange. Participants bring 3 dozen cookies of your own, and take two dozen back home from among those presented. The other dozen get eaten on site, I guess.

And third, December means the arrival of the eagles on the east end of the lake. You'll want to take your family out to see how many eagles you can spot. Viewing points are Higgins Point at the end of Lakeshore Drive, the boat launch on Wolf Lodge Bay, and the Mineral Ridge Parking Lot in Beauty Bay.

Carrie Hugo of BLM and Audubon member, reports seeing 50+ eagles out there already at it isn't December yet.

So get into the spirit of the season through the Audubon activities! See you at the December meeting and at the Christmas Bird Count.  
- Dick Cripe -



### Wildlife Sightings November 2018

Pacific Loon - 1 - Heyburn State Park,  
November 23, Jon Isacoff

Perigrine Falcon - 1 - Sunnyside, Pend Oreille  
Lake, November 3, Terry Little

Eurasian Wigeon- at least 1 among about  
500 American Wigeon- Heyburn State Park,  
November 23, Jon Isacoff

Peregrine Falcon - 1 - Sunnyside, Pend  
Oreille Lake, November 7 - Terry Little

Rosette Spoonbill - 1 - Tampa, Florida,  
November 19, Roberta Rich and Shirley  
Sturts - photo by Roberta



Red-necked Grebe - 3 - Mica Bay Survey,  
November 13 - Dick Cripe and Sally Gundlach

Anna's Hummingbird - 2 - at Doug Ward's  
feeders, Loch Haven, Hayden, November 8  
"We currently have two (2) coming in - an  
adult female type we've named "Notch"  
because of her gorget markings, and an  
immature male named "Flit" as he is  
particularly hyper. Been naming the various  
repeat Anna's we've been getting over the  
years to keep track in my notes. We think  
Notch has been stopping in periodically since  
September, but only noticed Flit a couple of  
weeks ago. Karen said they have both been  
coming in daily (was only about once a week  
previously) recently and both were here  
today."

Continued on Page 3

## Sightings November 2018

Continued from Page 2

Killdeer - 4 - Mica Bay Survey, November 13,  
Dick Cripe and Sally Gundlach

Bonaparte's Gull - 45- Heyburn State Park,  
November 23, Jon Isacoff

Barred Owl - 1 - St. Maries, October 29,  
Donni Moen

Swamp Sparrow - 1 - Heyburn State Park,  
November 23, Jon Isacoff

Moose - - Jan and Herb Severtson's yard,  
CDA, October 23



## Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

*from the National Audubon Website*

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.

Conservation was in its beginning stages in that era, and many observers and scientists were 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.

Continued on Page 4

## Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

Continued from Page 3

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 interested 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.

### How the Christmas Bird Count Helps Protect Species and Their Habitat

The data collected by observers over the past century allow Audubon researchers, conservation biologists, wildlife agencies and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, it provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and

space over the past hundred years. The long term perspective is vital for conservationists. It informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat, and helps identify environmental issues with implications for people as well.

### What conservationists have learned through Christmas Bird Count data

- [Audubon's 2014 Climate Change Report](#) is a comprehensive, first-of-its kind study that predicts how climate change could affect the ranges of 588 North American birds. Of the 588 North American bird species Audubon studied, more than half are likely to be in trouble. Our models indicate that 314 species will lose more than 50 percent of their current climatic range by 2080.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has included Audubon's climate change work from CBC data as one of 26 indicators of climate change in their [2012 report](#).
- In 2009 CBC data were instrumental in the collaborative report by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - [State of the Birds 2009](#).
- In 2007, CBC data were instrumental in the development of [Audubon's Common Birds in Decline Report](#), which revealed that some of America's most beloved and familiar birds have taken a nosedive over the past forty years.



## Field Trips and Activities

Our field trips are also posted on our Website <http://cdaaudubon.org/fieldtrips.html>

Please contact Dick Cripe 208-665-0010 to volunteer to lead a trip or make suggestions

### Audubon Ladies Christmas Luncheon

December 5th -Valerie Zagar, organizer

### Mica Bay Survey

**Date:** December 13, Tuesday

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

**Meet:** Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

**Leaders:** Janet Callen, 208 664-1085

Shirley Sturts 208 664-5318

**Call leader:** if you are coming

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

### Coeur d'Alene Christmas Bird Count

**Date:** December 15, Saturday.

**How to participate:** We need to cover a circle with a 15 mile diameter, the center being CDA Memorial Gardens 7315 N. Government Way. You can join a team of 2-4 to cover an area within the circle, count birds at your feeder (choose the amount of time you want to spend), carve out a neighborhood or area to do on your own or with a friend for any amount of time you want to spend. Team choices:

1. Spokane River from the Highway 95 Bridge to Post Falls including part of the town of Post Falls
2. Spokane River east of the Highway 95 bridge both sides (dike road and Cougar Bay to Kidd Island.

3. City Park and Beach to Silver Beach and Fernan Lake, covers McEwen Park and Sanders Beach plus neighborhoods

4. Hayden Lake - covering Dalton Gardens - 5. and 6 Rathdrum Prairie.

**Sign up:** Call or email Shirley Sturts with your choice - team (which area), feeder, neighborhood or other 664-5318 or [shirley.sturts@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.sturts@gmail.com)

**Time (teams):** 6:30 breakfast at Michael D's or be there by 7:30 to join your team. We bird to dark. We meet afterward for a potluck and to compile the results

### Harrison Area

**Date:** January 12, Saturday.

**Time:** 9:00 am.

**Meet:** Forest Service Office- Sherman

**Leader:** Dick Cripe. 208-665-0010.

Dependent on weather. Call Dick  
**Activity:** All day - The trip will cover the estuary of CdA River and the bays of CdA Lake as well as the town of Harrison and Harrison Flats. The group will record and report birds seen by species and number.

### CdA Bird Feeder Survey

**Date:** January 19

**Time:** 9:00

**Meet:** Former K-Mart parking lot.

**Leader:** Judy Waring (208) 765-5378.

Dependent on weather. Call Judy  
**Activity:** Half-day. This is a repeat of a popular event last year. Participants will visit the houses of various members in CdA and check on their feeders.

**See field trips planned for February through May on our Website**

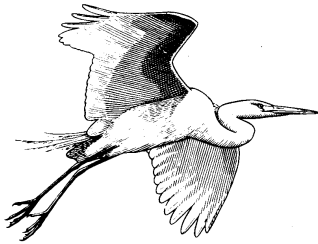
**National Audubon  
New Member Application**

Join Online at:  
<http://www.audubon.org>

Or

Join by Phone – call:  
1-844-428-3826

Reference our Chapter  
Code G06



**CDA Audubon Chapter  
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Dick Cripe 208 665-0010  
Vice President:  
Midge Marcy-Brennan 208 661-0206  
Recording Secretary:  
Valerie Zagar 208 819-5115  
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**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Publicity: open  
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George Saylor 208 664-2787  
Education: Barbara Christofferson 208 667-  
3931  
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Membership: Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616  
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Newsletter: Shirley Sturts 208 664-5318  
Programs: Midge Marcy-Brennan  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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