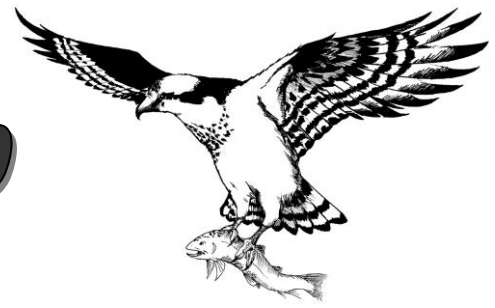


# ***THE FISH HAWK HERALD***



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

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February 2009

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 6

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## **BOARD MEETING**

**DATE:** February 4, Wednesday  
**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Mt. West Bank  
125 Ironwood Dr.

## **FEBRUARY PROGRAM**



**DATE:** February 4, Wednesday

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

**PLACE:** Lutheran Church of the Master  
4800 North Ramsey

**SPEAKER:** Randy Stewart, Educational Program Coordinator, Wolf Education and Research Center

**PROGRAM:** "Wolves in Idaho" Using slides and hands-on items, Randy will talk about wolf characteristics, behavior, communication, habitat, territory and delisting issues.

After over 20 years of service in the Navy, Randy moved to Winchester, in 1993. He received his BS degree in Natural Science, Secondary Education in 1997 from Lewis & Clark State College in Lewiston. He started at the Wolf Education and Research Center in 1999 as the Educational Program Coordinator. He is a certified Interpretive Guide and a Level 2 handler for the wolf pack at Winchester and serves with a variety of local organizations.



Visit our Website:  
[www.cdaudubon.org](http://www.cdaudubon.org)

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**New Release**

## JOIN THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Count for Fun, Count for the Future



**Pine Grosbeak**

**Fuertes Collection**

*New York, NY and Ithaca, NY*—Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), **February 13-16, 2009.**

A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

“The Great Backyard Bird Count benefits both birds and people. It’s a great example of citizen science: Anyone who can identify even a few species can contribute to the body of knowledge that is used to inform conservation efforts to protect birds and biodiversity,” said Audubon Education VP, Judy Braus. “Families, teachers, children and all those who take part in GBBC get a chance to improve their observation skills, enjoy nature, and have a great time counting for fun, counting for the future.”

Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at

[www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). Participants can also explore what birds others are finding in their backyards—whether in their own neighborhood or thousands of miles away. Additional online resources include tips to help identify birds, a photo gallery, and special materials for educators.

The data these “citizen scientists” collect helps researchers understand bird population trends, information that is critical for effective conservation. Their efforts enable everyone to see what would otherwise be impossible: a comprehensive picture of where birds are in late winter and how their numbers and distribution compare with previous years. In 2008, participants submitted more than 85,000 checklists.

“The GBBC has become a vital link in the arsenal of continent-wide bird-monitoring projects,” said Cornell Lab of Ornithology director, John Fitzpatrick. “With more than a decade of data now in hand, the GBBC has documented the fine-grained details of late-winter bird distributions better than any project in history, including some truly striking changes just over the past decade.”

Each year, in addition to entering their tallies, participants submit thousands of digital images for the GBBC photo contest. Many are featured in the popular online gallery. Participants in the 2009 count are also invited to upload their bird videos to YouTube; some will also be featured on the GBBC web site. Visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) to learn more.

Businesses, schools, nature clubs, scout troops, and other community organizations interested in the GBBC can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473 (outside the U.S., call (607) 254-2473), or Audubon at [citizenscience@audubon.org](mailto:citizenscience@audubon.org) or (215) 355-9588, Ext 16.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by support from Wild Birds Unlimited.

**Collective nouns can be very descriptive, like a murder of crows, for instance. Venerable - which is the old name for collective nouns - dates back to the Middle ages. See how many you know.**

- |                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. A bunch of Owls is a | a. A congregation |
| b. A parliament         | c. An assembly    |
| d. A court              |                   |

**Continued on page 4**

## SPIRIT LAKE CRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

ShirleySturts



### **Shirley Sturts on the Farragut State Park Shoreline Trail**

**Photograph by Lisa Hardy, titled, "Never Again"**

On a snowy, cold January 2<sup>nd</sup> morning, Lisa and I drove to our meeting place, Rustler's Roost, for breakfast at 6:00 a.m.. Because of the snow storms and bad roads, Lisa had driven over from Kellogg the night before and had stayed at my house. When we arrived, we were pleased to see our fellow birders with big smiles on their faces and coffee cups in hand, ready to tackle the cold, snow and icy roads for the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the Spirit Lake CBC. There was one person missing, Janet. She soon showed up, shovel frozen to her hands. Just kidding. Janet told us she had spent the last hour shoveling out of her driveway. At 6:00 a.m.! I tell you, we have a dedicated group of birders in our Audubon Chapter.

Lisa informed us that, according to the weather report, it would stop snowing. Guess what! At 10:00 a.m., it stopped snowing and the sun came out. Also, the snow plows were on the job and soon had the roads in tip top shape for winter travel.

We divided up into four teams:

Kris Buchler, Peggy Albertson and Linda Wright drove off to do the Bayview area. They came up with 29 species. Their best birds were 2 Gray Jay and 2 Townsend's Solitaire. True to its name the Townsend's Solitaire is usually seen alone, so it was unusual to see 2 together.

The Kelso Lake Road, which travels up the Hoo Doo Valley, was the area covered by Bill Gundlach, Eula

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Hickam and Adela Sussman. With a combination of 3-4 feet of snow on the ground and snowing (until 10 - 11 a.m.), no open water and no feeders to be found, the birds were either hunkered down or had moved into town. Our dedicated birders did manage to find 22 Common Raven and 3 Bald Eagle, probably attracted to a deer carcass or two. At noon, joining Kris and her team, they helped out by doing a section of her area, adding a rafter of Wild Turkey to their list.

Janet Callen, our intrepid snow shoveler, and Roland Craft spent a lot of their day in Athol and the area southwest of Athol, as far as Spirit Lake. They had a great day, partly due to bird feeders (something Bill, Eula and Adela didn't have). They counted 19 species including a Red-tailed Hawk, a Northern Pygmy-Owl and 10 Pine Grosbeak. Pine Grosbeak have been seen only 4 times out of the 13 counts. Since then, Pine Grosbeak have been showing up in sizable numbers all over North Idaho and Eastern Washington.

Well, that leaves Lisa Hardy and myself. We were birding roads until 10:00 a.m. at which time we parked on the main Farragut State Park Road and snowshoed into the boat Launch. Snowshoeing, we discovered, is not the quietest way to bird; it was a crunch with every step. We stopped to rest and listen often. In this way, we added the only Brown Creeper to the list.

We were disappointed when we got to the water to find only a Pied-billed Grebe and a Bufflehead (female) in our binoculars. At this point, we decided to continue along the Shoreline Trail. The deer had been using the trail so it was relatively easy walking. We were encouraged to keep going when two swan flew by, one with a neck collar. They called as they went by so we were able to identify them as Tundra. The sun was out and we were warm and full of energy so we kept going, and going, and going, all the way to Buttonhook Bay, where we expected to see large flocks of waterfowl. Wrong! For all this effort we only found 30 Horned Grebe, 3 Common Goldeneye, 4 Mallard, 1 Red-necked Grebe and 1 Common Merganser.

It was at this point that we realized we made a big mistake. It was getting late and our energy level was not what it was when we started out. We could have walked straight out to the main road but that would be uphill in deep snow. Instead, we chose to retrace our steps.

**Continued on page 4**

## SPIRIT LAKE CBC

Continued from page 3



**Townsend's  
Solitaire**

**Photo by Bill Lynn**

The Shoreline (deer) Trail was hard-packed, so we experimented with taking off our snowshoes and found we were able to walk back to the boat launch before putting them on again. By the time we got there, it was 4:30 p.m. and we were missing out on the after-count pizza party at Janet's. Fortunately, we had a cell phone with us and were able to let the others know we would be late. Our estimated time of 1/2 hour turned into an 1 1/2 hours, partly due to our running out of energy. However, we had taken some extra food which

gave us the boost we needed to get back. As Lisa said when we got back, "never again".

Although we didn't have the pleasure of swapping birding events of the day with our fellow bird counters, they had kindly left us lots of pizza. Janet heated up a few slices for us which we devoured hungrily along with hot coffee for Shirley and wine for Lisa. While food was reviving our bodies and spirit, Janet filled us in on her and Roland's adventures and a little of what the other teams had found.

Our total count for the day came to 51 species and 886 individuals. This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest count out of 13. The year 2004 was our lowest with only 36 species and 606 individual birds. Our highest species count was in 2002, a total of 57 and our highest individual count is 1686 in 1998. You can see the total list on our website:

<http://cdaudubon.org/SpiritLakeCBC.htm#SPIRIT%20LAKE%20CBC>

Thank you, Janet, for your hospitality and thank you, team members and feeder watchers, for the time and effort you put into participating in the CBC.

## SUCCESS AT ANY AGE

Lynn Sheridan

Gail Bolin was born in 1952 of farming parents in Urbana, Missouri. They milked about 20 cows, grew their own hay, grain and food. Father and mother took care of the land, naturally in a "green" way, without pesticides, even as those around were beginning to. "If chemicals kill the bugs, what will it do to us", they said.

After graduation, Gail decided she wanted to see more of the world. She took courses at a business college in Springfield, trained as a travel agent, and stayed in the travel business for more than 30 years. After marriage, children, divorce and re-marriage, she now lives in Sagle, ID. When the travel agency in Sandpoint closed in 2002, she decided to go to college and study environmental science. All her life, she had continued to love gardening and the outdoors. She first attended North Idaho College, then transferred to University of Idaho in CDA, receiving her BS on Dec. 19, 2008.

Continuing her studies for a Master's degree, she works part time at the University of Idaho in Sandpoint, and will be doing an internship with Bonner County Soil and Water Conservation.

She loves plants, belongs to the Native Plant Society and has taught classes in herbal cultivation and usage, both culinary and medicinal.

Gail was the first recipient of the Susan Weller Memorial Scholarship of \$500 that our Chapter established in 2004. I met her at the reception at NIC, and have kept in touch ever since. She wasn't able to go to Moscow to receive her diploma in December, but will be part of the graduation ceremony in May at NIC. I plan to attend and congratulate her in person!

2. A collective term for Skylarks
  - a. Exaltation
  - b. Choir
  - c. Pride
  - d. Symphony
3. A collective term for Turkeys -
  - a. Rafters
  - b. Congregation
  - c. Fellowship
  - d. Revolution

**continued on page 6**



## IDAHO BIRDING TRAIL SIGNS

See the article in our October/November issue about the Idaho Birding Trail Signs by Kris Buchler. In the October/November issue we featured the Red-naped Sapsucker sign that is now up in Mica Bay. The Northern Harrier sign has been placed at the Boundary Creek WMA.

The text of the sign reads:

## NORTHERN HARRIER

The Northern Harrier is the only species of harrier in North America. The male and female are different in size and coloration. Both have long tails and a conspicuous white rump patch. An owl-like facial disk is thought to channel sounds of rustling prey to their ears. Other hawks hunt by sight.

Its former name, Marsh Hawk, tells us where this bird is mostly found, but the harrier is also seen gliding low over open fields, grasslands and prairies. These habitats provide mice, rats, birds, snakes, frogs and other small mammals that are its prey. Harriers are often seen hovering over the grasses and shrubs or perched on low stumps, waiting to swoop upon a meal.

Harriers are known for elaborate courting displays in the air. Both the male and female help build the nest which is usually placed on the ground. Males may mate with up to three different females in one breeding season.

Even though the species is migratory in northern climes, Idaho birds over-winter. These birds are very aggressive, defending their territories from larger birds as well as their own species.

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The photographs on the sign were taken by Raymond Parsons



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# AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Eula Hickam



Thanks to a generous grant from the Margaret W. Reed Foundation, students in 138 classrooms in Spirit Lake, Athol, Rathdrum, Post Falls, Coeur d'Alene, Worley, Plummer, St. Maries, Kellogg, Pinehurst, Cataldo,

Mullan and Osborn will be receiving Audubon Adventures in 2009. What an exciting opportunity for so many children and teachers!

*Audubon Adventures* is inquiry-based and fun for teachers and students alike and is correlated to national and state learning standards. It helps students form positive attitudes toward the natural world in the local community. Teachers use *Audubon Adventures* to enrich their science and language arts lessons. This year's topic "Feats of Nature" includes lessons on Migration, Animal Builders, Animal Defenses and Plants. Each teacher receives a teaching manual and other materials to enhance the activities.

Audubon Adventures has been sponsored by the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society for several years – many thanks to the grant administrators for providing financial support!

## SWIFTY'S BIG FLIGHT

**Book Review: Shirley Sturts**

I recently received a complimentary copy of Lee Jackson's first published Children's Book, *Swifty's Big Flight*. The book is nicely illustrated with wonderful, imaginative black and white drawings by Ryan Alexander-Tanner.

This is a sweet story of a young Vaux's Swift's first big flight as it heads south from its home in the Pacific Northwest to Central America. As the fictional story unfolds, interesting facts about how swifts travel, eat, drink, roost, and avoid predators are woven into the story. There is a list of facts about Vaux's Swift listed in the back of the book. I would highly recommend this book for children of all ages, including those of us over 60+ ☺.

*Swifty's Big Flight* (ISBN: 978-0-9820274-0-0, soft cover, 32 pages, \$7.95) by Tiger RM LLC Portland, Ore., author Lee Jackson, Illustrator Ryan Alexander-Tanner

Proceeds from *Swifty's Big Flight*

([www.flyingswift.blogspot.com](http://www.flyingswift.blogspot.com)) benefit the Audubon Society of Portland's Swift Watch program. An ornithologist at the Audubon Society of Portland reviewed the text and illustrations in *Swifty's Big Flight* and the society is now selling the book in its Nature Store. (The book is also selling at Powell's and about a dozen other local Portland bookstores). You can order a copy online at the above Website or if the interest is there, I'll put in a group order (let me know). I will be bringing a copy to our February meeting.

4. A whole flock of geese **a.** Geoses  
**b.** Gaggle **c.** Riot **d.** Covey
5. Three or more apes **a.** Shrewdness  
**b.** Riot **c.** Filibuster **d.** Nuisance
6. A group of peacocks - **a.** Flirtation  
**b.** Muster **c.** Covey **d.** Display
7. When you flush pheasants you have a  
**a.** Flight **b.** Flurry **c.** Ascension **d.** Bouquet
8. A bunch of bears is called a **a.** Growl  
**b.** Hunger **c.** Sloth **d.** Prowl
9. Wild Geese in flight is a **a.** Vector  
**b.** Skein **c.** Wing **d.** Formation
10. Whales in groups are called **a.** An Army  
**b.** a School **c.** A shoal **d.** A gam
11. One would refer to a group of swan as  
**a.** A line **b.** A bevy **c.** Elegance  
**d.** Beauty
12. A collective noun for rabbits is  
**a.** Troop **b.** Pack **c.** Burrow  
**d.** Warren
13. A collective noun for boar and swine is  
**a.** Sounder **b.** Grunt **c.** Souse  
**d.** Root
14. A group of Jays would be called  
**a.** Squabble **b.** Dispute **c.** Scold  
**d.** Screech
15. A group of mice **a.** Nest **b.** Nibble **c.** Hole  
**d.** Company

**See answers on page 7**

## FEBRUARY - JUNE 2009 FIELD TRIPS

**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 share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver (see President's message in the September Newsletter).**

### MICA BAY SURVEY

DATE: February 10, Tuesday

TIME: 9:00 a.m. MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

LEADER: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

ACTIVITY: We spend about 2-3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Everybody is welcome including beginner birders. We will help you with identification skills.

### LINCOLN COUNTY WA WINTER BIRD DRIVE.



DATES: February 14, Saturday

TIME: 8:00 a.m.

MEET: K-mart parking lot behind Mexican restaurant

LEADER: Roland Craft 457-8894

ACTIVITY: This is an 85 mile driving trip starting at Reardan, going west north of Highway 2, then south to Harrington and back east on Highway

231. We may see great horned owls, short-eared owls, northern harriers, kestrels, horned larks, shrikes, magpies, ravens, gray partridge, quail, waxwings, house finches, and perhaps Lapland longspurs. Rich Landers states that the Mondovi area offers one of the best possibilities for seeing snowy owls. Of course, weather conditions at this time of year will determine what birds we see.



## OTHER 2009

## FIELD TRIPS

March 7, Saturday, Sandpoint area. Leader: Lisa Hardy 480-522-6056

March 21, Saturday, Newman and/or Liberty Lake, Leader: Roland Craft 457-8894

April 18, Saturday, Peone wetlands WA, Leader: Roland Craft 457-8894

Late April, 4-5 day trip to Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Leader: Eula Hickam 661-3228

May 16, Saturday, Phillips Farm and Steptoe Butte, Leader: Janet Callen 664-1085

May 30, Saturday, 1/2 to 3/4 day, Worley and Conkling Park area, Leader: Kris Buchler 664-4739

Early June: Century Count, Boundary County, Leader: Kris Buchler 664-4739

### ANSWERS TO ANIMAL NAME QUIZ

1. Parliament of Owls
2. Exaltation of Larks
3. Rafter of Turkeys
4. Gaggle of Geese
5. Shrewdness of Apes
6. Muster of Peacocks
7. Bouquet of Pheasants
8. Sloth of Bears
9. Skein of Geese
10. Gam of Whales
11. Bevy of Swan
12. Warren of Rabbits
13. Sounder of Boar or Swine
14. Scold of Jays
15. Nest of Mice