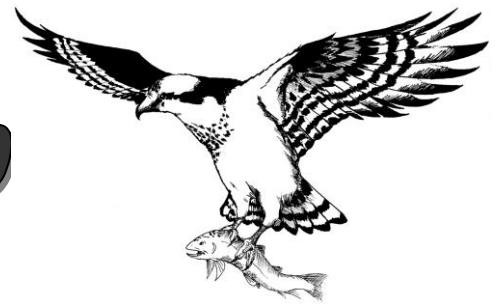


# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

February 2011

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 6

Articles for the newsletters are welcome. Please submit to the editor, Shirley Sturts at: [shirley.sturts@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.sturts@gmail.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. All submissions are subject to editing.

## JOIN THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT FEBRUARY 18-21, 2011

### FEBRUARY PROGRAM

**DATE:** February 8, Tuesday  
**PLACE:** Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800 North Ramsey **TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**SPEAKER:** Jenny Taylor, Wildlife Biologist and President of the Wren Foundation



**PROGRAM:** "Butterflies, Hummingbirds, Bats and Other Fascinating Pollinators – We can't live without them."

Come learn how vital pollinators are for us every day. Find out simple ways to make your yard and garden a haven that attracts butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators! Learn about fun ways you and your children can contribute to national research projects that benefit pollinator conservation.

#### BOARD MEETING

**DATE:** February 8, Tuesday  
**PLACE:** Mountain West Bank, 125 Ironwood  
**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.

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

The 14th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is coming up February 18-21, 2011. The four-day event is free and is open to bird watchers of all ages and skill levels. Participants watch birds for any length of time on one or more days of the count and enter their tallies at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).



*Marbled Godwit*  
by Sharon Millgan, MS  
2010 GBBC

The results provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species. The GBBC is a joint project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with Canadian partner Bird Studies Canada.

The 2010 GBBC was another record-breaker with more than 97,300 bird checklists submitted by an estimated 63,000 volunteers from across the United States and Canada. These volunteers found connecting with nature to be great fun.

"I enjoy being outdoors and birding is a source of relaxation and stress relief!" wrote one participant. "Looking and listening for birds forces me to focus on the environment around me at a higher level of intensity, and notice things I might otherwise miss." From reports of rare species to large-scale tracking of bird movements, the GBBC provides insight into the lives of bird populations.

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# GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Continued from Page 1

## Idaho

2010 GBBC checklists: 565  
Number of species: 129  
Top locality: Boise - 77 checklists  
Bird on most lists: Dark-eyed Junco  
Most numerous bird: Canada Goose



Photo by Kim Estep, OH, 2010 GBBC

our area,” wrote one parent. “We talked about migration, bird flyways and compared bird counts for our area (coastal South Carolina) with where his cousins live (Wisconsin and Alabama). We found

### A few highlights from the 2010 GBBC:



American Robin  
Nick Saunders, SK  
2010 GBBC

- A massive roost of nearly 1.5 million American Robins was reported in St. Petersburg, Florida. Will they be back in 2011?
- The invasive Eurasian Collared-Dove keeps expanding its range. It was reported in 39 states and provinces during the 2010 GBBC. Where will this hardy dove show up next?

- Tree Swallows showed dramatic increases in numbers during the last count, possibly because of warmer temperatures and earlier migration. Will that pattern hold true again for GBBC 2011?

[Read the complete 2010 summary here.](#)

Mid-February is chosen as the time for the Great Backyard Bird Count because it offers a good picture of the birds typically found throughout the winter months. It also coincides with migration for some species, such as the Sandhill Crane. That window of transition affords an opportunity to detect changes in timing for northward migration.

On the [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) website, participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during the count. The site has tips to help identify birds and special materials for educators.

GBBC participant surveys have shown that people really enjoy exploring the data and say they learn more about their local birds. “I looked at data with my 9-year-old son to help him learn about birds in

out our area has a much greater variety of birds in February than either of the other two.”

Participants may also enter the GBBC photo contest by uploading images taken during the count. Many images will be featured in the GBBC website’s photo gallery. All participants are entered in a drawing for prizes that include bird feeders, binoculars, books, CDs, and many other great birding products.

For more information about the GBBC, visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). Or contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473, [gbbc@cornell.edu](mailto:gbbc@cornell.edu) or Audubon at (202) 861- 2242 ext. 3050, [citizenscience@audubon.org](mailto:citizenscience@audubon.org). The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by generous support from [Wild Birds Unlimited](#).

## 2010 YARDLIST DUE



### REMINDER

Send your "Yard List" report to Lisa Hardy if you haven't done so.  
[basalt@earthlink.net](mailto:basalt@earthlink.net)

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS



**Pileated Woodpecker**  
**Photographed by Bill Linn**

## INDIAN MOUNTAIN – JANUARY 2, 2011

Lisa Hardy

Sunday dawned cold and cloudy as we made our way down the east side of Coeur d'Alene Lake to Harrison. Janet Callen and I were late because the road was icy and we drove carefully. Fortunately, Ellen Scriven was also late to our rendezvous at the Harrison marina. We met in Harrison because Highway 3 was closed at Rose Lake, forcing us to readjust our route.

Ice extended across the lake from the marina, north to the river delta, and south as far as we could see. Perched on the hill above the marina, we counted geese on the water and ice edge. I counted a group of Canadas before noticing that none were moving. After that, we found another group of decoys looking very lifelike.

On this cold day, which never warmed above twenty degrees in our estimation, most of the bird activity was centered on feeders. In the town of Harrison, and then along O'Gara Road, we found the finch family heavily represented, including House Finch, American Goldfinch and Evening Grosbeak. Several Townsend's Solitaire perched on the power lines adjacent to the trail. A brief stop

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

in a secluded area away from houses turned up a Pileated Woodpecker, and a small flock of Golden-crowned Kinglets.

We met Don and his teammate Kevin at the Benewah Road. As we compared notes, an immature Bald Eagle flew over. Next we headed to the junction and north on Highway 3 to Carrie and Jerry Hugo's house. Our President emerged carrying a sleepy Iva Dell bundled against the cold to meet her "Audubon Aunties". The Hugo's feeders were very busy; we picked up our only Hairy Woodpecker and Red-winged Blackbird of the day. At the scenic overlook, we found hundreds of waterfowl concentrated in a small area of open water on Swan Lake. Squinting through our scopes, we counted Canadas plus a handful of ducks, including Green-winged Teal and Northern Pintail.

Next, on to Black Lake. As the sun sank in the west, bright light flooded the landscape. We were treated to a Cooper's Hawk and several Red-tailed Hawks. We finished up at Medimont, finding a few more Hooded Mergansers on Medicine Lake, a few more feeder birds around "town", and then warming up at Bob and Marcella Hanson's house, where Marcella poured us mugs of hot tea.



**Golden Eagle**  
**Photograph by**  
**Wayne Tree**

Jays at Donna and Katie Dack's feeders. But surprisingly, we had not a single Common Merganser, Steller's Jay or Chestnut-backed Chickadee.

Go to our website to see total count at:  
<http://cdaudubon.org/IndianMtCBC.htm>

Altogether, the five teams and three feeder watchers tallied 64 species. Eurasian Collared-Doves were a first for the Indian Mountain count, found in Dave and Yvonne Spicer's yard. Other highlights were the Golden Eagle and Northern Goshawk found by Wayne Melquist, the Trumpeter Swan found by Shirley's team, and the Blue

## SPIRIT LAKE - January 5 2011

Shirley Sturts

On January 5, 2011, nine field observers, divided into four teams, spent a total of 22 ½ hours by car plus another 5 ½ hour on foot to count 41 species and 908 individual birds. They covered 181.5 miles by car and 4.75 miles on foot.

John Shipley established the Spirit Lake CBC in 1997. That year we counted 50 species and 1432 individual birds.

This year our count was our 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in species and individuals. The 2004 count was our lowest with only 36 species and 606 individuals. Our highest count was 57 species in 2002 and 1686 individuals in 1998. Our low count had a lot to do with cold and snowy weather.



**Evening Grosbeak  
Photograph by  
Wayne Tree**

Highlights include: 1 Long-tailed Duck, 1 Pileated Woodpecker, 93 Red Crossbill, and 99 Evening Grosbeak. Evening Grosbeak have been showing up in larger than usual numbers this year. We have had them on 9 out of the 15 years we have been doing the count. The highest of these was 37 in 2000. Of no great surprise, was the Western Scrub-Jay seen at the feeder of Chuck Murray in

Bayview during count week. Count week is 3 days before and 3 days after count day. I say it is no surprise because it has been at his feeder since October 25. However, it is a surprise that it is there at all. This is the first documented record of a Western Scrub-Jay in north Idaho.

Thank you participants: Kris Buchler, Janet Callen, Roland Craft, Mary Deasy, Lisa Hardy, Carrie Hugo, Jan and Herb Severtson and Valerie Zager . A special thanks to Janet Callen for hosting the compiling pizza party at her home.

Go to our website for a summary of the count at:

<http://cdaudubon.org/SpiritLakecbcchart.htm>  
<http://cdaudubon.org/SpiritLakeCBC.htm>

## PEND OREILLE RIVER AND LAKE

January 16, 2011

**Bill Gundlach**

Four of us met on a cloudy but relatively mild day to bird the Pend Oreille River and the north end of Pend Oreille Lake. Our birding on the river began at the Morton Public Access Area on the south shore off Dufort Road, and proceeded west with stops at the old ferry landings opposite Laclede and Thama, and at one place along the road with a good overlook. The significant thing about this area is the huge rafts of ducks and geese on the river, with the overwhelming number of birds being Redhead ducks, possibly numbering over 2000 total. This is usually the case every year and indicates the importance of this area as a wintering area for Redheads. We also saw many other species of ducks and a number of Bald Eagles, including immatures. A nice plus was the sighting of a Northern Pygmy Owl sitting on a power line while we observed it for a long time.

After lunch in the town of Priest River, we headed east along the north side of the river with a stop in Laclede where we got a short look at a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Then on to Sandpoint and not very good birding on the water due to lots of ice along the shore. However, while driving on the street we saw a large flock of birds go into a tall fir tree that allowed us to view one of the biggest groups of Bohemian Waxwings any of us had ever seen. They were in the top of the tree very close together and numbered over 200! What a sight!

Then on to the Sunnyside area east of Sandpoint to drive the road out to the Pack River delta area. In this area we saw many more Bald Eagles, bringing our eagle total for the whole trip to 14 adults and 8 immatures. At the last stop overlooking the delta we saw over 40 swans far on the other side that were probably Tundra Swans. This was the end of our trip and a nice one with a total of 31 species. Trip participants were Janet Callen, Dick Cripe, Roland Craft, and Bill Gundlach.

**VALENTINE DAY BANQUET IS**  
**COMING SOON**  
**GET YOUR TICKETS BY**  
**FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>**

Coeur d'Alene Audubon is planning a midwinter banquet as a social occasion and fundraising activity.



- Monday, February 14, Valentine's Day
- Greenbriar Inn, 315 Wallace Avenue in Coeur d'Alene
- Social hour 6 p.m.; dinner at 7:00 p.m.
- Cost is \$35 per person, payable in advance by February 7
- Mail your check payable to Coeur d'Alene Audubon, P.O. Box 361, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816. Please provide your mailing address to receive a confirmation of payment.
- Call Ronn Rich (664-3139) for tickets or for questions.
- Love poems from William Shakespeare

*"Love looks not with the eyes,  
but with the mind;*

*And therefore is winged Cupid  
Painted blind."*

*"My bounty is as deep as the sea  
My love as deep, the more I give to  
thee,  
The more I have, for both are  
infinite."*

*"When I saw you I fell in love,  
And you smiled because you knew."*



## FIELD TRIPS 2010

**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.

### SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL MARCH 25, 26, AND 27.

The Coeur d'Alene Audubon field trip committee is starting to work on the Sandhill Crane Festival in Othello. It occurs on March 25, 26, and 27. The first day involves field trips to observe Sandhill Cranes plus other birds. The second day involves lectures and displays and the third day involves another field trip observing cranes but also purposely other birds in the area. Without knowing everyone's schedule, if some don't want to stay all three days, we can arrange car-pooling to accomplish that. The committee is also checking on motels in the area and will let every participant know. The Othello crane group is behind on making arrangements for speakers, registration time, etc. but we will notify everyone when all is finalized. We would appreciate people that are interested in the trip to notify us.

Roland Craft, [rolcra@roadrunner.com](mailto:rolcra@roadrunner.com), 208-457-8894

### MICA BAY SURVEY

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

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. 2-3 hours

**Meet:** Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

**Leader:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318

**Activity:** Everybody is welcome, especially beginner birders. We will help you with identification skills.

### SEARCH FOR WINTER BIRDS

**Date:** February 12, 2010, Saturday

**Leader:** Janet Callen 664-1085

**Meet:** K-Mart, south side of parking lot.

**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

Target Birds: Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, Snowy Owls, American Tree Sparrows.

This will be a full-day trip.

