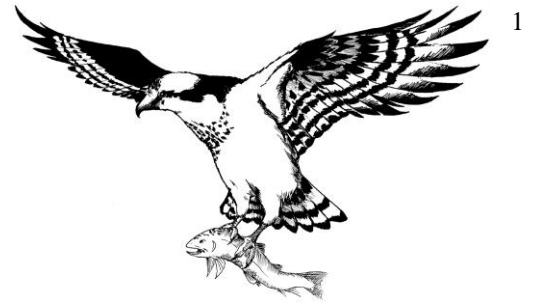


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society
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GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT PERFECT FOR NEW BIRDERS *15th annual count Feb. 17-20, 2012*



Downy Woodpecker - Photo by Bill Lynn

News release, December 2011--As moviegoers watch the stars of "The Big Year" in their quest to count birds, some may be motivated to try the hobby for the first time. The annual [Great Backyard Bird Count](#) is the perfect opportunity. The event is hosted by [Audubon](#), the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#), and Canadian partner [Bird Studies Canada](#). The results provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species.

Anyone can participate in this free event and no registration is needed. Watch and count birds for at least 15 minutes on any day of the count, February 17-20, 2012. Enter your results at www.birdcount.org, where you can watch as the tallies grow across the continent. The four-day count typically records more than 10 million observations.

"When thousands of people all tell us what they're seeing, we can detect patterns in how birds are faring from year to year," said Janis Dickinson, director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

"The Great Backyard Bird Count is a perfect example of Citizen Science," says Audubon Chief Scientist, Gary Langham. "Like Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, volunteers help us with data year after year, providing scientific support that is the envy of many institutions. It's also a lot of fun."

"We're finding that more people are taking part in our bird count programs every year--and the more that take part, the better it is for the birds," says Richard Cannings, Senior Projects Officer for Bird Studies Canada.

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FEBRUARY PROGRAM

DATE: February 14, Tuesday

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

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PROGRAM: 'V'entine's Day Social! What better way to spend Valentine's Day than with your Audubon Friends! Please bring an appetizer to share and we will be watching the "Life of Birds", a documentary (David Attenborough narrates and it is visually stunning!) on courtship and mating in birds! How romantic! We will also have a "lovely" game or two. So please plan to attend!

BOARD MEETING

DATE: February 14, Tuesday

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

BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

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The 2011 GBBC brought in more than 92,000 bird checklists submitted by participants from across the United States and Canada. Altogether, bird watchers identified 596 species with 11.4 million bird observations. Results from the 2011 GBBC included:

- Increased reports of Evening Grosbeak, a species that has been declining;
- A modest seasonal movement of winter finches farther south in their search for food;
- The Eurasian Collared-Dove was reported from Alaska for the first time, more evidence of an introduced species rapidly expanding its range.

Although it's called the Great "Backyard" Bird Count, the count extends well beyond backyards. Lots of participants choose to head for national parks, nature centers, urban parks, nature trails, or nearby sanctuaries. For more information, including bird-ID tips, instructions, and past results, visit www.birdcount.org.

The count also includes a photo contest and a prize drawing for participants who enter their bird checklists online.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible in part by sponsor [Wild Birds Unlimited](http://www.wildbirds.org).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPIRIT LAKE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

- 45 species plus 1 count week bird – 10th place out of 16 (highest count - 57 species in 2002 and lowest count - 36 species in 2004)
- 990 individual birds – 13th place out of 16 (highest count – 1,686 in 1998 and lowest count 606 in 2004)
- 13 birders in the field on 6 teams plus 3 feeder counters
- Best Bird: Canyon Wren (a new species for the count) in Bayview (Cape Horn) - found by Kris Buchler and Darlene Carlton

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- 2nd Best Bird: Red-winged Blackbird (2) found at a feeder on the Kelso Lake Road (Hoo Doo Valley) by Theresa Potts and Shirley Sturts .
- Jan and Herb Severtson had a Great Horned Owl on their list of birds for the day. This is only the 3rd count they have been found. They were on the count list in 2000 and 2006.
- Our other owl on the count, Northern Pygmy-Owl, was found by Lisa Hardy, Mary Deasy and Linda Taylor. In 1997, we found five N. Pygmy-Owls. They have found on 11 out of 16 counts.
- Our total of 10 Red-tailed Hawks and 1 buteo species is our highest number out of 16 years. Three of the counts we had no Red-tailed Hawk. Six of the counts we only had 1 Red-tailed Hawk. The previous high number was 7 in 1999. Team 1: Bill Gundlach and John Scarola and Team 2: Theresa Potts and Shirley Sturts each had 3 of these hawks. The rest were found by 3 other teams.
- Janet Callen and Roland Craft were excited when they found a huge flock of about 150 waxwings. They couldn't get close enough to them to see if they were Bohemian or Cedar or a mixture of the two.
- Common Redpoll, an irruptive species, has only been found on 4 other count years. They have been showing up all over the Northwest this year. We are always excited when we find them during the winter. Janet and Roland found 2 on their route and Theresa and Shirley found another 2 at a feeder on their route.
- Another species we don't always find on this count is the American Robin. Bill and John found 20 in Farragut State Park..
- Kris and Darlene found our only Brown Creeper. Lisa, Mary and Linda found the only Mourning Dove (2) and the only Black-billed Magpie (6) . Theresa and Shirley found the only Great Blue Heron. It was along Hoo Doo Creek, just south of the Hoo Doo Lake

2012 WINGS ACROSS THE BIG SKY BIRD FESTIVAL



Come join us for Montana Audubon's Annual Bird Festival, this year co-hosted by the Flathead Audubon Society, June 8–10, 2012, at the [Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center, 1840 US Hwy 93 S in Kalispell](#). We are very excited about this new facility, which will be center stage for festival activities. Friday through Sunday includes registration, birding field trips, guest speaker presentations, meals, banquet festivities, and much more.

The Hilton is centrally located in the heart of the Flathead Valley and provides easy access to all our birding activities, field trips, and workshops, and is within a short drive of abundant recreational destinations, such as Flathead Lake and Glacier National Park.

Currently, we have 50 rooms blocked out for festival-goers, Friday and Saturday nights. (25 King beds and 25 Queen/Queen beds at \$99 per night plus applicable taxes.) This rate will be extended to us for three days, prior and post event. Be sure to tell them you're with the Bird Festival group to get the special rate! We suggest you make your reservations soon at the hotel directly at 1-406-756-4500.

For nearby accommodations within walking distance of the Hilton, here are more options:

- Aero Inn, 1830 US Highway 93 South | Kalispell, MT | 59901. 1-406-755-3798
- Motel 6, 1540 US Hwy. 93 South | Kalispell, MT | 59901. 1-406-752-6355
- Super 8 Motel, 1341 1st Avenue East | Kalispell, MT | 59901. 1-406-755-1888
- The Outlaw Hotel, 1701 Hwy 93 S | Kalispell, MT | 59901. 1-406-755-6100

Alternative accommodations can be found at http://staymontana.com/kalispell_24339.php

2012 Pre-festival Workshops

Our workshops were so popular at our 2011 Festival in Glasgow that we again are offering two pre-festival Conservation Workshops, plus adding one pre-festival Education Workshop, all scheduled for Friday, June 8. You can sign up for these during registration from March 15 to May 22. The festival brochure will be arriving in your mail box mid-March. So you will want to act fast—space is limited for each workshop! We're excited to offer the following three pre-festival (Friday) workshops this year:

1. Northwestern Montana Birds and Wildlife in a Warming World

We'll tour local forests and, hopefully, Glacier National Park. Participants will get up close and personal with the flora and fauna of the area, discuss the impacts of our changing climate, and delve into how we can lessen the impact by reducing carbon pollution and building resilient ecological systems best able to adapt to a changing climate.

Limited to 20 participants - Lunch: included

Time: tentative, 8 A.M. – 2 P.M. - Cost: TBD

2. River-to-Lake Initiative

Since 2000, the River-to-Lake Initiative has been providing conservation and restoration expertise to private landowners along the Flathead River and along the North Shore of Flathead Lake. River-to-Lake partners, spearheaded by the Flathead Land Trust, work directly with landowners to craft conservation efforts that meet their needs. We'll meet many of these partners and visit several project sites, including two Important Bird Areas (Owen Sowerwine Natural Area and North Shore Flathead Lake). Limited to 20 participants

Lunch: included Time: tentative, 8 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Cost: TBD

3) Develop a Bird Education Program in your Community

This six-hour training is for any Audubon Chapter member looking to begin or improve their bird education programs within their community.

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Bird Education Program Continued from Page 3

Each participant will receive training and curricula-oriented materials from Flying Wild, a Council for Environmental Education program which introduces students to bird conservation through standards-based classroom activities and environmental stewardship projects. In addition, instructors will share their expertise and experiences in developing new environmental education programs for all ages. (For more information on Project Flying Wild go to www.flyingwild.org.) This workshop will be presented by the Montana Audubon Conservation Education Center: Darcie Vallant, Center Director, and Heather Ristow, Education Director. For questions on this training please contact Darcie at 406-294-5099, ext. 302. Limited to 30 participants
Time: TBD Cost: \$25/per individual

For more information about the festival, please contact: Montana Audubon Bird Festival Coordinator, Larissa Berry at lberry@mtaudubon.org/406-443-3949, or any Flathead Audubon Board Member. For updates, visit

<http://www.mtaudubon.org/birdwatching/festival.htm> and "like" us at <http://www.facebook.com/MontanaAudubon>.



EPIC EFFORT FOR CARIBBEAN SEABIRDS

From Bird Studies Canada (online)

13 January 2012 – Documenting globally important seabird breeding colonies, finding previously undocumented colonies, and colonies thought to be extirpated: these are just some of the exciting discoveries reported within Environmental Protection in the Caribbean's (EPIC) groundbreaking Seabird Breeding Atlas of the Lesser Antilles. Stretching in a thin arc from Anguilla to Grenada, the Lesser Antilles are the final frontier between the Caribbean Sea and the vast expanses of the Atlantic Ocean. A full seabird census had previously never been undertaken in the region, with many existing records based on anecdotal notes from the early 19th century.

Over an 11-month study period, between 2009 and 2010, EPIC's partners Katharine and David Lowrie, sailed 3162 nautical miles, surveying by land and/or sea 200 islands above the high-tide level capable of supporting seabirds, surveying each island in the winter breeding season and again during the summer. Surveying islands that few other sailors will venture near, the study was dubbed by the sailing community as, "a survey of the worst anchorages of the Caribbean." Globally, seabirds are among the most threatened of bird groups, with 80 per cent of species in decline and 90 to 99 per cent of seabirds lost from tropical islands. Prior to European contact, it is believed there were tens of millions of seabirds breeding in the Caribbean region, now there are under two million. For more information go to: <http://www.epicislands.org/>

KOOTENAI ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE (KEA)

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

KEA Lunch & Learn: "Kootenai County's New Land Use Codes"

Date/Time: Thursday, February 2nd @ Noon
Location: The Iron Horse Restaurant
Speakers: Todd Messenger, Kendig Keast & Scott Clark, Kootenai County Director of Community Development --- Note: If you have questions you would like to discuss with them, they will be available starting at 11:00 @ The Iron Horse, Presentation to follow at regularly scheduled time-Noon

"Chip In" Texas Hold'em Tournament

Date/Time: Thursday, February 9th @ 6:00PM
Location: JAVA on Sherman 324 Sherman Ave., CDA

11th Annual Regional Lakes Conference

Date/Time: Saturday, February 4th, 9:00-2:00
Location: Spokane Community College Lair-Student Union Building

KEA Lunch & Learn: Critical Habitat for Caribou

Date/Time: Thursday, February 16th @ Noon
Location: The Iron Horse Restaurant
Speaker: Tim Laser, Selkirk Conservation Alliance

FIELD TRIPS 2012

PLEASE REGISTER: 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.



PLEASE NOTE: The following list shows field trips planned by the Coeur d' Alene Audubon Society. Trips may be added with short notice so check the website often. Trips also may be cancelled at any time due to bad weather, too few participants, or the lack of a leader. Contact the leader for more information and to reserve a spot. If you are unable to register before the schedule deadline, yet want to attend, be sure to check with the leader to ensure the trip is still on. Leaders are club volunteers and are not compensated. Field trips are free. However, if you carpool you will be expected to compensate the driver for your share of vehicle costs.

LINCOLN COUNTY WINTER BIRD ROUTE

Date: February 11, 2012, Saturday

Leader: Janet Callen, 664-1085

Meet: K-Mart parking lot, south side

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Activity: This will be a full day trip and is a repeat of a trip we did in 2010. Recent sightings in the area include two Snowy Owls, Prairie Falcon, Northern Hawk Owl and Short-eared Owl

MICA BAY SURVEY

Date: February 14, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Time: 9:00 a.m.

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Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Activity: We spend about 2-3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome. We will help you with identification skills.

LOCAL AREAS -GBBC

Date: February 18, Saturday

Leader: Lisa Hardy, 682-4808

Meet: Fernan Ranger Station

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Activity: We will cover Cougar Bay, a bit of the Rathdrum Prairie, and Honeysuckle Beach. Other locations are possible depending on what is being seen. Lunch, water, etc. Expect to be out until mid-afternoon. Object is to plump up the state list for the Great BackYard Bird Count (GBBC).

CATALDO AND CHAIN LAKES AREA

Date: March 10, 2012

Leader: Lisa Hardy, 783-1262

RSVP: Roland Craft 457-8894 or Janet Callen 664-1085

Meet: Fernan Lake Ranger Station

Time: 7:15 a.m. We will meet Lisa Hardy, leader, at 8:00 a.m. at the Rose Lake exit.

Activity: This will be a full day trip, bring a lunch, snacks, water and be prepared for cold weather. Target birds are swans and other waterfowl.

See Website for other March-May field trips

MISSOULA BIRDING TRAILS AND MOISE BISON RANGE

Dates: May 19 and 20, 2012

Leader: Janet Callen 664-1085

Meet: To be determined

Time: To be determined

This will be a two-day trip. On the first day, we will travel to Missoula Mt., where we will explore some of the 14 sites along the Missoula Valley Birding and Nature Trail.

Many of these include hikes of various lengths.

The next day we will head north to the Moise Bison Range and Nine-Pipes reservoir. If time permits and participants are interested, we may visit Wild Horse Island State Park on Flathead Lake.

Call me if you are interested and there will be a sign-up sheet at the March meeting.

