

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society
www.cdaudubon.org

February 2017

Volume 27 Number 6

February Program

Date: February 14, Tuesday

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Richard Baltierra



Program: "Young Birder Shares Experiences"
Richard Baltierra (R.J.) is currently working on a bachelor's degree in Zoology at Washington State University. His interest in birding began when his grandmother took him on a birding trip when he was in the 6th grade. Birding is, in every way, a major part of his life. He spends summers doing bird surveys, He is looking forward to sharing his experiences with the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society.

"Our lives begin to end the day we are silent about things that matter."

—Martin Luther King Jr.

President's Message

Today I cried.. That's a rarity for me. I can usually see something to smile about. But today as I was feeding the donkeys, gathering the eggs, watching the doves mob my feeders, suddenly I was crying. I cried for fear, fear for my grandchildren - for the ones who are the old souls and "get it" and those who are lost in their video game world and don't understand Grandma. I cried for the turmoil in the world.

This note was originally going to focus on RJ Baltierra and young people like him and I guess it still can. It is easy for us, in CDA Audubon, to become dismayed and overwhelmed when looking at all the work that needs done, and not having the energy to do it. But there are young adults who are passionate for birds, the environment, and those oppressed by prejudice. I was one of the thousands in the Spokane Woman's March. It was so uplifting to see the young people wanting their voices heard on a multitude of issues, from women's rights to saving our environment from human ruin.

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President's Message



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Be sure to come to the next meeting and meet RJ. Invite other people to come, especially young people who may not realize that there are others out there in their age group who care. These people are the next voices and the ones with the energy who will carry on through the future. Maybe there isn't as much to fear after all.

---Midge



Another Young Birder

I received an email in December from Ms. Seebeck from Colorado. It is heartening to know that our website is reaching a young 5th grader doing a project on birds. I responded and have put the link Emily suggested on our website. I hope you will look at this and check some of the useful birding links that are included in the article.
-Shirley

"Good morning Shirley! I just wanted to reach out and say thank you for the Coeur d'Alene Audubon's Website! My tutoring student Emily (she's in 5th grade) ended up on the homepage last week when she was researching for her birds & migration project, and she thought we should tell you we've been using the birding links at the bottom there. We found great information for her project so thank you!

Also- we thought we could return the favor and send along another great birding resource. This is what Emily picked out for you: "From Trees to Fields: A Beginner's Guide to Birdwatching" - <http://www.treeremoval.com/a-beginners-guide-to-birdwatching/>

It's a great resource for the beginner-birder and Emily thought it would be a helpful addition to the links of interest section! Would you mind adding it? I know Emily would be thrilled to see that she helped you out. Thanks again Shirley and happy holidays!"

Sincerely,
Emily and Ms. Seebeck



*From the "Birding Community E-Bulletin"
January 2017*

RARITY FOCUS

Red-flanked Bluetail is an Old-World species which breeds sparingly in eastern Finland and northwestern Russia, and from western Siberia to Sakhalin Island, the Kamchatka

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RARITY FOCUS

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Peninsula, and south to Japan. The species winters in the Indian Subcontinent, the Himalayas, Taiwan, and northern Indochina.

As for North American occurrences, the species is casual in western Alaska, primarily in the western Aleutians. It has also been found a couple of times in California (e.g., SE Farrallon Island in 1989 and San Clemente Island in 2011). In 2013, one of these charming little Eurasian flycatchers was also found, at Queen's Park, New Westminster, in the Metro Vancouver area of British Columbia where it remained to delight many observers.

This species could potentially occur elsewhere on the mainland west coast, such as Washington or Oregon, or again in California or British Columbia. But on 26 December, John Walter Hanna found one at Hell's Gate State Park, not far from Lewiston, Idaho. Yes, Idaho! Who could have imagined?

The bird was very active in brushy habitat at the bottom of a slope next to the river in the park, but it was sometimes difficult to obtain lengthy views of the bird. It would periodically disappear for five or more minutes, only to reappear, 100 feet away, but calling frequently. For an original photo, see here:

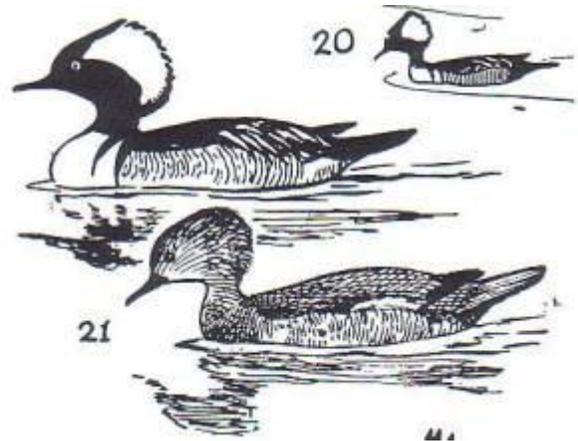
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/johnwalterhanna/31865003756/>

Not only did this Red-flanked Bluetail in Idaho remain through the end of the month,
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but on 29 December, another Red-flanked Bluetail was also identified in British Columbia, at Lazo Wildlife Park in Comox. (It was actually first seen on 22 December, but not identified until the 29th.) The bird remained through the end of the month.



*Inside Bird Conservation: November 2016
Special Edition on Eliminating Threats to Birds*



Public Lands

American Bird Conservancy Statement on the Malheur Occupation Verdict

American Bird Conservancy respects the judicial process but is deeply troubled by the outcome of the Malheur case. Armed occupation of public lands sets a dangerous precedent. It puts our ecologically valuable wildlife at risk and disrespects the men and women charged with protecting our natural resources.

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Malheur Occupation Verdict

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"The occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge was an affront to the millions of Americans who love birds and the public lands that provide bird habitat, and to federal employees for trying to do their jobs," said ABC President George Fenwick. "National Wildlife Refuges are important for birds and other wildlife, and for the nearby communities that benefit from tourism generated by wildlife watching, hunting, and fishing. We need to honor these lands, and the public servants that act as our stewards, and make every effort to prevent small groups of armed extremists from taking them over for themselves what belongs to all Americans."

Open Pipes



In a significant step forward this year, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has taken action to reduce a serious threat to birds by issuing a memorandum in late February to its field offices across the nation with [guidance on how to eliminate the threat](#) of open pipes on public lands (Instruction Memorandum No. 2016-023). The memo also encourages federal claim

holders to voluntarily remove open pipes often used as mine claim monuments.

American Bird Conservancy built upon this memo to write [a letter](#) this month to all 17,843 federal mine claim holders to ask for their help in saving the thousands of birds that accidentally get trapped in open pipes and die each year. The National Mining Association, Northwest Mining Association, Forest Service, and BLM teamed up with American Bird Conservancy to create [a flier](#) explaining the threat to birds and other wildlife that open pipes create, and this was included in the mailing.



Project FeederWatch eNews

December 14, 2016



(Project Feeder Watch is a citizen science program of the Cornell Lab You can read about the this program and become a Feeder

Watcher by going to their Website:

<http://feederwatch.org/about/>

Finch eye disease is just one example of how feeder watchers contribute to bird science. - Shirley)

Tell us about eye disease in American Goldfinches -- Last season a number of FeederWatchers wrote to tell us they were seeing an increase in eye disease in American Goldfinches. FeederWatch collected data on the disease in goldfinches for many years and then stopped because the prevalence of disease in goldfinches was minimal. Given the recent reports, we have reopened the

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Goldfinches

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disease reporting option for American Goldfinches. Now when you enter a count for this species, you will be asked if you looked for eye disease.

FeederWatchers started it all -- One of the best examples of Project FeederWatchers solving biological mysteries is the study of House Finch eye disease. It was first noticed in 1994 by FeederWatchers around Washington, D.C. Birds infected with this disease (also called *Mycoplasmal conjunctivitis*) appear to have red, swollen, runny, or crusty eyes. FeederWatchers are helping us understand how the disease is spreading from the East to the West in House Finches and how infection rates are changing over time.

Don't see any disease at your feeders? Think that makes your observations insignificant? It does not! There is no way to know the correct proportion of infected individuals without all those zeros.

**Field Trips 2016-2017**

Please Register: Watch the website or newsletter for updates to our field trip schedule. Additional field trips will be added if we have volunteers to lead them.

Please contact our field trip coordinators Janet Callen, 664-1085 or George Saylor, 667-2787 to suggest or volunteer to lead a trip. 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.

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Mica Bay Survey

Date: February 14th, 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 to come and learn bird identification skills.

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.

Great Backyard Bird Count

<http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

Date: February 18, Saturday

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Meet: Fernan Ranger Station

Leader: Lisa Hardy, 783-1262

3/4 day trip. Bring lunch. We will get out and walk for part of the day, if weather permits.

Lincoln County Winter Bird Trip

Date: February 25, Saturday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: K-Mart parking lot, south side.

Leader: Janet Callen, 664-1085

Target Birds: Snowy Owls, Horned Larks and other winter birds.

This will be a full-day trip. Bring lunch and water.

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

Pick Chapter Code G06

From the dropdown list

Join by Phone

You may also call National Audubon at **1-844-428-3826**
And remember to reference our **Chapter Code G06**

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- Individual \$10.00*
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- Individual \$25.00 - with hard copy of the newsletter*
- Family \$30.00 - with hard copy of the newsletter*
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