

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

February 2018

Volume 28 Number 6

February Program



Common Yellowthroat
Photo by Ralph Kerr

Date: February 13, Tuesday

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Ralph Kerr, Local wildlife
photographer

Program: Ralph will present a program of
bird photographs taken over a period of years.
The program will feature photographs taken
locally as well as the broader Northwest region.
In addition, Ralph will display equipment he uses
for bird photography and provide some basic
tips and procedures.

President's Message

Good February --

The other day I was telling someone that I keep my cat, Feisty Beasty, indoors to protect the birds at my feeders. I quoted the information we heard from Kathy



Cousins at our last meeting, that billions of birds every year are killed by house cats. This person has bird feeders, horses, donkeys, and many outdoor cats. Her reply shocked me a bit. She said, "I don't care."

How do we answer a person that just doesn't care? First, I asked myself, "Why do I care?" That was easy. I care because I care for every living creature, every animal. When I was about 5, I walked on the sidewalk in front of my Grandma and moved the earthworms from the concrete so they wouldn't get stepped on because "Worms have feelings, too." (I still move worms out of harms' way.) I hurt for every animal injured in nature shows and book. So MY answer to this question is "Because I DO, and doesn't everybody? Everybody SHOULD!" I really don't understand the person who doesn't. Inversely, though, I can assume that the majority of the population looks at me like I have three heads when I voice what I believe is truth about bird and earth conservation.

Continued on page 2

President's Message

Continued from page 1



Sharp-shinned Hawk

Photographed by Larry Krumpleman – Nov. 27, 2012

Bird and earth conservation are linked. What happens to one influences the other. Birds are extremely sensitive indicators of climate change and the health of our environment. They help us see potential hazards to our surroundings often before we even know there IS a danger.

Humans have a profound effect on most bird species. It is estimated that over 1800 species of birds have become extinct in historical times and 1200 species are facing extinction within the next century. Each generation grows up within a more impoverished biodiversity of birds, plants, reptiles, amphibians and fish than the generation before.

Today in the Americas, more than 500 native bird species are threatened with extinction - 12

percent of 4,230 species. In the US alone, nearly 300 of 750 native bird species, or 37%, are declining in population.

Why should we care? Birds are important pollinators of wild fruits, shrubs and trees. Birds provide pest control without dangerous chemical pesticides, saving potato crops, fruit orchards, coffee berries, grape harvests at wineries, oaks used for furniture, etc. Birds spread seeds of shrubs and trees; for example, the whitebark pine is dispersed only by the Clark's Nutcracker. Birds bring music and song to our otherwise raucous-filled noisy world. Birds show us the passing of the seasons in the migratory travels of their lives. Birds inspire us, with stories of eagles, doves, ravens, owls permeating myths and cultures around the world. Birds are colorful, beautiful, graceful, and bring us joy and, often, peace when we observe them.

I choose to actively support more bird conservation programs than other conservation programs. The polar bears are beautiful and in dire straits; the "little baby seals" are cute with their huge black eyes; the lemurs of Madagascar are endearing and gorgeous. But BIRDS, Birds are important!!! Birds aren't just in one area of the world. Many birds use the whole of the planet for their life cycles, migrating from food source to food source to nesting sites to food source to winter food source. They depend on the health of the WHOLE planet to sustain their lives and the lives of future generations.

We share the earth and air with them. As they fly, feed and nest, birds are active monitors of the health of our natural world, provided we make the effort to access that key information. We need to save birds, not just because they are pretty and musical and interesting and cute, but because in saving the birds, we are saving the world. And we are saving ourselves.

-----Midge Marcy-Brennan

Hoodoo Valley Bluebird Trail...
It's that time of year again!!!!



Western Bluebird
Hoo Doo Bluebird Trail – summer of 2012
Photographed by Peggy Albertson

We need volunteers. We start checking boxes once a week, late April through late August. We always send two people a week, it is too much for one person alone...Plus it's more fun to be with someone and you can do some bird watching at the same time

We will have a sign-up sheet at the February and March meetings. We also plan on doing an orientation some time near the end of March for anyone who wants to attend.

If you are interested and want more information, you can find us at the general meeting or you can call us or text us Rob and Nancy Krouse.

Our phone number is [208-651-3620](tel:208-651-3620)

Email is rnkroese@gmail.com.

Award-Winning Nature Photographs
on Display at

Coeur d'Alene Library

Roadshow of 2017's Best Avian
Photography

Visit the Coeur d'Alene Library between March 14 and April 4, 2018 to walk among the winning bird photographs from this year's Audubon Photography Awards and learn more about your local birdlife.

Selected from more than 5,500 entries, the winning photos were published in the [summer 2017 issue of Audubon Magazine](#) and show birdlife at its most vivid, vulnerable, formidable, and elegant. Photographers from 49 states and eight Canadian provinces submitted images in three categories: professional, amateur, and youth. A panel of five judges had the daunting task of sifting through the stunning images and grading them based on technical quality, originality, and artistic merit.

Meet a winning bird:

Grand Prize Winner, Deborah Albert

Gentoo Penguins
Deborah Albert/Audubon Photography Awards
2017 Grand Prize Winner



Gentoo Penguins. Photo: Deborah Albert/Audubon
Photography Awards



**"Birding Without Borders
An Obsession Quest, and the Biggest Year
in the World" by Noah Stryker**

Book Review-Shirley Sturts



Glossy black above, white below, dark face, and a red cap are the field marks of a Flame-crowned Flowerpecker, Noah Stryker's, bird number five thousand. After 299 Days in thirty countries, Noah had reached his goal of seeing 5000 bird species in a year. He was birding at the time on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. In every country he birded, Noah had made arrangements with a local birder to help him in his quest. It paid to be with someone that knew their way around, had friends and knew where it was reasonably safe to bird. Four days before he arrived, the U.S. State Department issued stern warnings about traveling on Mindanao Island due to terrorists incidents.

Noah is not only an excellent, enthusiastic, extreme birder, he writes about his quest to reach his 5000 species goal, (setting a new world record at 4342, a Sri Lanka Frogmouth in India) that makes you want to turn the page to see what his next adventure will be. His descriptions of the places he birds and the birders that he meets make you feel you are traveling with him. He also has a good sense of humor to make you smile along the way.

This was what Noah called "the year of the Petrel", his first bird of the year, a Cape Petrel, seen from the stern of a Russian Ship in the Antarctic at 3:00 a.m. January 1, 2015. From there he takes his readers through South and Central America, the United States, stopping a few hours in Iceland, and on to Europe. From there he takes us around Africa, and to India, Asia, Australia and then back to India for his last bird on December 31, a Silver-breasted Broadbill, number 6042. However, the very last bird he heard, saw, and photographed just before midnight was an Oriental Bay-Owl, that he had first put on his list in Malaysia

I have the book and would be glad to loan it to anyone interested.



January Bird Sightings

Tundra Swan - 4 Heyburn State Park on January 2nd and again on the 4th for the Indian Mt. CBC-Donni Moen

Northern Pygmy-Owl - 1 Medimont area seen during the Indian Mt. CBC on January 4

Barred Owl - January 1+ - Killarney Farm - Ellen Scriven

Anna's Hummingbird - continuing to be a daily bird at the feeders of Janet Callen and Doug Ward

Pileated Woodpecker - 3 Indian Mt. CBC by two teams on January 4

Blue Jay - 5 reported by Wayne Melquist on the Indian Mt. CBC - Benewah County section on January 4

White-breasted Nuthatch - 1 feeder of Shirley Sturts on January 13 - also 2 were counted on the Indian Mt. CBC Harrison area Lisa Hardy and Ellen Scriven on January 4

Continued on page 5

January Bird Sightings

Continued from page 4

Bohemian Waxwings - 200 found in the Medimont and Harrison areas on the Indian Mt. CBC on January 4

Hoary Redpoll - 1 Bonners Ferry area on January 1 - a Rare Bird Report was submitted by Mary Ruple

Purple Finch - 2 (1 an immature male) Moscow on January 2 - a Rare Bird Report was submitted by Ben Bright

Evening Grosbeak - 6 - Medimont area of the Indian Mt. CBC on January 4



Lincoln County Field Trip

Dick Cripe



Horned Lark photographed by Darlene Carlton in Lincoln County on an earlier field trip

Six stalwart birders took the trip to Lincoln County in spite of wind and snow. Actually, the weather was good for January. We saw 26 species including about 40 raptors, mostly Red-tail and Rough-legged Hawk, also a Swainson's Hawk, two falcon species, and a Great Horned Owl. When we returned to CdA we received a phone call from Chris Janet who told where to see a Snowy Owl. So we were too late for that prize.

Participating were Cathy Moens, Darlene Carlton, Dave Mougher, Dave's friend Carol, Janet Callen, and Dick Cripe.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Species seen were: European Starlings, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collard-Dove, Mourning Dove, House Sparrow, Red-tailed Hawk, Common Goldeneye, Black-Billed Magpie, Ring-necked Pheasant, Common Raven, Wild Turkey, Horned Lark, Brown Creeper, Pygmy Nuthatch, Mountain Chickadee, Great Horned Owl, American Kestrel, Canada Geese Swainson's Hawk, Falcon species.



Eliminating Threats to Birds

Copied from *Inside Bird Conservation* - November 2016 - Special Edition on Eliminating Threats to Birds - This is continued from the January newsletter

Osprey – a victim of fish line left along the shore
Photograph by Larry Krumpleman

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.

Continued on page 6

Eliminating Threats to Birds

Continued from page 5

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.

Invasive Species

Domestic cats can make wonderful pets. But outdoors, cats are a non-native and [invasive species](#) that threaten birds and other wildlife, disrupt ecosystems, and [spread diseases](#). Now numbering well over 100 million in the United States, cats kill approximately 2.4 billion birds every year in the U.S. alone, making cat predation by far the [largest human-caused mortality threat to birds](#). ABC's Cats Indoors Program educates the public and policy makers about the many benefits to birds, cats, and people when cats are maintained indoors or under an owner's direct control. In addition to advocating for responsible pet ownership, we also oppose [Trap, Neuter, Release](#) (TNR) for feral cats because of the persistent and severe threats posed by feral cat colonies. [Take the pledge to keep cats from roaming outdoors](#).

In the last five years, ABC has distributed more than 100,000 brochures to concerned citizens, veterinarians, and conservation groups, helping to spread the word that cats, birds, and people are better off when cats are kept indoors. [Order brochures](#).

New Colony of Chicks Keeps Hope Alive for Rare Newell's Shearwater

To counter the threat of predation by non-native mammals, ABC and Hawaiian conservationists have begun to establish a new nesting site for rare Newell's Shearwater ('A'o) and Hawaiian Petrel ('Ua'u). This year, chicks of both species were moved to a new, predator-

proof colony at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. Last month, the restoration team moved eight threatened [Newell's Shearwater](#) chicks, flying them by helicopter from their montane nesting areas to their new home at the refuge. Both species are endemic to Hawai'i and breed nowhere else in the world. Last week, the [second cohort of 20 Hawaiian Petrel chicks](#) were moved to the predator-proof site.

Window Collisions

Watch a [new video PSA](#) from ABC that calls attention to bird collisions and showcases creative—and attractive—ways to help.



The Vassar Bridge Science complex, which is on the cover of [Bird-friendly Building Design](#), opened this May. ABC's Christine Sheppard was involved with the building's design, which is intended to qualify for the LEED collisions reduction credit. Please see www.birdsmartglass.org for products for home and professional solutions that reduce bird collisions.

Pesticides

In the past, an incident reporting system, or public database of wildlife poisonings, helped conservationists identify the deadliest pesticides. Many of the deadliest organochlorine-based chemicals are now off the market as a result. Unfortunately, the EPA's reporting system is now broken, but efforts are underway to fix it. The agency's incident data

Continued on page 7

Pesticides

Continued for page 6

system suffers from absurdly high reporting triggers and thresholds, confusing incident-submission portals, minimal public access to data, and a lack of coordination with other federal agencies. The current system has unrealistically high threshold numbers of dead animals needed to trigger reporting requirements under FIFRA 6(a)2. For birds, no specific reports are required unless 200 of a "flocking" species, 50 songbirds, or five raptors are killed. Here are some recent [recommendations on incident reporting](#) from ABC and partners.

(Eliminating Threats to Birds - to be continued in our March newsletter)



Field Trips

Our field trips are also posted on our Website <http://cdaudubon.org/fieldtrips.html>
Please contact Dick Cripe 208-665-0010 to volunteer to lead a trip or to suggest places to go.

Mica Bay Survey

Date: February 13, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on the 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.

Farragut and Bayview

Date: February 3, Saturday

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet: K-Mart parking lot

Leader: Dick Cripe - 208 665-0010

Activity: This is a half day trip - bring water, a snack and dress for the weather

Backyard Feeder Tour

Date: February 17, Saturday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: K-Mart parking lot (south side)

Leader: Judy Waring 208 765-5378

Activity: We will take a tour of the feeders in the yards of some of our Audubon members. This is a half day trip. Please register with the leader so that you can be contacted if we get weathered out.

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

Sandpoint and Pend Oreille Lake

Date: March 3:

Time: to be announced

Meet: K-Mart Parking lot

Leaders: Bill Gundlach - 208-755-2378; Dick Cripe - 208-665-0010.

Activity: a full day trip. We'll check out water fowl in the bays around the town and the north shore of the lake. Bring your lunch and water, and dress for the weather.

Chain of Lakes and CdA River

Date: March 17

Time: to be announced

Meet: Fernan FS Station Parking lot.

Leader: Lisa Hardy; 480-522-6056

Activity: Rendezvous at Rose Lake turn off and explore lakes to Harrison looking for water fowl and other birds. All day: bring lunch, water, and dress for the weather.

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.d
onation=form1](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

**CDA Audubon Chapter
Officers**

President:
Midge Marcy-Brennan 208 661-0206
Vice President:
Dick Cripe 208 665-0010
Recording Secretary:
Valerie Zagar 208 819-5115
Treasurer:
Janet Callen 208 664-1085
Board Members: all officers +
Barbara Christofferson, Kathy
Cousins, Darlene Carlton, Eula
Hickam, Ralph Kerr

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Publicity: open
Field Trips: Dick Cripe 208 665-0010
George Saylor 208 664-2787
**Education: Barbara Christofferson 208 667-
3931**
Conservation: Midge Marcy-Brennan
Membership: Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616
Hospitality: Elli Emm
Newsletter: Shirley Sturts 208 664-5318
Programs: Eula Hickam 208 661-3228
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 \$ _____

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

Mail this form and your check payable
to: **Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter**
c/o Membership
P.O. Box 361
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

