

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society

www.cdaudubon.org

February 2022

Volume 31 Number 6

February 2022 Program

Date: February 8, Tuesday

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84391997180?pwd=cFNFRkdhRmcyWFRkNDBqZnJsUnZsdz09>

Meeting ID: 843 9199 7180

Passcode: 691353

Program: The program is in the planning stage. It will be posted on our website.

Board Meeting

Date: February 8, Tuesday

Time: 4:30 p.m. Zoom

Anyone interested in joining our team on the board call Ralph at 208-660-3220.



President's Message

Welcome to February. We have had winter weather with the resulting sore muscles from shoveling snow and chipping ice. Slippery roads this morning reminded me that winter climatologists are telling us we will

probably have more snow before it is all over. Welcome to winter.

In our January meeting we enjoyed



learning how a young 14-year-old Falconer became interested in falconry. I was particularly interested in the process of becoming certified at the "Apprentice" level of falconry (his current status). An Apprentice

level falconer must be sponsored by a "General" level falconer (the second level of falconry). Once reaching the General level, he will spend five years before becoming a "Master" falconer, the highest of the three levels.

I thoroughly enjoyed learning the details in the day of a falconer, care for the bird (In this case, a Red-tailed Hawk), how he travels with the bird, feeds it, hunts with it and many other details. It was a fascinating program.

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President's Message

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I am happy to report continued progress with the Audubon backpacks program at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library. Both an adult and a child's backpack are available to be checked out from the library. The library is carefully monitoring the effectiveness of the backpack program and, depending on the experience at the library, may ask other library branches if they would like to participate. It will be interesting to find out how popular they are once reports come in from the springtime migration and summer bird population.

By now you know that I always ask any of you to share your current birding experiences with us via the monthly zoom meeting or through this newsletter. Please continue monitoring bird activity and sharing your stories.

I would like to share some activity from my Christmas and New Year

holiday trip to Denver, CO. We took parts of three days each way driving to and from Denver. When we got past Missoula, MT I began to see more and more Rough-legged Hawks on posts, poles and in trees. We have traveled that route of Interstate 90 numerous times and I do not remember ever seeing as many hawks as I saw during this trip.

While driving through the Sheridan and Buffalo, WY area we did see some Bald Eagles. The most exciting event was seeing an adult Bald Eagle flying away to my left. When I turned my attention back to the road in front of me, all of a sudden, I had a windshield full of Bald Eagles. Well, not literally but in the air in front of the car, flying about 40 feet away, were two adult Bald Eagles and one juvenile Bald Eagle. It only lasted a couple of seconds until they had flown out of the way, but for that short time it was exciting to see those eagles up close. I assume they had been feeding on road kill near the edge of the road and took to the air as I approached.

During the return trip we were observing the numbers of Rough-legged Hawks and observed one hovering over the road ahead of us. Our traveling speed caused us to approach the hawk rapidly and it turned away about two feet from our windshield. Thankfully, we didn't hit it.

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President's Message

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We did encounter two other Rough-legged Hawks flying low across the road in front of us a bit farther away than the one that nearly hit our windshield.

Sadly, we saw two deceased Rough-legged Hawks along the road during our trip. I assume they are vulnerable to automobiles because these hawks migrate from the far north to the states in the winter. They probably don't see many automobiles where they live the remainder of the year.

So, enjoy your travels and the birds you may see as you move along the road.

As I write this message, I do not have a commitment for a program for our February 8 zoom meeting. Please tune into the web site for information about the upcoming program.

The board continues to make progress on the project for a sign and sign location for the Kris Buchler memorial. As you know by now, it is a very slow process to get approval of signage content and location. I mention it to keep you informed that work is still ongoing and the project has not been abandoned.

Enjoy more of the winter season and, as always, enjoy birding.

Ralph Kerr



Coeur d'Alene Christmas Bird Count – 2021 Edition

Another weird year and another weird Christmas bird count. For the second year in a row, we had to adapt how the count was run to consider the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. Gone were the always enjoyable kick off breakfasts at Michael D's and the even more enjoyable compilation dinners (and maybe a few glasses of wine or beer) hosted by Theresa Potts. We had individuals and small teams covering fourteen (14) areas within the fifteen (15) mile diameter circle, birding and reporting their results in relative isolation. We can only hope 2022 brings us back to the traditional ways.

The count itself also turned out to be a strange one. Nearly every group felt they had a relatively slow day, yet this turned out to be a record year for the

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Coeur d'Alene Christmas Bird Count

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Coeur d'Alene Christmas Count in terms of species seen count day – 83 (previous record 80 in 2014), and a well above average number of individuals reported – 8,878 (vs the 30 year average of 6,893)! We had three (3) species seen that had never been reported on the count previously: Northern Shoveler (Black Bay Park) Eurasian Wigeon (Hayden Lake) and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (Tubbs Hill)!

Other rarities found (<5 previous counts) included Cackling Goose, Northern Pintail, Greater Scaup, Short-eared Owl, American Dipper, and Spotted Towhee (in 2 different areas!). A couple of other unusual species were also found including, Tundra Swan (Hayden Lake), Red-breasted Mergansers (City Beach), Blue Jay (Fernan Hill), Common Redpoll (Cougar Bay Preserve & Kidd Is.) and both Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbirds (Rathdrum Prairie/Post Falls). Not only were we treated to these nice finds, we also set historic high counts for Belted Kingfisher (11) and Townsend's Solitaire (4).

What's more, these results don't include four species seen count week (+/- 3 days), but not count day

Continued on page 5– Trumpeter Swan (Hayden Lake) Anna's Hummingbird (Hayden), Ring-necked Pheasant (Rathdrum Prairie), and Snow Bunting (Rathdrum Prairie).

Well done and thank you to all of those who participated this year making it a count to remember. Already looking forward to next year, hope you are too. Happy New Year.

Doug Ward, Compiler



Kootenai County Big Year Additions 2022

See:

<http://cdaudubon.org/Projects/kootenaico2021.html>

Our goal is 200 – we are at 83

Here are a few we have so far

**Greater and Lesser Scaup – January 1
– Bennett Bay – Doug Ward**

**Gray Partridge – January 2 - Worley
area – Jon Isacoff**

**American White Pelican – 1 - January
7 – Honeysuckle Beach, Hayden Lake
-Richard Hepworth and Doug Ward**

**Killdeer – January 11 – Wolf Lodge
Bay - Ryan Bart**

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**Short-billed (Mew) Gull – January 22 –
Spokane River north of NIC – Ben
Bright**

**Lesser Black-backed Gull - January
22 - Blackwell Island – Ryan Bart**

**Great Horned Owl – January 1 -
Huetter/near Mullan Ave. – Bob Farr
(hears them every morning)**

**Barred Owl – January 8 - northwest of
Fred Meyer – Pat Glasco and Darlene
Carlton – also one on Stanly Hill –
January 24 – Robert McFarland**

**Short-eared Owl – January 9 –
Rathdrum Prairie – Jon Isacoff**

**Pileated Woodpecker – January 5 – In
her yard – Peggy Albertson**

**Canyon Wren - January 2 – Q'Emiln
Park, Post Falls – aire Ryan Bart**

**Townsend's Solitaire- January 1 –
Loch Haven, Hayden – Doug Ward**

**Hermit Thrush – January 9 – il – Jon
Isacoff**

**Red-winged Blackbird – January 12 -
Meadowbrook Loop – Doug Ward**

**Brewer's Blackbird – January 12 – NIC
City Beach– Doug Ward**

**Common Redpoll - January 9 –
Yellowstone Trail – Jon Iscoff**

**Evening Grosbeak – January 5 – in her
yard – Peggy Albertson**



Fieldtrips and Activities

Mica Bay Survey

Date: February 8, Tuesday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Leader: Ted Smith - 406-540-2673

**Call or text so he knows if you are
coming**

**Activity: We spend about 3 hours once
a month counting birds at Mica Bay.
Beginner birders are welcome**

.

The Great Backyard Bird Count

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

February 18-21, 2022.

Learn how to participate - go to:

<https://www.birdcount.org/participate/>

Winter Wings Festival

Dates: Friday, February 18, 2022

through Sunday, February 20, 2022

Host site: Oregon Institute of

Technology (Oregon Tech), 3201

Campus Drive, Klamath Falls,

Oregon, 97601

Website: www.WinterWingsFest.org

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Vice President: open

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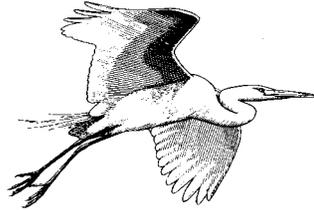
National Audubon
New Member Application

Join Online at:
<http://www.audubon.org>

or

Join by Phone – call:
1-844-428-3826

Reference our Chapter
Code G06



Local Membership Dues

- Individual \$10.00
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