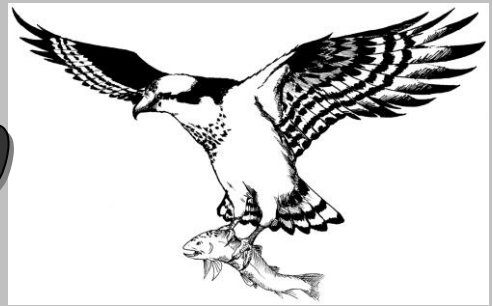


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society

January 2003

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 5

COMING EVENTS

BOARD MEETING

DATE: January 14, Tuesday
 TIME: 4:30 p.m.
 PLACE: Mountain West Bank
 125 Ironwood Dr.

JANUARY PROGRAM

DATE: January 20, Monday
 TIME: 7:00 p.m.
 PLACE: First Presbyterian Church, 521
 Lakeside
 PROGRAM: "Living With Bats"
 Speaker: Jenny Taylor, is Asst. Wildlife
 Biologist for the Forest Service.

TIME TO TURN IN YOUR 2002-YARD LISTS AND START 2003

See page 6 for details

Visit our website:
www.cdaudubon.org

THE BAT CHALLENGE

(Answers will be given during the January Program)

E	G	L	U	Z	M	A	M	M	A	L	S	A	S	R	A	B	I	E	S
C	S	M	H	M	Y	O	T	I	S	K	A	T	E	R	M	I	T	E	S
H	U	O	I	E	J	A	N	E	T	I	E	A	V	O	C	A	D	O	T
O	S	T	B	K	R	O	W	S	H	I	R	L	E	Y	L	S	I	M	E
L	A	H	E	U	E	B	K	R	I	S	O	I	N	P	I	M	C	O	V
O	N	S	R	V	J	U	D	Y	L	Y	N	N	T	U	S	I	K	S	E
C	O	V	N	A	C	G	U	A	N	O	N	E	Y	P	A	N	O	Q	A
A	P	X	A	N	A	A	J	N	I	S	N	A	N	C	Y	E	S	U	N
T	E	R	T	I	S	P	O	T	T	E	D	W	I	N	G	S	T	I	T
I	U	O	E	L	H	T	H	E	R	E	S	A	H	O	A	R	Y	T	S
O	L	O	T	L	E	P	N	I	G	E	O	R	G	E	N	A	K	O	N
N	A	S	L	A	W	F	L	I	E	S	A	B	E	E	T	L	E	S	Z
L	I	T	T	L	E		B	R	O	W	N		B	A	T	A	J	A	N

Bats aren't birds; they're _____ A baby bat is called a _____
 During the winter, bats _____ in woodpecker holes and _____.
 A _____ is where a bat rests.
 Fewer than 1 % of bats (less than dogs or skunks) carry this disease. _____
 A little brown bat can eat 600 to 1,200 _____ in an hour!
 Bat droppings make good fertilizer for your garden and are called _____.
 How many mines has the Forest Service gated to protect bat habitat in the Idaho Panhandle?
 More than _____
 Bats are one of only a few mammals that use _____ to find their insect prey.
 The _____ bat is gray and sometimes eats other bats.
 Three kinds of insects that bats eat are _____, _____ and _____
 Idaho's most common bat is the _____.
 The tropical nut _____ in the Chinese dish cashew chicken is pollinated by bats.
 Bats also pollinate this key ingredient of guacamole _____ and
 this flavoring in chocolate chip cookies _____.
 Half of Idaho's 14 bat species are in the genus _____.

Southern Idaho's bat which is black with 3 white polka dots is the _____ bat.
 A bat's _____ are like our hands.

BIRD TRACKS



Audubon Members make a difference

AUDUBON ADOPTS A HIGHWAY

Our Audubon chapter has adopted a stretch of highway 95 under a two year contract with the Idaho Department of Transportation. A clean environment is a benefit to everyone in the community and an important aspect of the Audubon philosophy. So here we go, to do our part locally. Our section will be the south side of the Mica grade, mile 421 to 423, which ties in with our Adopt-A-Wetland work at Mica Bay. The road cleaning will take place two times annually, spring and fall, taking approximately two hours. We'll get the place spick and span and then go birding at Mica Bay. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact Judy Waring at 765-5378. We can make a difference.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Audubon Adventures is a national program provided to over 140 classrooms by our chapter and sponsored by the Margaret Reed Foundation. In order to make the materials more attractive to teachers and increase their utilization, we are offering to be a resource for area teachers. To do this, we need friendly volunteers who would present bird programs to local 3rd and 5th graders, or just help teachers learn a little to be more comfortable with the material.

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We have an impressive inventory of slides as well as an interesting nest collection that is always a hit with students. Bird houses and feeders are always a popular topic. It is easy to talk about what you know and love!

Please consider joining our Education Committee and serving your community. We would love to have you and your ideas.

**Kris Buchler, Education Chair
664-4739**

COEUR D'ALENE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

On December 15, eighteen birders on six teams and eleven feeder watchers participated in the 12th year of the Coeur d'Alene Christmas Bird Count. Except for a cold wind for part of the day, we had exceptional weather for a CBC: temperatures ranged from 41-47 degrees, not a drop of rain and the sun put in an appearance in the afternoon.

However, the mild winter was possibly one of the reasons for low species and individual bird numbers. We had 66 species plus 1 more species during count week (the record is 80 species in 2001) and 6953 total birds (the record is 7897 in 2001). A few species still managed to beat their records when it comes to highest number seen.

Double-c Cormorant 8 (5 in '01)
 Ring-n Duck 165 (157 in '00)
 Bufflehead 466 (313 in '00)
 Belted Kingfisher 7 (5 in '91, '95)
 Rock Dove 231 (207 in '01)
 Black-b Magpie 79 (77 in '01)
 Pygmy Nuthatch 110 (110 in '01)
 Winter Wren 9 (2 in '94)
 Snow Bunting 60 (36 in '98)

New to our count were 5 Redhead on Coeur d'Alene Lake by Kris Buchler's team. Other highlights were: 2 Gadwall on Hayden Lake counted by Lisa Hardy's team and , 60 Snow Bunting on Rathdrum Prairie seen flying over by Steve Lindsay. Lisa says Ellen Scriven's dedication in scrambling up a steep wet bank along Hayden Creek was responsible for nailing down our 1 Pileated Woodpecker.

Finch numbers were very low with the exception of 516 House Finch (3rd highest in 12 years of the count). American Goldfinch were missing for the first time in 11 years. The Rough-legged Hawk, a winter visitor, has been staying in the north. We only had 2 (high number is 20 in '94 and low number is 1 in '93)

See the total lists on our website www.cdaudubon.org or go to www.birdsource.org to view the results of other CBC's.

Thank you participants: (in the field) Kris Buchler, Janet Callen, Roland Craft, Dick Cripe, Bill Gundlach, Lisa Hardy, Steve Lindsay, Theresa Potts, Sarah Reed, George Saylor, Katie Saylor, Ellen Scriven, Herb and Jan Severtson, Lynn Sheridan, Shirley Sturts, Judy and Phil Waring. (at feeders) Gloria Andrews, Jack and Zella Bloxom, Ed Buchler, Carolyn Cozzetto, Cindy Langlitz, Jim and Mikey McKahan, Bob Seddon, Jean Sorley, Sarah McLain, Mary Vanderbilt, Roger Young.



"If I were to make a study of the tracks of animals and represent them by plates..."

JANUARY-FEBRUARY FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

1. Please register with the leader ahead of time.
 - a. It helps the leader plan the trip.
 - b. You will be informed if the trip time or location is changed or if the trip is canceled.
2. Fees: (to paid to the driver of the car) \$5.00 - all day trips \$3.00 - 1/2 day trips.
3. We sometimes use radios to communicate between cars. If the radios are used we are asking participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries.

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES: January 13 and 27, Mondays

TIME: 12 noon January 13 and 9 a.m. January 27_ (NOTE CHANGE IN TIMES)

MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

LEADERS: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318

ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours twice a month counting birds in the Mica Bay area. Beginner birders are encouraged and welcome to join us.

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE: January 14

TIME: 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

MEET: Independence Point, City Beach

LEADER: Lynn Sheridan (leave messages for Lynn with Kris Buchler 664-4739)

ACTIVITY: We will look for unusual gulls and other feathered friends along City Beach.

GULL IDENTIFICATION, COEUR D'ALENE AREA

DATE: January 26, Sunday

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

MEET: carpool @ K-mart parking lot, behind Fast Burger

LEADER: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318

ACTIVITY: 1/2 day of birding - Our main focus will be looking for rare gulls, e.g. Mew, Glaucous, Glaucous-winged. We will bird the Spokane River along the NIC dike road (Rosenberry Drive, City Beach and Independence Point. We may check other locations if time permits. Optional lunch at a nearby restaurant.

RATHDRUM PRAIRIE

DATE: February 9, Sunday

TIME: 12 noon - to dark

MEET: carpool @ K-mart parking lot, behind Fast Burger

LEADER: Lisa Hardy, 682-4808 or basalt@earthlink.net

ACTIVITY: : 1/2 day of birding - Our main focus will be looking for hawks and winter visitors, e.g. Rough-legged Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Northern Shrike, American Tree Sparrow, and Snow Bunting.

SANDPOINT

DATE: February 22, Saturday

TIME: 7:30 a.m.

MEET: carpool @ K-mart parking lot, behind Fast Burger

LEADER: Lisa Hardy, 682-4808 or basalt@earthlink.net

ACTIVITY: We will bird Pend Oreille Lake from City Beach, Sunnyside and the Pack River delta. These areas offer large numbers of waterfowl (if not frozen); potential rarities include Yellow-billed Loon, Red-breasted Merganser and scoters. We will not neglect the landbirds, either, and will watch for the Clark's Nutcrackers often present along Sunnyside. Wear shoes suitable for light hiking. This will be a full day trip, so bring lunch and water, as well as cash for our usual stop at Starbuck's.

HOME STUDY COURSE IN BIRD BIOLOGY

Cornell Lab of Ornithology's
Renowned Home Study Course In
Bird Biology Second Edition,
Takes Flight

Fuertes' Eastern Bird Collection



What do a homemaker, a wildlife biologist, and a wrestling coach have in common? They are all quickly becoming bird experts, thanks to the newly released second edition of the "Home Study Course" "HSC" lets anyone interested in birds learn more about these fascinating creatures and to do so from the comfort of their home or workplace, and at their own pace. The course content ranges from tips on bird identification and how to watch birds to explanations about vocal behavior and breeding biology - 10 chapters in all. The text is accompanied by more than 1,100 photos, illustrations and graphs.

Each chapter was written by a leading ornithologist in that particular field to include the latest ornithological findings and theories, then edited by lab staff

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for accessibility by the general public. "An important part of the Lab's mission is to take scientific information and present it to a lay audience in such a way that learning about birds is both easy and enjoyable," says Richard E. Bonney, the lab's director of education. The "Home Study Course" is an excellent example of this. It's a college-level course but it is written specifically for people from a variety of backgrounds and levels of experience.

The course was originally written in 1972 by former lab director, the late Olin Sewall Pettingill, jr. Although some of the original text remains, the course in general has been thoroughly updated with many new and innovative sections and features. For example, the chapter on flight, preserved timeless ornithological knowledge of the topic. State University of New York professor, Ken Able, who rewrote the chapter, added new findings to the second edition of the "Home Study Course" in bird Biology, produced by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Studies in the 1990s, discuss evolutionary theory about why birds migrate, and explain breakthroughs in our knowledge of avian navigation.

The new edition also features sidebars that provide technical content in a lively, understandable style and share human-interest stories about birds. Students will enjoy a wealth of fascinating bird facts, such as why mockingbirds sing so many different songs, and why a hummingbird's throat appears to flash on and off in certain light conditions. Students receive a CD of bird sounds to accompany the chapter on vocal behavior.

The course also includes entirely new chapters, such as the one on bird conservation, written by Lab director John Fitzpatrick. When the HSC was first written, bird conservation was not even recognized as a discipline. In this new chapter, Fitzpatrick covers the causes of bird population declines and the tragic topic of extinction. He also discusses conservation tools, species management, protection, and more.

Students submit exams as they complete each chapter. Some complete a chapter each week; others take years. They can contact the Lab's instructors whenever they need help. Students who successfully complete the course receive a certificate signed by director Fitzpatrick.

The cost of the course is \$250 for Lab members, \$285 for nonmembers. To receive a brochure or to sign up, call the Lab at 800/843-2473 (outside the U.S. call 607/254-2473). A course overview, author profiles, FAQs, and a fun bird quiz are available at the Home Study Course website at www.birds.cornell.edu/homestudy.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a nonprofit membership institution interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen-science focused on birds.

NAME CHANGES

Black-crested Titmouse has again been elevated to full species status. This is great news for birders who've been to Texas and can now have both the Tufted and Black-crested Titmouse on their lifelist.

The other name change concerns the Snipes. The North American birds have been split

from the Eurasian species (which retains Common Snipe), and the name of the bird in North America has reverted to Wilson's Snipe (as it was some time ago).

BIRDFEEDING

GOING OVER TO THE DARK SIDE

Tom Besser -WSU

(Reprint from The Prairie Owl
November 2002)

Photograph by Wayne Tree



House Finch

Like a lot of folks, I feed the birds in my yard in the winter for a touch of color and

life in an otherwise dreary season. Because the birds at the feeder are so visible, it's hard to miss when occasionally an obviously sick bird turns up. Most often, this is just another interesting (and sometimes distressing) aspect of the birds' natural lives, but for some diseases birdfeeders may actually be a part of the problem. If you see signs of these particular diseases, it's a good idea to clean up and put away your feeders for a few weeks and let your flock disperse.

The occasional sick bird at your feeder could be suffering from any number of different diseases but there are two, salmonellosis and MG, that should be of particular concern to bird feeders. Salmonellosis (AKA 'songbird fever') is common in the Inland Northwest. Birds with salmonellosis are weak and lethargic, ruffle their feathers, and frequently die on or near the feeder. Pine Siskins are most often affected, but it's not uncommon in other winter finches. If you see several weak

birds with ruffled feathers or find several dead birds over the course of a couple of weeks, you're very likely seeing an outbreak of salmonellosis. Large outbreaks of salmonellosis sweep the western states every few years and it's a rare year when at least some birds aren't affected in our area.

It's also worth watching for MG (named for the causative bacteria, *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*). MG primarily affects House Finches, causing eye infections resulting in swollen eyelids with goopy exudate. Severely effected birds are blinded and frequently die. MG has spread throughout the House Finch populations in the eastern U.S. where it's thought to be responsible for significant population declines. So far the original western U.S. population of this species has been spared. MG, like salmonellosis, will usually result in multiple sick birds and usually some dead birds.

How do birdfeeders contribute to these diseases? Higher than 'normal' populations of the birds are concentrated in the area by feeders, and feeders are particularly attractive to the sickest birds. These factors result in increased bacterial contamination of the area, leading to more new infections.

What should you do if you suspect one of these diseases in birds at your feeder? The best course of action to stop bird feeding for awhile is probably. You should also dispose of any dead birds (wrap them up and put them in the garbage) and use a rake to spread out any piles of seeds and shells on the ground to help reduce contamination of the feeder area. (To keep from contracting salmonellosis yourself, a very unpleasant experience, be sure

to wash your hands carefully afterwards.) The birds will disperse and the environmental contamination will eventually go away naturally. In a month or so, it'll be safe to start putting out some feed and attracting birds once again. (editors note: disinfect bird feeders with 1 part chlorax with 9 parts water)

BIRDLING WITH A BROWN BAG

December 10

Lynn Sheridan

Bill Gundlach and Roland Craft were at the city beach area when I arrived. It was a damp day with ripples on the lake surface. Among the few Ring-billed Gull were 8 California Gull. A flock of 30 Rock Dove flew towards their sanctuary, the Hagadone office building. Bill saw a Bald Eagle overhead and we both heard a Kingfisher "rattle" as it flew off it's post. The usual 20+ Mallard were swimming near shore.

Walking along the beach toward the college we enjoyed the many Canada Goose, Mallard and gulls resting in groups. After careful observation of birds on far off pilings we identified them as 7 Double-crested Cormorant. Bobbing around in the water were 8 Common Goldeneye, 2 Red-necked Grebe and 3 Bufflehead.

At the college a flock of about 12 Pygmy Nuthatch twittered in the Ponderosa Pines. Near the sawmill we saw 6 gulls that looked different from those we had seen along city beach. They were larger, had pink legs, medium gray mantle and a red dot on their beak. Bill and Roland were pretty sure they were Herring Gull.

On our return trip we heard a Song Sparrow and counted 10 Golden-crowned Kinglet.

Roland and Bill helped me estimate gull numbers to be 150,

Mallard at 200+ and Canada Goose at 250+. Thank you guys!!

2003 YARD LIST CHALLENGE

Lisa Hardy

Fuertes' Eastern Bird Collection



As the calendar year turns over, it is time to make a new list of the bird species you see (and hear) in or from your yard. Then,

at the end of the year 2003, submit your list to be judged in categories to be decided at the whim of the judging panel. And don't worry about your list being small – every list adds to the big picture.

For those of you who find the lister approach a bit too “serious”, think of it instead as a motivation to hone your observational skills. You may, for example, have to spend a little time with the book in order to sort out the Cassin's and House Finches so that you can tally both on your list. Also, many people add notes to their lists of odd and interesting bird behavior.

TIME TO TURN IN YOUR 2002-YARD LIST

Turn your list into:

Lisa Hardy
basalt@earthlink.net
 2153B Old River Road
 Kingston, Idaho 83839

You will need to submit a list of species and information about your location. Note whether you are in city limits, urban, suburban or rural, whether you

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have a water view, type of vegetation and cover available, feeders provided etc. Remember, your list should include all birds seen or heard from your yard, so you can include, for example, the geese that flew over at 3000', or the owl you heard one night in the neighbor's yard. What was your favorite bird? Share any interesting bird behavior you noted while observing birds in your yard.

Look for the results in the February *Fish Hawk Herald*

LOST IN THE FOG

Lisa Hardy

The trip to Turnbull NWR near Cheney, WA on November 30, tested our resolve in the face of a bone-chilling (and disorienting) ice fog. On our way to the refuge, we saw a Cooper's Hawk on the interstate at the state line, and a coyote between Cheney and the refuge.

At the refuge, we set out to hike a loop around several frozen ponds without a map. In the open Ponderosa Pine habitat, we found all 3 nuthatch species (Red-breasted, White-breasted and Pygmy) in one spot, and examined some concentrated beaver activity on the edge of a pond. Small groups of Red Crossbills were heard everywhere. Later, we flushed up 3 Gray Partridge in a grassy field. We had covered about a mile in 2 hours when it became clear that we were not on a loop, and were wandering through the refuge without being able to determine compass bearings due to the fog. The fog sucked the heat from our hands and faces, and rendered birds beyond 20 feet into shades of gray. When our path dead-ended at a fence marked as the

refuge boundary, we opted for the conservative plan, and retraced our path back to the cars. There, Roland pulled out a map, and we were able to trace our wanderings.

At the building housing the restrooms, Kris pointed out abundant signs of bat roosting. The bats were long gone, having migrated or hibernated elsewhere. A large bat house nearby, and evidence of recent caulking at the restrooms, suggested attempts to discourage the bats from roosting in the building. Kris pointed out that the nearby ponds would provide abundant insect food for the bats in the summer.

We drove the 5-mile auto loop after a hurried lunch. Most of the waterfowl seen during the trip were on a few open patches of water on Kepple Lake. We were entertained by Mallards landing on the ice, gliding for several feet before coming to a stop. We had a few glimpses of sunny, blue sky during the afternoon, but returned to Coeur d'Alene in the seemingly perpetual fog.

Trip participants: Kris Buchler, Janet Callen, Roland Craft, Lisa Hardy, Theresa Potts, Lynn Sheridan, Shirley Sturts, Phil & Judy Waring (and Tina!)

MORE OBSOLETE ENGLISH NAMES FOR BIRDS

Chapparal Cock Chat = Greater Roadrunner
 Cherry Bird = Cedar Waxwing
 Chewink = Rufous-sided Towhee = (now) Eastern Towhee and Spotted Towhee
 Cobhead = Common Goldeneye
 Cock of the Plains = Sage

Grouse

BIRD WATCHER

(A poem by Jane Yolen)

Across the earless

face of he moon

a stretch of Vs

honks homeward.

From the lake

laughs the last joke

of a solitary loon.

Winter silences us all.

I will miss

these conversations,

the trips at dawn

and dusk,

where I listen carefully,

then answer

Only with my eyes



"THE BIG SIT"

The results from The Big Sit! 2002 are now online at the New Haven Bird Club's website -

www.members.aol.com/nhbirdclub

Follow the link for The Big Sit!.

The Golden Bird! for 2002 turned out to be Green-winged Teal. Congratulations to Tom Hince and his team from Holiday Beach Conservation Area in Essex Co., Ontario. They were randomly chosen from the 31 circles that had Green-winged Teal on their list. Tom Hince and his team donated the \$500 prize from Swarovski Optik to the Holiday Beach Migration Observatory.

OBSERVATION POST

OBSERVERS: Laura Bayless (LBAY), Kris Buchler (KBUC), Janet Callen (JCAL), Corinne Cameron (CCAM), Bill Gundlach (BGUN), Lisa Hardy (LHAR), Lynn Sheridan (LSHE) Lori Stachow (LSTA) Shirley Sturts (SSTU), *Mica Bay Survey December 5 and 16 Roland Craft, Bill Gundlach, Sarah Reed Shirley Sturts*

Common Loon 2 Hayden Lake Dec. 8 (BGUN,RCRA)

Double-crested Cormorant 1 Indian Mt. CBC (Heyburn State Park area) new to the count Dec. 29 (SLIN)

Northern Pintail 150 Indian Mt. CBC (Heyburn State Park Area) Dec. 29 (SLIN)

Common Goldeneye 4 Hayden Lake Dec. 8 (BGUN,RCRA); 5 Higgins Point, CDA Lake Dec. 20 (KBUC)

Bufflehead 32 Hayden Lake Dec. 8 (RCRA,BGUN)

Hooded Merganser 12 Hayden Lake Dec. 8 (RCRA,BGUN)

Bald Eagle 105 Bald Eagle Survey at Wolf Lodge-Beauty Bay Dec. 23 (a record number) CCAM), 1 eating a Barrow's Goldeneye Twin Lakes Dec. 9 (LBAY)

Prairie Falcon 1 Indian Mt. CBC (Heyburn State Park area) New to the count Dec. 29 (SLIN)

Gray Partridge 10 Indian Mt. CBC (Heyburn S.P. area)SLIN)

Short-eared Owl 2 Rathdrum Prairie Dec. 22 and 2 Indain Mt. CBC (SLIN)

Downy Woodpecker 1 pr at her suet feeder 16th Street CDA Dec. 8 (LSHE)

Clark's Nutcracker 20 Indian Mt. CBC (Thompson Lake area) Dec. 29 (LHAR, SSTU)

Northern Shrike 1 Mica Bay Survey Dec. 5; 2 and 1 Indian Mt. CBC Cave Lake-Black Lake area and Heyburn State Park area (JCAL,RCRA,BGUN,SLIN)

White-breasted Nuthatch 1 Killarney Lake Dec. 26 (LHAR); 3 Indian Mt. CBC Thompson Lake area (1) St. Maries area (2) (LHAR,SSTU,LSTA)

Brown Creeper 1 Twin Lakes Dec. 9 (LBAY); 2 Killarney Lake Dec. 26 (LHARD)

Golden-crowned Kinglet 2 Higgins Point Dec. 20 (KBUC)

CHECK IT OUT

Tower Kill Issue

Here is a web site devoted to the growing tower kill issue:

www.towerkill.com/index.html

At the website click on any state and see for yourself what an incredible gauntlet migratory birds must run twice per year across the U.S. Plus there is a lot of other good information at this site. Interesting.

Road Kill Issue

Here is a web site devoted to the growing road kill issue:

<http://www.defenders.org/habitat/highways>

Visitors to the site can learn more about species most affected by roads and what they can do to help. By clicking on "State Info," they can find out what is happening in their home states. The site offers a library for books, full-length articles, bibliographies and more wildlife and transportation links.