

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society

January 2006

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 5

BOARD MEETING

DATE: January 16, Monday
TIME: 4:30 p.m. PLACE: Mt. West
Bank-125 Ironwood Dr.

NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION

JANUARY PROGRAM

DATE: January 16, Monday
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: First Presbyterian Church,
521 E. Lakeside, Coeur d'Alene
SPEAKER: Wayne Melquist, Retired
Idaho Fish and Game Biologist and
manager of the Nongame Program
PROGRAM: "New World Otters—
exploring the haunts of 5 species of
otters in the Americas"

Through photographs, we will take an in-depth look at our own North American river otter. We will then examine the plight of 4 species found in Central and South America, including the long-tailed otter, Southern river otter, Marine otter, and giant river otter.

2005-YARD LIST CHALLENGE

Turn your list into: Lisa Hardy
basalt@earthlink.net 2153B Old River
Road, Kingston, Idaho 83839

Send in your species list, and share any interesting bird behavior you observed in your yard during the year.

Look for the results in the February Fish Hawk Herald

Visit our website:
www.cdaaudubon.org

2006 YARD LIST CHALLENGE

IN ITS 6TH YEAR

Shirley Sturts



From the Fuyertes'
Bird Collection

Need a New Year's resolution that is not only fun but increases your understanding of birds that come to your backyard, and at the same time contributes to our knowledge of bird populations and distribution over the years? Several years of bird observations show trends in population and distribution. For example, the Eastern Blue Jay, Double-crested Cormorant and California Quail are expanding their territory in the northwest. Pygmy Nuthatch are missing from at least two feeders so far this winter.

Now is the time to take your bird watching one step further, join Lisa Hardy's "2006 Yard List Challenge". It can be as simple as keeping a list of species observed in 2006 and date seen or keeping a detailed personal journal of what birds and other wildlife use your yard. You can also count all birds that fly over, swim by (if you are looking out over water), are perched across the street or can be heard from your yard. In your journal you could include information about feeders, bird baths, plant utilized by birds for food, or shelter, nesting boxes etc. Other information to include could be arrival and departure dates of migrant, numbers, and interesting behavior observed.

Included in this newsletter is a Yard List Checklist to help you keep track of species seen. If you are reading this on the Coeur d'Alene Audubon website, email Lisa at basalt@earthlink.net and she will send you a copy of the list.

The variety of bird lists you can keep is endless. Some of the more popular lists are: North American list, state list, county list, yard list, year list, and trip list - that is, recording all the birds seen on a particular trip.

Continued on page 6

This Newsletter is printed on 100% post-

BIRD TRACKS



AUDUBON MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



GREEN TIPS

Green tips will be a monthly feature in our newsletter. It is designed to give you ideas for taking personal conservation action to improve the environmental health and habitat quality of our yards and neighborhoods. (*Members are encouraged to send tips to the editor for inclusion in future newsletters.*)

CLEANING HOUSE & WATER QUALITY

Lisa Hardy

Chlorine bleach was the housecleaning staple in my family. My job required dozens of moves while I was in my twenties; each rental apartment or house received a liberal application of bleach before I unpacked my things. But I no longer use bleach since I learned that the chlorine can react with certain organic compounds to produce truly nasty (i.e., toxic) substances. I simply use soap and water to clean most things, and the few items that truly need disinfecting, such as bird feeders, I clean with rubbing alcohol.

Many common household cleaning products contain toxic ingredients. Besides contributing to the pollution in your home, these substances, when rinsed down the drain, end up in our

local waterways; sewage treatment plants are not designed to treat chemical wastes.

Water quality districts advise the public to avoid products that contain ingredients such as: chlorinated compounds; acetone; mineral spirits; petroleum distillates; turpentine; formaldehyde; phenols; xylene; toluene; naphthas; synthetic perfumes, fragrances and dyes; and phosphates.

Consider using safer alternatives such as commercial products made by Ecover or Seventh Generation, or save yourself a lot of money by making homemade products from baking soda or vinegar (see link below). You might, upon reflection, find that some products are just not necessary. I stopped bleaching my sheets years ago, and the world did not end. (I also stopped ironing my sheets - don't tell my mother, though!)

Link to recipes for homemade cleaning products:

<http://www.ecocycle.org/hazwaste/recipes.cfm>

REARDAN'S AUDUBON LAKE

A letter from Vicki Sola, Director of Development and Communications Inland Northwest Land Trust

Dear friends and supporters of Reardan's Audubon Lake,

Because you helped us get this far, I wanted to let you know that Inland Northwest Land Trust (INLT) is preparing to exercise its option to purchase Reardan's Audubon Lake in order to ensure permanent protection of its magnificent conservation values.

When the lake was put up for

sale two and one-half years ago, INLT and Spokane Audubon Society worked together to find a way to permanently protect the lake and surrounding land for the numerous bird species that rely on it. INLT negotiated with the owner of Reardan's Audubon Lake, Susan Eastman, and bought some time to acquire it. Members of INLT, Spokane Audubon Society, and several Audubon chapters from Coeur d'Alene to Gray's Harbor raised \$51,000 to buy an option to purchase the entire 277-acre property. The option gives INLT until March 26, 2006, to raise the rest of the \$350,000 purchase price.

Earlier this year, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) received approval to purchase Reardan's Audubon Lake as critical habitat using funding through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. Government agencies must proceed very carefully in order to fulfill their responsibilities to the taxpayers who fund them. WDFW must go through several steps, including obtaining an appraisal, survey, and environmental assessment, as well as having the deal approved by the Fish and Wildlife Commission before it can purchase any property. This process takes time.

INLT's option agreement with Susan Eastman will expire in March 2006. Because there is no guarantee that WDFW will be able to purchase Audubon Lake before the option expires, INLT has decided to move forward with its own plans to purchase the property. INLT is working with a foundation to secure a \$300,000 short-term, low-interest loan.

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JANUARY - FEBRUARY FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

1. **PLEASE REGISTER:** Dates and trips could change.
2. **COST:** Participants will share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver at a rate of \$0.25/mile, with the trip leader responsible for collection and distribution of the compensation
3. **RADIOS:** We will ask participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries as needed.
4. **UNSCHEDULED TRIPS :** Sign up to be on the group email list for unscheduled trips with Shirley Sturts: s.sturts@verizon.net, or get on a call list by calling Shirley at 664-5318.

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES: January 10, Tuesday

TIME: 9:00 A.M. NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIME

MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

LEADERS: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318 - Kris Buchler, 664-4739

ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds in the Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome.

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE: January 17, Tuesday

MEET: Fernan Lake Boat Ramp, west end

LEADER: Lynn Sheridan, 765-2603

ACTIVITY: Take an hour out of your busy day to enjoy the out-of-doors, see how many different species of birds one can find in an hour and get to know people that share your interest in nature. Beginner bird watchers are welcome

RATHDRUM PRAIRIE

DATE: Sunday, January 22

TIME: 12:00 Noon to dark

MEET: K-Mart parking lot, south end

LEADER: Dick Cripe, 665-0010

ACTIVITY: Look for winter visitors from noon until dusk

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), a joint project of Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, returns for its ninth season February 17-20, 2006 - Look for an article about this event in the February Newsletter.

SANDPOINT AREA

DATE: Sunday, February 19

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

MEET: K-Mart parking lot, south end

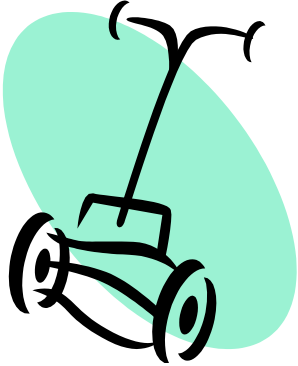
LEADER: Dick Cripe, 665-0010

ACTIVITY: Look for winter waterfowl and unusual gulls. (full day bring lunch and water)

5TH IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES
ABOUT LAWN CARE
(Next month, we'll get specific)

THE BEAUTIFUL LAWN Part V

Judy Waring, Janet Callen with
assistance from Lisa Hardy



The following information about the EPA pesticide registration program is from an EPA fact sheet. "The term pesticide includes many kinds of ingredients in products, such as insect repellants, weed killers, disinfectants and swimming pool chemicals which are designed to prevent, destroy, repel or reduce pests of any sort. Pesticides are found in nearly every home, business, farm, school, hospital and park in the United States. The EPA must evaluate pesticides before they can be marketed and used in the United States to ensure that they will meet federal safety standards to protect human health and the environment

In evaluating a pesticide registration application, EPA assesses a wide variety of potential human health and environmental effects associated with use of the product. The producer of the pesticide must provide data from tests done according to EPA guidelines. These tests evaluate whether a pesticide has the potential to cause adverse effects on humans, wildlife, fish, and plants, including endangered

species and non-target organisms, as well as possible contamination of surface water or ground water from leaching, runoff, and spray drift. Potential human risks range from short-term toxicity to long-term effects such as cancer and reproductive system disorders. EPA also must approve the language that appears on each pesticide label. A pesticide product can only be used legally according to the directions on the labeling accompanying it at the time of sale. Following label instructions carefully and precisely is necessary to ensure safe use."

All EPA approved pesticides will have an EPA registration number and one can use that number to find out more about the product. For example, Mr. Clean has EPA Reg # of 3573-63. If a product has no EPA# is poses no risk. Pesticides include insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, fungicides, nematocides, invertebrates, fumigants, antimicrobials, biopesticides and plant or insect growth regulators.

All non-organic pesticides have the potential for causing harm to humans, other animals, and the environment. And we love to put these chemicals on our lawns. If one application is good then two applications must be better. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has estimated that homeowners use 10 times more chemical pesticides on their lawns than farmers use on crops. Some chemicals commonly used on lawns in the U.S. have been banned or restricted in other countries because of concerns about health effects.

Some of the associated problems linked with the use of pesticides include increased odds of childhood leukemia, brain cancer, and soft tissue sarcoma. Birth defects, central

nervous system disorders, liver and kidney damage, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma have shown statistically higher incidences in people exposed to pesticides.

Humans are not the only species that are affected by the use of pesticides. Almost 100% of all fish analyzed in major rivers and streams contained residues of one or more pesticides at detectable levels according to the United States Geological Survey. Surface water and groundwater commonly are found to have the same contaminants. In short, the ripple effect from pesticides reaches far.

With these threats to our health and environment made evident, it seems worth our time and effort to re-learn the whole concept of lawns and their care.

The most commonly used pesticides are herbicides used for lawn weed control. And they come so conveniently packaged in combination fertilizer/herbicide products. Generally the instructions for these products instruct the user to spread the product on a damp lawn so the weed-killing granules can stick to the broad leaves of the weeds. Then, do not water for 24 to 48 hours, leaving this toxic product available to stick to the paws of our pets, the hands, feet and clothing of children and looking very tasty to birds. Adults may track these chemicals into the home. Pets, children and birds may ingest this killer product. Sprays for weeds are also more effective if not washed away for several days. Therefore, if one must use an herbicide don't spray the entire lawn and don't use a combination fertilizer/herbicide. Spot spray only, if other environmentally safe measures have not worked.

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THE BEAUTIFUL LAWN Continued from page 4

Herbicides for lawn weed control come in several forms; nonselective, which kill everything they touch and selective, which may kill only broad-leaf plants (Weed-B-Gon). There are also soil-applied herbicides which are pre-emergent. They prevent weeds from sprouting, but don't kill growing plants.

An Audubon member and Scottish Terrier breeder, Janet Allen, provided an informative article about bladder cancer in Scottish Terriers. The article was published in Great Scots Magazine and was about the results of a Purdue cancer study which found; "...significantly increased risk for Transitional Cell Carcinoma [of the urinary bladder] was demonstrated in dogs exposed to lawns or gardens treated with herbicides....Repeated and long term exposure to lawns or gardens treated several times a year with phenoxy herbicides in particular.....suggest a cumulative effect on Scotties."

A study from the National Cancer Institute found that companion dogs with canine malignant lymphoma were more likely than healthy dogs to live in households where the yard was treated with the herbicide 2,4-D.

An insecticide used to kill lawn insects can kill the bird that eats the insect.

In a recent study of pesticide exposure among children living in a major U.S. metropolitan area, traces of garden chemicals were found in 99% of the 110 children tested. And a U.S. Geological Survey analysis of 20 major river basins and aquifer systems reveals that commonly used lawn and garden pesticides are routinely

found in surface and ground water throughout the country.

A recent University of Pittsburgh study found that the non-selective herbicide Roundup is highly lethal to amphibians in a natural setting. A test in a pond with 25 species caused a 70 percent decline in amphibian biodiversity and an 86 percent decline in the total mass of tadpoles.

BEGINNING BIRDERS

FIELD TRIP October 29

Dick Cripe

At least it wasn't raining. A gray overcast day did not discourage six beginning birders from showing up for some instruction. Kris Buchler and Stephen Johnson were the instructors for Justin Jorgenson, Jake Thillits, Krista Franz, Jasmine Griggs, Jeneire Mender, and David Yeats. They were accompanied by Lynn Sheridan and Dick Cripe.

We visited the boat launch areas at both ends of Fernan Lake. There were lots of Mallard, Bufflehead, Ring-billed Gull, plus a few Double-crested Cormorant, House Sparrow, House Finch, Great Blue Heron, Northern Flicker.

BROWN BAG BIRDING

November 22, 2005

Lynn Sheridan

Karen Linnane and Genie Higbee and I scanned the beach at Independence Point, and at first saw only Mallard and Ring-billed Gull then a couple of grebe popped up, that we decided were Horned Grebe in winter plumage.

Further along the beach were many Canada Geese and gulls Two California Gull were noted, and small groups of Bufflehead emerged. I had

hoped to find Double-crested Cormorant, but a tug boat and a mechanical crane were noisily working among the logs, probably dispersing them.

At the Spokane River a Great Blue Heron was seen and hordes of gull and geese. the only other non-aquatic species seen were Rock Pigeon and an American Crow. Not a single tree top chirp -- sorry fellow birders!!

December 20, 2005

Karen Linnane, Judy Edwards, Judy Waring and Mike McLean (from the CDA Press) met me at the start of Rosenberry Dr, by the sawmill, to bird along the Spokane River.

It was unusual to see logs floating down the middle of the river, shunting the birds to the sides, and no gulls were perched on the pilings. A hawk patrolled overhead, but we couldn't decide if it was a pale Red-tailed, or a Rough-legged.

From among the Canada Geese and Mallards a domestic goose came begging, and ate bread from my hand. It is sometimes mistaken for a Greater White-fronted Goose, which is rarely seen here.

Further along we threw bread to entice a flock of gulls closer, but only Ring-billed Gulls deigned to come.

We had a wonderful time discussing the recent Christmas Bird Count, our feeder activity and the birds on view today.

Other species seen: 26 Double-crested Cormorant, 6 Common Merganser, a dozen Bufflehead and American Crow, a Great Blue Heron, and many California Quail. No nuthatches or chickadees were seen or heard. Thank you everyone,

BIRD TRACKS CONTINUED

REARDAN'S AUDUBON LAKE Continued from page 2

When WDFW has completed the steps required before a state purchase, INLT will then sell Audubon Lake to WDFW as quickly as possible. INLT will use the proceeds of the sale to pay off the loan.

Thank you for helping make this possible. Without your help, INLT would not have been able to secure the purchase option. I look forward to joining you in celebration when the permanent protection of Reardan's Audubon Lake is finally assured.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 509-462-1239 or by e-mail vsola@inlandnwlandtrust.org.

Editors note: Our Audubon Chapter donated \$200 to the Reardan's Audubon Lake fund in January of 2004.

COUNTY BIG YEARS LISTS

Twenty-two Counties participated in keeping group County Big Year Lists for 2005. See the results on www.idahobirds.net. I compiled the Kootenai County List, Lisa Hardy the Shoshone list, and Lisa and I worked together on a Bonner County List. I am going to add a Benewah list for 2006. Kootenai County ended 2005 with 202 species on our list. This is our 4th year of keeping a Kootenai County List. We had 199 in 2002, 192 in 2003, and 207 in 2004.

Lisa came up with 157 on the Shoshone list and we were able to put together a list of 175 species for Bonner County, mostly taken from field trips by

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Coeur d'Alene Audubon and the folks from the Moscow area

The 2006 list is started. So far, as this newsletter goes to print, we have 67 species on the Kootenai County List. Thank You contributors. Go to our website to see the list of species:

www.cdaaudubon.org

Craig Corder is doing a group big year for Spokane County. You can report any rare Spokane birds to Craig at <mailto:2cbird@direcway.com>

BIRD TRACKS



"If I were to make a study of the tracks of animals and represent them by plates, I should conclude with the tracks of man"

Henry David Thoreau

2006 YARD LIST CHALLENGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Here are some tips for keeping bird lists:

- ❖ Good birders are absolutely positive of its identification before adding a bird to their lists. This is called keeping "clean" lists.
- ❖ Decide on what kind of lists you want to keep.
- ❖ Get familiar with the birds around you and be able to identify them accurately. For those of you who find the lister approach a bit too "serious" think of it instead as motivation to hone your observation skills. You may need to spend a little more time

with a bird field guide in order to sort out the Cassin's and House Finches so that you can tally both of them on your list.

- ❖ Make a note of the birds you see that qualify for your list, use a local checklist, a notebook, or the checklist in your field guide.
- ❖ Include the date, location, number of birds, habitat, weather, and a running total of the number of species.
- ❖ For any rare or hard to identify bird, take notes. Include field marks observed, distance from the bird, optical equipment used, and if possible take a photograph. Contact other experienced birders to confirm the sighting.
- ❖ Familiarize yourself with the birds that are found in North Idaho and know which ones are common or rare. You can do this by going to the Kootenai County Big Year List on the Audubon Website www.cdaaudubon.org/KootenaiCo2006.htm which includes a checklist of birds for Kootenai County compiled by Stephen Lindsay.



BIRD QUOTE CORNER

The lark at break
of day arising

From sullen earth, sings hymns at
heaven's gate

William Shakespeare, Sonnet 29

2006 YARDLIST CHALLENGE WORKSHEET

NAME _____

LOCATION _____

____ City Limits ____ Urban ____ suburban ____ Rural ____ Water View

____ Birdbath ____ Feeder (Number) circle type hanging, suet, platform, ground

Type of Vegetation _____

Favorite Bird _____

Comments: interesting behavior, high or low numbers than normal etc.
add an extra page or use the back of his form if needed

	Date - Number - Comments		Date - Number - Comments
Canada Goose		Swainson's Thrush	
Turkey Vulture		Hermit Thrush	
Sharp-shinned Hawk		American Robin	
Red-tailed Hawk		Varied Thrush	
Merlin		Gray Catbird	
Ring-necked Pheasant		Bohemian Waxwing	
Ruffed Grouse		Cedar Waxwing	
Wild Turkey		European Starling	
California Quail		Cassin's Vireo	
Killdeer		Warbling Vireo	
Ring-billed Gull		Red-eyed Vireo	
gull spp.		Yellow Warbler	
Rock Pigeon		Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Mourning Dove		Western Tanager	
Great Horned Owl		Black-headed Grosbeak	
Northern Pygmy Owl		Spotted Towhee	
Common Nighthawk		Chipping Sparrow	
Vaux's Swift		Song Sparrow	
Black-chinned Hummingbird		White-crowned Sparrow	
Calliope Hummingbird		Dark-eyed Junco Oregon	
Rufous Hummingbird		Dark-eyed Junco slate-colored	
Red-naped Sapsucker		Red-winged Blackbird	
Downy Woodpecker		Brewer's Blackbird	
Hairy Woodpecker		Brown-headed Cowbird	
Northern Flicker		Cassin's Finch	
Pileated Woodpecker		House Finch	
Western Wood-Pewee		Red Crossbill	
Hammond's Flycatcher		Common Redpoll	
Western Flycatcher		Pine Siskin	
Other:			

