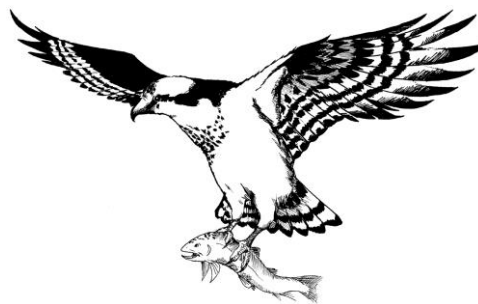


# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
[www.cdaaudubon.org](http://www.cdaaudubon.org)

January 2012

Volume 21 Number 5

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> YEAR OF THE COEUR D'ALENE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT



**Trumpeter Swan – Hayden Lake**  
**Photograph by Lisa Hardy**

- 71 species plus 2 count week birds – tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place ( 73 species in 2003 and 2007 - 71 species in 2000 )
  - 8,798 individual birds – 4<sup>th</sup> highest number (10,119 individual birds in 2007)
  - 25 birders in the field on 7 teams plus 12 feeder counters
  - Best Bird: Virginia Rail (1) at the east end of Fernan Lake, along Fernan Creek - found by Laura Bayless, Dick Cripe, Mary Deasy and Forsberg. Not only is it a first for the CDA CBC, it is the first winter record I have for this species north of Lewiston.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Bird: Trumpeter Swan (3) on Hayden Lake – found by Lisa Hardy, Nancy Mertz and Matt Thurley – they also had 1 of the two Great Horned Owls.
  - Best Feeder Bird: White-breasted Nuthatch (1) reported by Nancy Kroese
- Best Waterfowl: Cackling Goose (11) on the Spokane River observed by Bill Gundlach, George Saylor, John Scarola and Doug Ward – They also had our only Northern Shrike.
  - Most hawks: (19) found by Shirley Sturts, Theresa Potts, and Derek Antonelli (including the Merlin found by Doug Ward in their section)

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## JANUARY PROGRAM

**DATE:** January 10, Tuesday

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

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

**SPEAKER:** Jim Hayden

**PROGRAM:** “Navigating The Oceans of Emotions: The Management of Wolves in Northern Idaho”

Jim Hayden, Regional Wildlife Manager of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, will talk about the recent history and management of wolves in Idaho’s five northernmost counties. Here in Idaho’s Panhandle, wolves are a mix of those finding their way naturally to the area, and the progeny of those resulting from the transplant into the central part of the state. Jim will discuss this history, and the gap between function and form in managing this apex predator in populated areas.

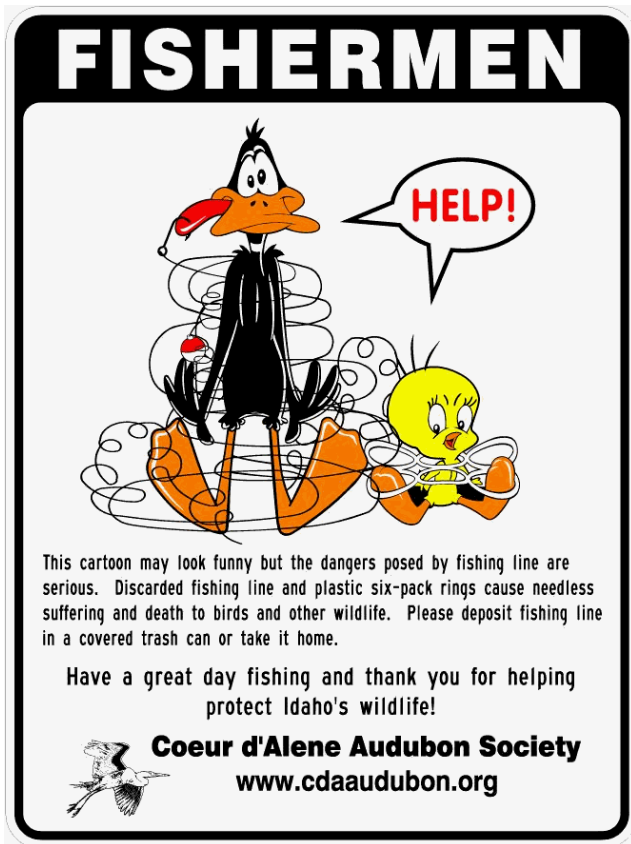
### **BOARD MEETING**

**DATE:** January 10, Tuesday

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

**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.

## FISHING LINE POSTERS



Our Audubon Chapter had these signs made some time ago. Our Conservation Committee distributed them at boat launches and other areas where fisherman could see them. Because they are so cute, people were taking them. Since that time Roland Craft has been taking them to the Forest Service, Idaho Fish and Game, etc. and asking them to post them in more secure places. I noticed the other day that one is posted at the Mica Bay boat launch under glass where it can't be taken down. We recently had a request for posters from Kearstin Edward, Natural Resource Specialist from the North Fork & Palouse Ranger Districts, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. Roland mailed her several and they will be posted on the North Fork Ranger District along popular fishing rivers next spring.

Next time you see Roland, be sure to thank him for his efforts in getting these signs posted. If you know of good secure places for one of these posters, Roland has several available.

## BAR-TAILED GODWIT

Article from "Now I Know" by Dan Lewis  
Dan invites you to subscribe to  
"Now I Know" at <http://dlewis.net/nik>



Pictured above, the Bar-tailed Godwits is a type of migratory bird. It weighs, on average, about a pound, give or take half a pound, and eats and rests only on land. The birds are native to Australia but breed in the Northern Hemisphere -- primarily in Alaska, Scandinavia, and northern Asia. But note that the trip from Australia to Alaska is almost entirely over the Pacific Ocean, without any land of which to speak. This fact highlights a peculiarity of the Bar-tailed Godwit: it can travel extreme distances -- thousands of miles at a time -- without stopping for food, rest, or even sleep.

In February of 2007, researchers in New Zealand, working with the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) Alaska Science Center, captured 16 Bar-tailed Godwits and outfitted them with satellite tags. The birds were set free, now able to be tracked by the USGS scientists. One of the birds, named "E7" (due to its tracking code), was tracked migrating up to Alaska via China. The first leg of the flight, [according to the BBC](#) (link on our website), was a record 6,340 mile trek. The second leg was a similarly impressive 3,000 mile trans-Pacific flight to Alaska. But E7 wasn't done yet. On her return trip to New Zealand, she skipped the China stopover, making an eight-day trip of approximately 7,250 miles. That's two and a half times the distance of New York to Los Angeles or nearly four times the distance between Paris and Moscow.

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## BAR-TAILED GODWIT

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How do these birds do it? While much of it is a mystery to us, [NPR has a few details](#) (link on our website). First, the birds eat an enormous amount before taking flight, doubling their body weight as some internal organs which will not be very useful during the trip (such as intestines) shrink to make room for the extra fat. All of this additional weight is lost during the trip. Second, the bird kind of, sort of sleeps on its journey -- again, as NPR states, by "shutting down one side of the brain at a time."

In total, the typical Bar-tailed Godwit will fly 300,000 migratory miles over its roughly 20 year lifespan.

**Editor's note:** I added a Bar-tailed Godwit to my life list - June 22, 1999 Nome, Alaska. I was on a birding tour with Goldeneye Tours. John Shipley led the trip.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> YEAR ...

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- The highest number of American Robin (18) and Black-billed Magpie (28) plus one of 2 teams finding a Great Horned Owl are credited to Janet Callen, Lynn Sheridan and Judy Waring.
- Mourning Dove numbers were low this year - 23 compared with 107 in 2003. Jan and Herb Severtson, Eula Hickam and Diane Partridge came up with 9 of them. Another 9 were found by Kris and Ed Buchler, Roland Craft, Carrie Hugo and Darlene Carlton.
- Double-crested Cormorants (5) showed up on the CDA CBC for the first time in 2001 and have increased every year until this year. We had 77 in 2010 but only 55 this year. Kris Buchler's team counted 53 and, the other 2 were found by the team led by Laura Bayless.
- The 420 Common Mergansers beat the record for the most seen on 21 counts. Lisa Hardy, Nancy Mertz and Matt Thurley counted 417 of them on Hayden Lake.

- The Greater Scaup seen by Doug Ward during count week was a first for the count.
- The 24 Canvasback and 34 Redhead, not seen every year, were the highest number counted on any previous year. Kris Buchler's and Bill Gundlach's teams found these species on their routes.
- All together 7 teams walked 6 ½ miles and drove 378 miles. We spent 9 hours on foot and 46 hours driving. The 12 feeder counters spent a total of 24 hours counting at their feeders.

Thank you field and feeder participants for taking part in the Christmas Bird Count this year. Good weather, good roads and lots of enthusiasm made it one of our best Christmas Bird Counts. A special thanks goes to Laura Bayless for hosting our potluck and compiling session. **See results on our Website.**

## SCOUTING FOR THE COEUR D'ALANE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Roland Craft

On December 3rd, the Coeur d'Alene Audubon birders had an interesting day scouting the Coeur d'Alene area prior to the actual count. We were hoping to see a Snowy Owl, Snow Bunting, Common Redpoll, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Pacific and Red-throated Loons and a Prairie Falcon, all having been seen in the area recently. Unfortunately, we did not spot any of these birds!! But we did find many other species, such as Red-tailed Hawk, Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Northern Shrike, Common Raven, Black-billed Magpie, European Starling, American Robin, many Canada Geese both on the prairie and at NIC and City Beach, Ring-necked Pheasant, numerous Mallard, Ring-billed Gull, Bufflehead, and Double-crested Cormorant. Also viewed were 20 pure white pigeons, a Rock Pigeon and a mature Bald Eagle. Not too bad for 2/3 of a day.

Birders present were Shirley Sturts, Janet Callen, Judy and Phil Waring, Darlene Carlton, Matt Thurley, George Saylor, Kris Buchler and Roland Craft

## IDAHO BIRD OBSERVATORY

If you travel to Boise, be sure to visit the Idaho Bird Observatory's new office. It is located at the corner of University Dr. and Capitol Blvd...near the Quiznos Subs.



### Excerpts from Idaho Bird Observatory e-newsletter: December, 2011

#### Lucky Peak

2011 marked our 19th season on the Boise Ridge! The season was a huge success due to the generous support from our donors and volunteers.... thank you! We couldn't have done it without YOU! We banded over 5,000 song-birds, over 1,000 raptors, and almost 600 owls! Over 1,000 people visited us and we hosted a record 45 organized groups from around the community including school and scout groups.

**Editor's Note:** Several of our Audubon members visited Lucky Peak as part of a 4 day field trip on October 6-9, 2010. The trip was led by Lisa Hardy. Their most numerous species that day was Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

## Long-billed Curlew Project

This was the third year of the Long-billed Curlew project, which is also being conducted in conjunction with IDFG. 2011 was not a good year for Long-billed Curlew numbers in our study area. Reproductive effort was very low compared to previous years. The crew found only 3 curlew nests (compared to 17 and 20 in the previous two years), and only 1 of the 3 nests was successful. Thanks to the 2011 crew members and volunteers: Morgan Parks, Alex Lamoreaux, Anna Fasoli, Heather Craig, Shaun Olson, Eddie Shea, Lauren Whitenack, Dave Wike, Alessia Cantaboni, Cheryl Huizinga, Patty McGrath, and Sandy Vistine-Amdor for all their hard work!!

Long-billed Curlews are declining throughout their range and we don't know exactly why. Contributing factors may include habitat loss and degradation and/or human disturbances. Some threats may be during migration and/or on their wintering grounds. But the problem is that we don't even know where the curlews that breed in Idaho go in the winter! Our knowledge about what curlews do once they leave Idaho is extremely poor, hampering our ability to explain population declines.

Basic questions about which we lack information include:

- What migratory routes do curlews take to reach their wintering grounds?
- When do Idaho curlews arrive on their wintering grounds, and where do they winter?
- What habitats do curlews require during migration? What about in winter?
- What threats are they facing on their travels between Idaho and their southerly wintering grounds?

The Long-billed Curlew is a *Species of Greatest Conservation Need* in Idaho, and is also a species of concern with the BLM, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Environment Canada. Satellite transmitters can provide valuable insights into the species' migratory routes, timings, and habitat requirements across Canada, the US, and Mexico. This information will help researchers in their efforts to conserve curlews!! Did you know?.... A satellite transmitter study in Montana documented a Long-billed Curlew traveling nearly 1,250 miles in just 27 hours!!! Wow!!!

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## Long-billed Curlew Project

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Would you be willing to sponsor a satellite transmitter and create a unique opportunity to follow the migration of your very own curlew?



Photo: Alex Lamoreaux and Anna Fasoli

### Adopt a Long-billed Curlew!!!

Along with weekly blog and/or email updates about your curlew's migration progress, donors will receive a portrait of their curlew and will be recognized in our annual newsletter. In addition, full sponsors will receive a footprint cast of their bird and the opportunity to name their curlew.

All donations are tax deductible. We are a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) organization. You can also support education in Idaho by requesting your donation go toward a "classroom bird" in a local school! Your donation will allow schools to name and track their own curlew in the classroom each week, while learning about ecosystem interactions, conservation, geography, migration and curlew natural history!!

To sponsor a Long-billed Curlew for you or as a gift for someone else (or if you have any questions) please get in touch with Dr. Jay Carlisle at the Idaho Bird Observatory: [jaycarlisle@boisestate.edu](mailto:jaycarlisle@boisestate.edu) or call us at 208-426-5203.

## KOOTENAI ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE (KEA)

### JANUARY CALENDAR

Thursday, January 5th @ Noon  
KEA Lunch & Learn: Invasive Aquatic Species  
Speaker: Tom Wolfe  
Location: The Iron Horse Restaurant

Thursday, January 19th @ Noon  
KEA Lunch & Learn  
Speaker: TBD  
Location: The Iron Horse Restaurant

Friday, January 27th @ 6:00PM  
KEA Annual Meeting  
Location: 804 N 4th St Coeur d'Alene, ID (The orange building across from Capone's)  
KEA Members and Friends join us! Free hors d'oeuvre and wine.

### FIELD TRIPS 2011-2012

**PLEASE REGISTER:** Watch the website or newsletter for updates to our field trip schedule. 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 mileage reimbursement for the driver.



#### MICA BAY SURVEY

**Date:** January 10, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Meet:** Fairmont Loop and Highway 95  
**Leader:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318  
**Activity:** We spend about 2-3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome. We will help you with identification skills.

#### PEND OREILLE RIVER AND LAKE

**Date:** January 22, 2012 (Sunday)  
**Leader:** Bill Gundlach, 667-3339  
**Meet:** K-Mart parking lot, south side  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

This will be a full day trip. Bring a lunch and water. This is primarily a waterfowl and eagle sighting trip.

