



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

January 2014

Volume 23 Number 5

JANUARY PROGRAM

DATE: January 14, Tuesday

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

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

SPEAKER: Michael Lucid, Idaho Fish and Game Wildlife Diversity biologist

PROGRAM: The Multi-species Baseline Initiative (MBI) is a collaboration of organizations collecting wildlife and micro-climate data at thousands of sites across the Idaho Panhandle and adjoining mountain ranges. Michael will present a program describing this effort to develop a biodiversity monitoring program for the Idaho Panhandle.

More information about MBI can be found at:

<https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/content/baseline>

BOARD MEETING

DATE: January 8, Wednesday

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

TIME: 4:00 p.m.



Coeur d'Alene CBC Results

December 14, 2013

- 6 Teams – 22 Observers
- Drove 329 miles and Walked 3 miles
- 9 Feeder Watchers
- Spent a total of 13 ½ hours checking their feeders
- 1 hour of owling before 7:00 a.m. covering 20 miles by 1 observer
- We started at 7:15 a.m. and ended at 4:00 p.m.
- Temperatures from 38-41 degrees
- Some light rain, some fog, some sunshine, snow spotty to 2 inches in places
- 71 species (past highest 73 in '03,'07 and '12 and 71 in '00 and '11)
- 4 species count week (3 days before and 3 days after)
- 7,974 total number of individual birds (record high was 10,234 in 2012)
- Of 23 years of doing the count, we ranked 9th this year for total number of individual birds
- 105 Eurasian Collared Dove took 1st prize – 1st year on the count was 2009 with 6, then 18 last year
- Mew Gull (1) & Lesser Black-backed Gull (count week) were the most rare – both requiring documentation

See the charts on our Website to see other years results <http://cdaudubon.org/projects.html>

Audubon Chapter Happenings

Books for Tots

Thank you to those who contributed books to this project. Our Chapter donated 76 books. Linda Rohlinger, the organizer of Books for Tots, told me they had collected more than 5000 books and were able to give each child 2 or 3 age-appropriate books. We plan to be part of this program next year, concentrating on bird and nature oriented books. See the article in our December newsletter for more information.

Christmas Bird Counts

Thank you to all those who participated in the three Christmas Bird Counts that we sponsor: Coeur d'Alene, Spirit Lake, and Indian Mountain. Go to our Website and look under projects for the results of the counts.

Shirley Sturts

Christmas Potluck



Thanks to all of the bird counters who attended the Coeur d'Alene post-Christmas Bird Count potluck. The variety of dishes was amazing and there was something to suit everyone. Kudos to Eula Hickam for bringing her coffee pot and coffee for those in need. Special thanks to Jan Severtson and Ed Buchler who helped set up the clubhouse. Extra thanks to Laura and Ron Forsberg who traveled the furthest and stayed the latest to vacuum and sweep the floors. I did not have to go back the next day! Lucky me. I hope we can do it again next year!



Kris Buchler

"The Yard List"

Doug Ward



Varied Thrush - Photo by Doug Ward

Most birders I know like to list. We've got our life lists, ABA list, State lists, county lists, trip lists, day lists, heck, I even have an "office window" list (have to see it from my office - 22 species so far).

But for many of us, it is the Yard List which can be the most fun. It is the place where we spend most of our time and every so often have one of those nice little surprises out the kitchen window as we are doing the dishes which can make the day. We want to know what you've seen in your yard during 2013 and wish you good luck in 2014.

What you considered your yard is up to you. Some folks only keep track of what has actually landed in the yard, I count anything that can be seen or heard from the yard, while others broaden the view to their neighborhood or larger property if they own some land. So, whatever your definition is, we'd like to add your Yard List to our compilation. If you would like to send in your list, which we really hope you do, please email or "snail mail" me what you saw in your yard in 2013 and I will add it to the others and get the combined lists posted to the Coeur d'Alene Audubon website (under the "Projects" page) in a few weeks. Happy New Year and good yard birding in 2014!

Doug Ward

8362 Selkirk Ct.

Hayden, ID 83835 dougward@frontier.com



Bird monitoring project Farragut state park

Kris Buchler

This spring, three Audubon members undertook a bird monitoring project under the urging of Kootenai Environmental Alliance. The monitoring was to take place on the property owned by IDFG and to approximate a route that was surveyed over ten years ago. IDFG is planning a “habitat-restoration” project which will entail logging that will eventually change the forest makeup from mixed-coniferous forest to a predominantly ponderosa forest. This naturally will impact many species of breeding songbirds, especially those which are ground-nesters and low tree and shrub-nesters.

Carrie Hugo and I set up the points along with Dave Leptich of IDFG who had been involved in some of the past surveys. The 13 points began in untouched mixed coniferous forest above and just north of Buttonhook Bay and ended just north of Willow Day use area in the treated area nearing the viewpoint.

Carrie, Lisa Hardy and I do Breeding Bird Surveys and can identify over 100 regional species by ear, recognizing both songs and calls. We worked usually as pairs but 2 counts had 3 of us, with Janet Torline, of KEA, joining us for one of the counts. Each point was surveyed for a total of 5 minutes. Every bird heard or seen was recorded for each of the individual minutes, with care not to double count. This determines those birds who may quit singing at the beginning, those who continuously sing, and those who might chime in near the end of the 5 minute period,

We usually began before 6:00 a.m. and finished the route within 2 ½ hours, hiking approximately 2 ¼ miles one way. This was the best time for monitoring birds and avoiding early hikers, bikers, or dog walkers.

Doing seven counts from May 14 to July 8, gave us a picture of which species are breeders and usually on the same territory, as opposed to those we may encounter only once or twice and are migrants or non-breeders. We intend to repeat the counts again next year mid-May to early July. This will give us a clearer picture of which species really use the territory.

We had no real surprises. The usual warbler species were present – Yellow, Yellow-rumped, MacGillivray’s, Orange-crowned, Townsend’s and a few Nashvilles. The flycatchers were present, including Dusky, Hammond’s and Western. All of our 3 species of chickadees showed up as well as the 2 nuthatches – Red-breasted and Pygmy. The eventual ponderosa pine habitat is supposed to favor the Pygmy Nuthatches.

One of the non-breeders we encountered was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, counted a couple of times on the surveys. These birds are usually at higher elevations during this time of year.

The species who will likely be most impacted by the treatment will be Dark-eyed Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Mourning Dove, Yellow Warbler, Spotted Towhee and Ruffed Grouse. Cavity-nesters such as chickadees, nuthatches, and woodpeckers may lose many of their nest snags.

Hopefully the three of us will repeat the surveys again next spring. We welcome interested parties to join us in this endeavor. All that is required is that participants get up early and can remain silent during the count periods.

Sandpoint Field Trip

Lisa Hardy

November 23, 2013 - Sunny, cold weather all day made for good viewing of waterfowl on Lake Pend Oreille. Our first stop was City Beach, where a brisk northeast wind pushed up whitecaps and made our eyes water. Apparently the birds felt the same, for very few were in evidence on this windy shore. Before heading around to Sunnyside, which we expected to be in the lee of the wind, we followed Earl Chapin's directions to see a mostly white Red-tailed Hawk on Selle Road. We found the hawk exactly as advertised, and got good, though brief looks at it in flight.

The hawk's back was white, with a small amount of dark feathers around the neck. The head and tail appeared dark, i.e., mostly with normal pigment. This condition is known as leucism, rather than albinism which is the complete lack of melanin pigment. Albinos lack an enzyme required for the production of melanin, whereas leucistic birds are able to produce melanin, but there is a defect in the mechanism by which the pigment is incorporated into the developing feathers. Leucistic birds can have a few to many or all white feathers, but have normally pigmented eyes. True albinos have pink eyes and generally have impaired vision, which reduces their survival rates. There is no such thing as a "partial albino", a term that is sometimes applied to leucistic individuals.

After the hawk flew out of sight, we continued on to Sunnyside. The lake level was 7 feet lower than typical, and the shoreline along Oden Bay was far from the road, but we could see swans along the water's edge. At Hawkin's Point, we scoped out large numbers of waterfowl at the Pack River delta, mostly American Wigeon, but including other dabblers like Mallard, Gadwall and Northern Shoveler. We tallied 4 Common

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Loon and four species of grebe before returning to Sandpoint.

Our last stop was the dock at 3rd St. Here we found thousands of dabblers, divers, and coots strung out in a line sheltered from the wind by the dike forming the north end of the Long Bridge. Four Killdeer foraging on the frozen mudflat finished off a beautiful day with good friends.

Trip participants: Kris Buchler, Janet Callen, Roland Craft, Bill Gundlach, Lisa Hardy, Sally Jones

39 species

Elusive Roadrunner

Reprint from the Nest Watch Newsletter



Earlier this month, Doris Evans of Tucson, Arizona, submitted this photo of a Greater Roadrunner at the nest, with five chicks. This was the first

photo of a roadrunner nest to have been submitted to NestWatch, so we thought we'd share! Doris says that to observe and photograph a pair of nesting Greater Roadrunners from her own yard "was an amazing experience." She watched the pair building the nest, incubating the eggs, and raising five young.

Roadrunners often situate their nest in a thorny bush, small tree, or cactus 3–10' high. The nest is usually located near the center of the thorny plant, and is well concealed. Among the more typical nest materials you might expect (twigs, grasses, feathers, and mesquite pods), you might also find snakeskin or dried cow manure.

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Elusive Roadrunner

Continued from page 4 Old nests are sometimes reused for a winter roost, something most cup-nesting birds don't do. Another unusual thing about roadrunners is that both parents incubate the eggs. Males and females both develop a brood patch (a wrinkly patch of bare skin on the abdomen) that is used to transfer heat to eggs. The male takes the night shift because, unlike the female, his body temperature will remain constant all night, rather than drop to conserve precious energy.

Speaking of energy, the roadrunner diet is truly cosmopolitan. A startling variety of foods are taken, including some venomous species. Lizards (including horned lizards), snakes (even rattlesnakes), insects, spiders, scorpions, birds, bird eggs, and pet food are all fair game. To fully appreciate their dietary gusto, [watch a video](#) that Doris captured of the parents feeding a zebra-tailed lizard to a nestling that is scarcely bigger than the prey.

If you live in the southwestern United States, you might find a roadrunner nest by looking carefully in your thorny shrubs and cacti this winter. Occasionally, they will reuse a nest the next breeding season. Check out more of [Doris' photos](#) to get your "search image," and then go out and see what you find!

Field Trips 2013-2014

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 a mileage reimbursement for the driver.*



Mica Bay Survey

Date: January 14, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - **Note the time change**

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome. We will help you with identification skills.

Raptor Survey

Date: January 18 , Saturday

And February 15, Saturday

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet: K-Mart parking lot

Leader: Doug Ward 762-7107

We limit this outing to one car. If interested, register ahead of time with Doug.

We drive a set route across the Rathdrum Prairie and record hawk species and numbers. This a regional survey being coordinated by the East Cascades Audubon Society. Because of traffic Please join in the survey and help spot hawks. Beginners are welcome. This is an excellent way to learn hawk identification. The survey takes around 2-3 hours. Bring water and snacks if you wish. .

Pend Oreille River, Lake and Priest River;

Date: February 1, Saturday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: K-Mart parking lot, south side.

Leaders: Lisa Hardy 783-282 and Janet Callen 664-1085

This will be a full-day trip, bring lunch and water. Target birds primarily waterfowl and eagles.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Become a member of the National Audubon Society, Join online at www.audubon.org or use this form.

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP

- Regular \$20.00
- Two Years \$30.00
- Seniors and Students \$15.00

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- Individual \$10.00
- Family \$15.00
- Individual \$25.00 - with hard copy of the newsletter
- Family \$30.00 - with hard copy of the newsletter
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