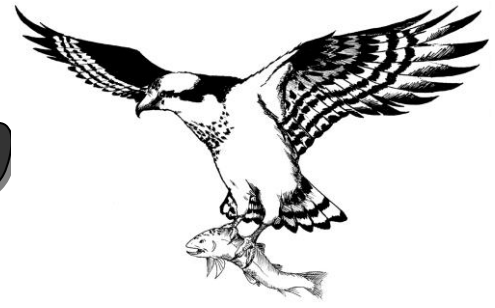


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

March 2011

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 7

MARCH PROGRAM

DATE: March 8, Tuesday

PLACE: Lutheran Church of the Master,
4800 North Ramsey

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

SPEAKER: Bertie Weddell

For the past 18 years, Bertie has been the principal of *Draba*, a consulting firm she founded that specializes in the conservation of species and habitats at risk in the Inland Northwest. She also teaches Conservation and Human Rights for Whitworth University's Costa Rica Institute.

PROGRAM: "Palouse Prairie and efforts to restore this distinctive community"

Prior to the middle of the nineteenth century, bunchgrasses and wildflowers dominated the deep soils of the Palouse region of southeastern Washington and adjacent northern Idaho. When Euro-Americans settled the region, their livestock and ploughs irreversibly altered the native plant communities, as well as the animals associated with them. Bertie Weddell will discuss these changes as well as current threats to Palouse Prairie and efforts to restore this distinctive community.

BOARD MEETING

DATE: March 8, Tuesday

PLACE: Mountain West Bank,
125 Ironwood

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

Visit our website:

www.cdaudubon.org

THE TEN BEST ARTICLES IN BIRDING MAGAZINE

by Ted Floyd

Reprint from American Birding Association Blog 16 02/07/2011

"I can't seem to resolve this matrix," said Tom indeterminately.

Alright, no more about indeterminacy. But here's something else that I hope will generate some amount of discussion. In this post, I enumerate what I consider to be the ten best articles in *Birding* magazine.

A few ground rules: I'm restricting this analysis to just the eight full calendar years (2003–2010) I've been the editor of *Birding*. And I'm limiting myself only to full-length feature articles. In other words, all of those magnificent mini-essays ("News and Notes") by Paul Hess are straight-out disqualified. (But I can't resist noting that folks frequently tell me that Hess's column is the best thing in *Birding*.) As to my criteria, I can think of the following three, in increasing order of importance: (3) Is the subject matter interesting? (2) Is the writing good? (1) Did I learn cool new things from reading the article?



(Photo: - Pink Ring-billed Gull (left) on Sandpoint City beach- Photo by Shirley Sturts)

Ted's Choice for # 1 . "The Peculiar Puzzle of the Pink Ring-billed Gulls" by Lisa Hardy (CDA Audubon Member)—*Birding*, October 2003, pp. 498–504. About a decade ago,

birders in North America—especially those in the Interior West—started noticing bright pink Ring-billed Gulls. What on earth was going on? How come nobody had ever noticed this before? Where were these birds coming from? And what could possibly have been causing large numbers of Ring-billed Gulls to become strikingly and unforgettably pink? This article, a fascinating piece of ornithological detective work, provides all the answers.

Go to <http://blog.aba.org/2011/02/the-ten-best-articles-in-birding-magazine.html> to see Ted's other 9 choices

20TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND AUCTION

Eula Hickam



George Saylor (center) presents Scott and Mary Lou Reed with an award for their long time support of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter – photo by Mike Zagar

Many Coeur d'Alene Audubon members and friends gathered together on Monday, Feb 14, at the Greenbrier Inn to celebrate their 20 years of having an active club here. We had a great dinner with opportunities to bid on wonderful trips and other items. The highlight of the evening was honoring Scott and Mary Lou Reed for their long time support of the club, especially in funding "Audubon Adventures" in the classroom. Thousands of children in this area are learning about the outdoors because of their efforts.

Many thanks to the Reeds as well as to countless others who give their efforts toward maintaining the beautiful surroundings around us.

MESSAGE FROM CARRIE HUGO, PRESIDENT OF THE COEUR D'ALENE AUDUBON CHAPTER

Many Thanks to all of you from Myself, the Board, and the Banquet Committee!

The Banquet was a smashing success! I feel confident in saying that "a good time was had by all!". Not only did we enjoy great food and wonderful entertainment (the Mellow Men were a special treat and very talented!), but you helped us

raise almost \$3000!! This was twice what I had hoped...but I should have known by now that this group would exceed my expectations! Also it was a great chance to honor the Reeds for all of their contributions to our Education Efforts! Rest assured we will be proposing some great ideas to the group that will wisely invest some of these funds. Habitat projects and purchasing equipment to further our education efforts are just a couple of ideas we have already discussed. Stay tuned!

I was also very pleased to see many faces I did not know! If you were once active and decided to "come back to the fold" via the Banquet...well welcome back! Please reestablish those valuable relationships with other people who love many of the same things you do. Come to next month's meeting, go on a field trip. Make sure to check the web site for updates on events and editions of the newsletter. If you came to the Banquet to introduce yourself to the group, I hope you found us to be as welcoming as I did when I started. Audubon is like my second family, and I hope you will find many relationships and invaluable knowledge to cherish just as I have!

Lastly, I have been communicating more and more via email between meetings and I know that my email list is not complete. If you would like to receive emails from me, Shirley, or the rest of the board related to our local Chapter events or national events, please send me an email: carriehugo@wildblue.net.

Rest assured, your email address is safe with me and I solemnly swear not to send you too much and to send only local Chapter news and information. If you want email from the National Audubon Society, you can sign up at their website: www.audubon.org.

Thank you again and I look forward to seeing you at the March Meeting...it will be a good one, as always!



ADOPT-A HIGHWAY SPRING CLEAN-UP

It's time for spring cleaning!

Date: May 14th, Saturday **Time:** 8:00 a.m.

Place: Meet at Mica Grange Hall for donuts, coffee and road assignments. Plan on about 2 hours. Wear long pants and sleeves, and work gloves are advisable. For more information contact Mike Zagar 819-5115

FEBRUARY 12, 2011 A COUPLE OF HITS AND A MISS.

Janet Callen



Four Audubon members traveled Lincoln County, WA. in search of winter birds. Targets included Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and of course the Snowy Owl. We turned north from Reardan, traveling roads which took us through rolling hills and farm fields still showing large patches of snow. Eventually we followed the Old Sunset Highway into Davenport.

In Reardan we found many Eurasian Collared-doves, a pair of muskrats sitting on the ice of Reardan Pond, and the location where Santa keeps his reindeer in the off-season.



**Horned Lark
Photograph by
Wayne Tree**

Horned Larks were plentiful in the farm fields and we had some very good views of them on the roadsides and of Snow Buntings, often walking in the snow banks. Also seen along the way, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Rough-legged Hawk, and a Bald Eagle. Signs of spring included the sights and sounds of Red-winged Blackbirds.

Our search for the Snowy Owl was for naught. We encountered local resident, Chris Jannette, who told us two of the three owls seen in the area had departed earlier, but one was last seen on Thursday. Had we just missed it by two days? No, because the next day a Spokane birder reported the owl was seen flying and landing on a pole in the Davenport area at dusk.

Before departing Davenport we visited Davenport Cemetery and viewed a Great-Horned Owl sitting on her nest. A good end to the day. Thanks to Roland Craft, Ed Buchler and Mary Deasy.

IDAHO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

RENOWNED GUEST SPEAKER DENNY OLSON

Carrie Hugo

The Idaho Environmental Educators Association (IDEAA) is holding their annual conference in Post Falls March 4th and 5th. There will be many interesting Concurrent Sessions as well as field experiences, and a renowned guest speaker, Denny Olson. The Board voted to help sponsor Denny's presentation by donating \$100. The Friday night event is free and open to the public, and from the looks of it, it should be lots of fun! He'll be performing on March 4th at the Red Lion Templins Hotel in Post Falls at 7:00pm.

Denny has trained thousands of naturalists, teachers and students in storytelling techniques, lectured on Native American storytelling as a teaching tool, and conducted workshops nationwide. He has performed his humorous alter-egos - Doc Wild's (formerly "Crittman") Unhuggables, The Grizz, Professor Avian Guano, The Lost Voyageur, The Mad Herbalist, and more.- over 3000 times, in 49 states, for over 2 million people!

A man of many talents, Denny will lead a 4-hour workshop on "Oral Environmental Literacy: The Power of Story" Friday afternoon. Then as Friday night's environmental entertainer extraordinaire (aka Professor Avian Guano, Bir.D.) young and the young-at-heart will delight in Olson's skills using storytelling, theater, comedy, surprise and "bet you didn't know ..." information to help treat and cure nature deficit disorder. (sez Denny "They won't know they learned anything until it's too late!")

As Denny describes it, in his own words: "Avian" means "of the birds." "Guano" means, well, you will have to look that one up... After he "drops" in, this eccentric German professor of ornithology proves he has been studying birds a little too long. His bird-brained view on birds and his legendary mimicry of bird songs shows his intimacy with our feathered friends. The good professor's bones are probably hollow, but beneath his unusual exterior is a solid knowledge of fascinating bird lore."

Please check out the IDEAA website, www.ideea.org, for more details about this interesting conference and a schedule of events.



ARBOR DAY AND ITS HISTORY

Reprint from USA People Search .com

Arbor Day is an annual holiday that celebrates trees, the earth, and nature. It is a day where people are encouraged to plant a new tree somewhere, and to appreciate the beauty and benefits that trees provide. The holiday was first established in 1872, and by the 1920s all fifty states were participating in the holiday. Arbor Day is now celebrated on the first Friday of April. Across the country, people plant trees and spread awareness about the importance of conservation and putting back into the earth what we take out of it.

Nebraska: Arbor Day originated in Nebraska City, Nebraska, also known as the "Tree Planter" state. Arbor Lodge, a beautiful 72-acre arboretum and 52-room mansion, was the home of J. Sterling Morton, who founded the holiday. Today the Arbor Lodge is a historical site and a popular place for visitors and citizens of Nebraska to visit and enjoy. The state is proud of its Arbor Day heritage, and Nebraska celebrates the holiday by holding festivals and promoting school-based tree planting and related activities. Although man has continually been aware of nature, it was not until Morton declared Arbor Day a holiday that trees' full beauty and potential were fully recognized.

J. Sterling Morton: J. Sterling Morton served as the Secretary of Agriculture under president Grover Cleveland. He was born in New York, but eventually called the state of Nebraska his home. Morton was an active agriculturalist, and he spent much of time educating farmers on crop techniques and agricultural practices. His love and appreciation for nature was clear and showed through his ongoing efforts to preserve and protect natural farmlands and forests. Grover Cleveland hired him because of his vast knowledge of the natural world. A bronze statue of Morton now sits at the United States Capitol as a tribute to Morton's contributions and the founding of Arbor Day.

Governor Robert W. Furnas: Robert W. Furnas was the second governor of the state of Nebraska. He was responsible for publishing the first agricultural journal in the state of Nebraska, called *Nebraska Farmer*. Like Morton, Furnas had a true appreciation for nature, trees, and agriculture. He

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held many positions, including president of the American Fair Association, president of the State Horticultural Society, and the first president of the Nebraska State Historical Society. Once elected governor of Nebraska, he worked with J. Sterling Morton to get Arbor Day founded and implemented as a national holiday.

Arbor Day Today: Today, Arbor Day is still celebrated across the United States. The Arbor Day Foundation encourages people to plant a new tree in honor of the holiday. Free trees can be sent to communities for planting, and educational programs and activities abound in schools across the country. Teaching children about the importance and value of trees is a large part of Arbor Day's heritage. Through education and fun, people can gain a better understanding of the important role trees play in our every day lives. Providing trees at little to no cost and teaching people where and how to plant them can help to ensure that our children have a future with plenty of trees to provide shelter, shade, beauty, and food.

MARCH 13TH -- QUEEN OF THE SUN FILM SCREENING

PILGRIMS MARKET HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER
Call Pilgrims Market for the time

In 1923, Rudolf Steiner, a scientist, philosopher & social innovator, predicted that in 80 to 100 years honeybees would collapse. His prediction has come true with Colony Collapse Disorder, where bees are disappearing in mass numbers from their hives with no clear single explanation. In an alarming inquiry into the insights behind Steiner's prediction, *QUEEN OF THE SUN: What Are the Bees Telling Us?* examines the dire global bee crisis through the eyes of biodynamic beekeepers, scientists, farmers, and philosophers.

On a pilgrimage around the world, the film unveils 10,000 years of beekeeping, highlighting how our historic and sacred relationship with bees has been lost due to highly mechanized industrial practices. Featuring Michael Pollan, Vandana Shiva, Gunther Hauk and beekeepers from around the world, this engaging, alarming and ultimately uplifting film weaves together a dramatic story that uncovers the problems and solutions in renewing a culture in balance with nature

Go to: <http://www.queenofthesun.com/>



FIELD TRIPS

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.



Wood Duck
Photograph by Wayne Tree

HUNT FOR EARLY SPRING ARRIVALS

Date: March 6, Sunday
Time: 8:00 a.m. 3-4 hours
Meet: Fernan Ranger Station
Leader: Shirley Sturts - 664-5318
Activity: Some areas we may visit are: Fernan Lake, Cougar Bay, Spokane River (between NIC beach and Post Falls, Falls and Q'emlin Park, Rathdrum Prairie, **Target birds include:** Wood Duck, Eurasian Wigeon, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Tree and Violet-green Swallow, Western and Mountain Bluebird, Spotted Towhee, Western Meadowlark, and Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbird. Depending on the weather, we may look for the Canyon Wren in Q'emlin Park. Bring water and snacks and be prepared for a short hike in Q'emlin Park to look for the Canyon Wren.
Optional: We could have lunch in Post Falls and visit more areas, possibly Hauser Lake.

MICA BAY SURVEY

Date: March 8, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)
Time: 9:00 a.m. 2-3 hours
Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95
Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318
Activity: Everybody is welcome, especially beginner birders. We will help you with identification skills.

SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL

MARCH 25, 26, AND 27.

The Coeur d' Alene Audubon field trip committee is starting to work on the Sandhill Crane Festival in Othello. It occurs on March 25, 26, and 27. The first day involves field trips to observe Sandhill Cranes plus other birds. The second day involves lectures and displays and the third day involves another field trip observing cranes but also purposely other birds in the area. Without knowing everyone's schedule, if some don't want to stay all three days, we can arrange car-pooling to accomplish that. The committee is also checking on motels in the area and will let every participant know. The Othello crane group is behind on making arrangements for speakers, registration time, etc. but we will notify everyone when all is finalized. We would appreciate people that are interested in the trip to notify us.

Roland Craft, rolcra@roadrunner.com, 208-457-8894

YELLOWSTONE TRIP

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27 UNTIL SUNDAY, MAY 1.

We will be watching migratory birds in the area and use spotting scopes along waterways as there will be Trumpeter Swans and other waterfowl. We'll drive into the Park (the roads officially open on April 15 inside the Park) so we should have a good chance of seeing wolves and/or bears close to the roadside. Bison will be everywhere, including my yard! There probably will be snow on the ground, but at times it's been 60 degrees in April. West Yellowstone, Montana is our base location for lodging and restaurants. I have use of 2 homes in the area about 8 and 12 miles north of West Yellowstone. Those will be on a first requested basis for those that want to share a home together and anyone else will have to secure lodging in West Yellowstone.

Driving distance to West Yellowstone from Coeur d' Alene is about 440 miles or just under 7 hours. Anyone interested in this trip should contact me at lbayless12@aol.com or call me at (208)964-0115.

FIELD TRIP TO BEAR LAKE

At the March meeting, I'll have a display showing information about a weeklong trip to Bear Lake in South East Idaho. This is a beautiful place with many birds. If there is enough interest, we could plan to go in June. See you then. Eula Hickam

