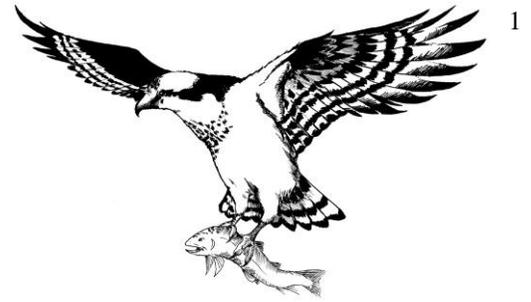


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

March 2012

Volume 21 Number 7

RED-NECKED GREBE AND THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Lisa Hardy



Red-necked Grebe
Photograph by Bill Linn

The Great Backyard Bird Count was held over Presidents' Day weekend, and on Saturday, our chapter had a field trip around the Coeur d'Alene area to round up some species for the count. One of our goals was to tally a Red-necked Grebe, a species usually not noted elsewhere in the state during the GBBC. Red-necked Grebes can be found in winter on Coeur d'Alene, Hayden and Pend Oreille Lakes.

The day was windy and overcast as we started at the Spokane River and walked the "Academic Row". We found the resident Pygmy Nuthatches and other typical species along the dike road, and located a single Red-necked Grebe where the river starts. We then prowled the Fort Sherman residential area to get out of the wind, and found a nice mix of suburban birds, including Pine Siskin and Cedar Waxwing.

Next, a stop at the BLM access for Cougar Bay turned up a whopping 500+ Mallard. Seven Killdeer scurried across the exposed pebbly shoreline, and a pair of Tundra Swan were an unexpected treat.

We then drove north to look for raptors on the Rathdrum Prairie, but made an unplanned detour to check out an invasion of American Robins in several subdivisions along Ramsey Road. We counted 465 robins in just a few minutes before heading north again. Our best sighting of the day was a flock of 75 Common Redpoll feeding on weed seeds along Lancaster Road. Near the end of

the trip we found another flock of 130 along Idaho Road, bringing our total to over 200.

We had our usual good time, and as of February 24, our Red-necked Grebe is still the only one reported for the entire state. The GBBC is a joint project of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Audubon. You can look up the state tallies and species maps at <http://gbbc.birdsource.org/>

Please NOTE: Our March Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 14th! In Spokane

It will be the first part of a "Meeting Exchange" with Spokane Audubon. We will meet at the Church at 4:30 p.m. and head over to Fedora for an early dinner. Then we will organize a caravan to carpool over to the Spokane Audubon Meeting at around 6:15 p.m.. For those who do not want to eat first, please plan to meet us in the church parking lot at 6:15 p.m..

The presentation is "Bedazzling & Befuddling: Getting to Know Butterflies of the Inland Northwest" By John Baumann.

Please let me know, via email, (carriehugo@wildblue.net) or phone, 689-9600. If you will be coming so I can get a head count for dinner and for the trip over to the meeting.

Part two of the "Meeting Exchange" will be our chapter hosting Spokane Audubon for our April or May Meeting. It should be lots of fun and I hope you can all make it!

Please feel free to call me with any question. You can check the time and location at: <http://www.spokaneaudubon.org>

MESSAGES FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Carrie Hugo



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In the last few years our group has increased attendance at meetings and field trips. We also have more money than we have had in quite a while. There are many things we can be doing with all of these resources! However, there is a core group of people who have been organizing field trips, collecting and submitting data, working on communications (newsletter, website etc.) serving on the board, and acting in leadership positions. Many of these folks have committed their time for more than a decade. And some of them are ready to relieve themselves of these responsibilities and enjoy a less critical role on our group. They deserve our most sincere thanks for their service.

One way of showing that appreciation is by choosing to serve in a more active role yourself! While it may surprise you all the opportunities that this group provides (presentations, field trips, refreshments, conservation opportunities, birding events and information, fund raisers....) do not just magically appear! These things require help from dedicated members and it is now time for you (yes YOU!) to seriously consider contributing more time to our group. If I can do it working full time, commuting 1.5 hours to work 4 days a week, being a mom and a wife....You can certainly help out!

I am not exaggerating when I say that we WILL NOT have a president next year if someone does not volunteer! I simply cannot do it as I have run myself ragged already and will now have a leadership role in BLM Statewide for migratory birds. Kathy cannot because of conflict of interest with Idaho Fish and Game. So who will step up? No president? No board, no meetings, no

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presenters...please think about it and contact me if you are interested. We will also need a Vice President and two or three new board members and committee chairs.

We are going to form a group to assist with Field Trip Planning. Janet and Roland have been organizing this for years now and they need a break! There are a several people who regularly plan and lead field trips and we are grateful for that. However we need some of you to plan one or two trips for the next year (September through May). You don't have to be an expert to plan a field trip. All you have to do is choose an area and help set the logistics (date, time, number of vehicles, trip details, etc). Don't worry about having to know all the birds, just think of a few neat places where you'd like to look for birds and make a plan! The expert birders will be on the trip to help with the bird part! Janet and Roland are happy to help guide you through the process. We will plan to meet before September to iron out the details so they can be announced in the September Newsletter. There will be a sign up at the April Meeting for those who want to plan a trip. I cannot stress enough the urgency of these requests. If we do not get more participation from folks there were be fewer field trips.



Century Count Field Trip 2009
Photograph by Kris Buchler

We are a wonderful family of bird lovers so please lets keep up the momentum and potential that we have. Contact me with any questions about helping out. Even if you do not think you have as much time or experience as is needed, help anyway. If you love this group as much as I do, we can find a way for YOU to help us keep all the fun and educational benefits going. No matter how small the role is that you can fulfill, trust me, we NEED your help!

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President's Messages Continued from page 2

HOW MANY ROBINS DID YOU SEE DURING THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT?

Photograph by Wayne Tree



Hopefully many of you got a chance to submit some data for the Great Backyard Bird Count! I thought the snow was handy for concentrating birds. I took a moment to look up some information about results for our area. Coeur d'Alene bird watchers tallied 3801 birds. But would you believe that 1075 of those were American Robins?? The list-serves have been buzzing with talk of lots of robins and I know the crab apples near my office were completely gleaned by a flock of about 200!

In all, 51 species were reported for the Coeur d'Alene Area. Saint Maries area has 482 birds reported, 22 species- 286 of the total were Pine Siskins. You can check out the stats for anywhere in the country by going to the website: <http://www.birdsource.org/qbbc/> and clicking on "What's been reported in Your Town?"

I told folks that I would have a prize for the check-list submitted with the most species. So make sure to get your list to me by March 30th and I will award the prize at the April Meeting!



CALL FOR PHOTOS!

As some of you many know, Shirley is currently updating our website and she has created a Facebook page for our group as well. If you have photos (and they don't have to be professional), please consider sending them to Shirley for use in these communications. You can email them to her at shirley.sturts@gmail.com. For every photo you submit you will get one raffle ticket at the MAY meeting. Please keep track of what you give and let me or Lynn know so you can get your tickets that night. We will have a special prize in the raffle to honor your photo "donation".



EMAIL NOTICES AND CHANGES

Shirley Sturts, our newsletter editor, and I send out email notices concerning Audubon events and other birding news. If you are not already getting these notices, please send both of us your email address. If you change your email address, be sure to put us on the list of people that you notify.

Carrie Hugo
carriehugo@wildblue.net

Shirley Sturts
shirley.sturts@gmail.com

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BIRDS OF PREY STAMPS

The US Post Office has issued Birds of Prey stamps for 85-cent postage (price for single-piece retail First-Class Mail weighing more than two ounces and up to and including three ounces). The cost is \$4.25 for 5 stamps depicting one of each: Northern Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon Golden Eagle, Osprey, and Northern Harrier.

SPOKANE AND LINCOLN COUNTIES A FOUR-OWL DAY

February 11, 2012

Janet Callen

Photographs by Darlene Carlton



One would think gray skies and light rain would keep birdwatchers indoors by the fire. Not so with 12 CDA Audubon members who headed west in search of owls and other feathered creatures. Our first stop was northeast of Reardan at the junction of Prewitt and McLaughlin roads. The Northern Hawk-Owl was exactly where it was reported to be. It was perched in plain sight at the top of a deciduous tree and we all got a good view. We next traveled to Reardan and then north where we saw numerous hawks and Horned Larks. Our next stop was Davenport where we walked the cemetery and Ron Gomes found a Great Horned Owl hiding in a spruce tree.

South of Davenport we traveled east on Oman and Morrison roads where we encountered some friendly and helpful local residents. Directly ahead, they said, were two Snowy Owls. Chris Janett stayed with us and directed us to both owls. Each was perched on a telephone pole and everyone was able to view them through scopes. It was a three-owl day at this point in time. Could it get any better? As we were headed home the group found three Short-eared Owls in shrubbery.

Other raptors included; Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks, American Kestrels, Bald Eagles, and a Prairie Falcon.

Overall, we identified 33 species of birds, four coyotes, and a herd of reindeer. A Northern Shrike and Gray Partridges were also seen. Thanks to
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Lisa Hardy, Kris Buchler, Darlene Carlton (a driver), Matt Thurley, Roland Craft, Pam and Ron Gomes (a driver), Ellen Scriven, Mary Deasy, Jan Severtson (scribe), and Valerie Zagar for making this a fantastic birding adventure.

THE NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY 35TH ANNUAL BLUEBIRD CONFERENCE OCTOBER 4th-6th, 2012



Mountain Bluebird along our Bluebird Trail in the Hoo Doo Valley ---- Photograph by Darlene Carlton

The Southern California Bluebird Club is hosting this family-friendly event at The Radisson Hotel in Newport Beach, directly across from the John Wayne Airport!

Members have planned an exciting and entertaining conservation-focused agenda for participants. Laura Erickson from Cornell University will be the keynote speaker. Her topic is "How Birds Learn" and her workshop, is "101 Ways to Help Birds".

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BLUEBIRD CONFERENCE

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Other highlights include a hero of conservation, Steve Simmons, from Merced, CA. Steve will be talking about his many years of banding experience, his 800 nest boxes for cavity nesting species and will be showing his menagerie of ingenious tools to outwit and safely trap birds.

From Colorado, Andrew Mackie, Executive Director of the Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas, will talk about the status of Mountain Bluebird, and from Oregon, naturalist Steve Shunk will enlighten guests about how woodpeckers are keystone species for cavity nesting birds. Additional information on workshops and field trips with registration information is now available via Southern California Bluebird Club www.socalbluebirds.org and NABS www.nabluebirdsociety.org websites. Check out their promo video on YouTube: http://youtu.be/CS2_iMQwqd0

REGISTER BEFORE JUNE 1ST FOR A \$10 DISCOUNT

NEW WINDOW TAPE CAN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE BIRD COLLISIONS AT HOMES

From the American Bird Conservancy Website

A new, translucent adhesive tape, which tests show can significantly reduce bird collisions with glass windows and doors, is now available to the public. The product is being sold by American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and production of ABC Bird Tape is made possible through the generous support of the Rusinow Family Foundation.

Birds can't see glass and don't understand the architectural cues, such as window frames, mullions, and handles, that alert people to the hazard. Experts estimate that up to one billion birds may die each year from resulting collisions. Unlike some sources of bird mortality that predominantly kill weaker individuals, there is no distinction among victims of glass. Because glass is equally dangerous for strong, healthy, breeding adults, it can have a particularly serious impact on populations. Studies have shown that even small windows can be dangerous to birds that are

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accustomed to flying through gaps between trees and shrubs.

To learn more about ABC Bird Tape, go to: www.abcbirdtape.org. ABC has produced a **video** that demonstrates how to install the bird tape.

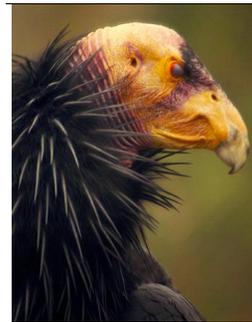
OVER TWO THIRDS OF FATALITIES OF ENDANGERED CALIFORNIA CONDORS CAUSED BY LEAD POISONING

"Here we have another peer-reviewed study with independent scientists confirming that lead is needlessly and tragically killing protected wildlife. While the nation has removed the lead from paint, gasoline, children's toys, water pipes, and even car wheel weights, we are still using toxic ammunition," Schroeder said. "Acceptable lead-free alternatives exist, and we need every hunter in America to make the switch to save the lives of countless non-game birds."

American Bird Conservancy

From the American Bird Conservancy Website

Robert Jones



California Condor by Susan Haig

(Washington, D.C., February 8, 2012) A new study authored by San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research scientists has found that 67 percent of adult condor deaths are attributable to lead poisoning.

Among the collaborators in the study were the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the University of California at Santa Cruz and Davis, The Peregrine Fund, The San Diego Zoo Global and the Phoenix Zoo.

There have been a total of 135 endangered California Condor deaths from October 1992 (the date of the first death of a condor released back into the wild as part of the condor recovery

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CALIFORNIA CONDORS

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program) through December 2009. A definitive cause of death was determined for 76 of the 98 condor deaths the study looked at. Because of the condition of the carcass (and other factors that complicate definitively assigning a cause) the cause of death could not be attributed to all recovered dead condors. Lead toxicosis was the most important factor in juvenile mortality, causing 13 of 50 deaths (26 percent) and causing ten of 15 deaths in adults (67 percent). Trash ingestion was the most important mortality factor in nestlings, causing eight of 11 deaths (73 percent).

The report states "The mortality factors thought to be important in the decline of the historic California Condor population, particularly lead poisoning, remain the most important documented mortality factors today. Without effective mitigation, these factors can be expected to have the same effects on the sustainability of the wild populations as they have in the past."

"Although lead toxicosis from spent ammunition still threatens the survival of the California Condor, one of our most iconic species, the good news is that solutions are available in the form of nontoxic ammunition. We can make this a win-win situation if we choose to," said Dr. Bruce A. Rideout, lead author of the study and Director, Wildlife Disease Laboratories, Institute for Conservation Research San Diego Zoo Global.

"In all likelihood, many more condors would likely have died from lead poisoning had it not been for the fact that all wild condors in California are normally captured twice each year, tested for lead poisoning and then treated if necessary," said Darin Schroeder, Vice-President for Conservation Advocacy for American Bird Conservancy (ABC), one of the nation's leading bird conservation organizations.

The massive effort to save the California Condor was initiated in 1982 when the remaining 22 wild birds were captured in a last-ditch effort to save the species. Of the 390 condors that exist today, 210 are in the wild, with 118 in California, 73 in Arizona and 19 in Mexico.

ABC has analyzed almost 500, mostly peer-reviewed studies, and determined that the source of the vast majority of lead poisoning of birds and other wildlife is lead ammunition from hunting.

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Birds either consume lead pellets when they mistake them for grit that they use to help digest their food, or when they scavenge on the remains of animals hunted with lead shot or bullets. A single ingested lead pellet can cause a slow and agonizing death for many birds. Previous studies have estimated that between 8 and 10 million birds die from lead poisoning each year, including Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, hawks, ravens, vultures and Mourning Doves.

KOOTENAI ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE (KEA) MARCH CALENDAR

KEA Lunch & Learn: "Wolverine Project"

Date/Time: Thursday, March 1 @ Noon

Location: The Iron Horse Restaurant

Speakers: Join us to hear Kelsey Brasseur from Friends of Scotchman's Peak discuss the Wolverine Project. Free and open to the public.

Art on the Edge Kid's Carnival

Date/Time: Saturday, March 10 @ Opens 12 Noon

Location: Riverstone

KEA Lunch & Learn: "New Forest Plan"

Date/Time: Thursday, March 15 @ Noon

Location: The Iron Horse Restaurant

Speaker: Join us to hear Jeff Juel of The Lands Council discuss the New Forest Plan. Free and open to the public.

FIELD TRIPS 2012

PLEASE REGISTER: 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.

PLEASE NOTE: The following list shows field trips planned by the Coeur d' Alene Audubon Society. Trips may be added with short notice so check the website often. **Trips also may be cancelled at any time due to bad weather, too few participants, or the lack of a leader.** Contact the leader for more information and to reserve a spot. If you are unable to register before the schedule deadline, yet want to attend, be sure to check with the leader to ensure the trip is still on. Leaders are club volunteers and are not compensated. Field trips are free. However, if you carpool you will be expected to compensate the driver for your share of vehicle costs.

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FIELD TRIPS 2012 - continued
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BLUEBIRD TRAIL MONITORING



WORKSHOP FIELD TRIP

DATE: Late March or early April

PLACE and TIME: To be announced

Sign up if you are interested in helping to monitor our two bluebird trails that have been nurtured and maintained for more than a decade! Helping with the effort is guaranteed to be fun! You get to see bluebirds as well as other cavity nesting species up close and you help provide important information to NestWatch, a program of Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Mountain Bluebird Trails www.mountainbluebirdtrails.com

If you have any interest please email or call Kris Buchler eagleroost@roadrunner.com or 664-4739

Age or experience is irrelevant.

SWANS AND CHAIN LAKES AREA

Date: March 10, Saturday

Leader: Lisa Hardy, 783-1262

RSVP: Roland Craft, 457-8894 or Janet Callen, 664-1085

Meet: Fernan Lake Ranger Station

Time: 7:15 a.m. We will meet Lisa Hardy, leader, at 8:00 a.m. at the Rose Lake exit.

Activity: This will be a full day trip. Bring a lunch, snacks, water and be prepared for cold weather. Target birds are swans and other waterfowl. We will especially be looking for swans with numbered neck collars.

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MICA BAY SURVEY

Date: March 13, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)

Leader: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318

Time: 9:00 a.m

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

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.

RATHDRUM PRAIRIE AND POST FALLS PARKS

Date: March 31, Saturday

Leader: Roland Craft, 457-8894

Meet: Super 1 grocery store in POST FALLS, southwest corner of parking lot.

Time: 8:30 a.m.

We will look for returning songbirds and raptors. This will be a 3/4 day trip so bring a lunch. Where we go will depend on the groups wishes and what birds have been recently been reported.

See Website for other April-May field trips

**MISSOULA BIRDING TRAILS
 AND MOISE BISON RANGE**

Dates: May 19 and 20, 2012

Leader: Janet Callen, 664-1085

jgoldfinch@roadrunner.com

Notice: I was going to announce the details and have a sign-up sheet at the March meeting. However, we'll be joining the Spokane group that evening. So, if you are interested (and that doesn't mean a commitment) in the trip, please let me know by e-mail. It will help me with planning and communicating

This will be a two-day trip. On the first day, we will travel to Missoula, MT, where we will explore some of the 14 sites along the Missoula Valley Birding and Nature Trail. Many of these include hikes of various lengths. The next day we will head north to the Moise Bison Range and Nine-Pipes NWR. If time permits and participants are interested, we may visit Wild Horse Island State Park on Flathead Lake.

