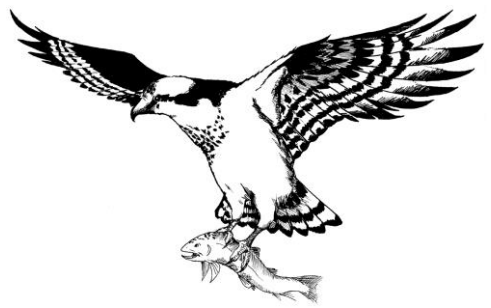


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society
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March 2015

Volume 24 Number 7

MARCH PROGRAM

DATE: March 10, Tuesday

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

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

SPEAKERS: Phil Cooper, Wildlife
Conservation Educator and Craig Walker,
Regional Conservation Officer

PROGRAM: "Working in Wildlife Law
Enforcement with the Idaho Department
of Fish and Game"

Craig is a graduate of WSU and is from
the State of Washington. Phil, a graduate
of Miami University, started his career as
a "Game Protector" with the Ohio Division
of Wildlife where he worked for 7 years
before coming to Idaho in 1987 in
Conservation Education.

BOARD MEETING

DATE: March 3, Tuesday

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

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

See minutes on our Website:

<http://cdaudubon.org/board%20meetings.html>



Audubon Spring Cleaning Sale

Committee Chair: Lynn Sheridan
The sale is Saturday, March

21st from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.. It will be held
in the usual meeting room at the Lutheran
Church of the Master.

Your donated items can be brought to the
meeting room on Friday the 20th after 2:30
p.m. to be sorted and priced. Volunteers will
do the pricing to make them consistent.
Please call Lynn by March 8th to let her know
which items you are bringing that may be
used in advertising.

Thank you to those who have already
volunteered to help with setting up the sale:
Jan Severtson, Darlene Carlton, Jackie
Beery, Antje Cripe, Nancy Kroese. Please
call Lynn for information or to volunteer
(765-2603).

Blue Bird Trail Helpers

We check our three trails - Hoo Doo, Mica Bay,
and Mica Flats - once a week April-August to
record activity in the boxes. A sign-up sheet
will be at our March meeting or contact me for
information or to volunteer:

shirley.sturts@gmail.com - 664-5318

Walla Walla Bird and Wine

April 24 - 26

Mike and Valerie Zagar



Join us for a spring getaway in southeastern Washington. We plan to stop at McNary National Wildlife Refuge, outside of the Tri-Cities as we make our way to Walla Walla. We will end the day tasting wines of the region.

Saturday we'll take a tour of Bennington Lake, a 52- acre lake created by the U. S. Corp of Engineers. There are several trails that wander through varying habitats. Cottonwood trees and willows provide nesting sites for Lazuli Buntings, Yellow-breasted Chats and Black-headed Grosbeaks.

A third stop on Washington State Birding Trail will be the Whitman Mission National Historic Site. This is not only a great riparian habitat for birding, but gives us the opportunity to walk part of the trail.

So, if your passion is birding, tasting wines, visiting historic places or shopping quaint boutiques, Walla Walla has it all. If you would like to sign up or need more

Information, please contact us by March 15th - Email, bagfox@live.com - Phone 208 819-5115

Adopt - A - Highway

It's Time for Spring Cleaning!



Date: April 11, Saturday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: Meet at Mica Grange Hall for donuts, coffee and road assignments.

Dress for the weather, bring gloves and be prepared to finish about 11:30 a.m.. Signup sheets will be at the next Audubon meeting - it is essential you sign the roster if you plan on attending. You can drop out later, if need be, but to participate we need your signature. **For more information contact Mike Zagar 819-5115**

Birds and Beans

Shade Grown Organic Coffee



George Saylor

We will be selling the coffee throughout the year. We hope you will enjoy your coffee and the knowledge that you are helping protect birds and their habitat. Information about the coffee and ordering is on our Website:

<http://cdaudubon.org/Birds%20and%20Beans.pdf>

Lake Pend Oreille and Clark Fork

February 7, 2015

Bill Gundlach



Hooded Merganser - Photo by Wayne Tree

Six hardcore birders traveled north in two cars on a very wet Saturday to see what we could find along the north shore of Lake Pend Oreille and east to the town of Clark Fork. We started birding along Sunnyside Road east of Sandpoint. We birded slowly by car over to the Pack River delta area, staying mostly in our cars because of the rain, and saw the usual waterfowl (Canada Goose, Mallard, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe), none of which were in significant numbers. American Coot, however, were present in groups of many hundreds, as seems to be the case in that area. Other birds seen in this area were Common Raven, American Crow, European Starling, Rock Pigeon, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Flicker, Red-winged Blackbird, Mourning Dove, Pine Siskin, House Finch,

Great Blue Heron, and 15 mature Bald Eagles, some of which appear to be mates.

We then headed back to the main highway to view the delta area from the other side, then stopped at the Trestle Creek Rec Area, which yielded a Common Loon, and five Red-breasted Mergansers (3 males and 2 females); neat ducks to see! We continued along the lake through Hope and Beyond Hope without stopping until Denton Slough. Many of the same waterfowl were seen there, plus the rain stopped so we could get out to bird with scopes. Of significance were 40 Tundra Swan, and we also picked up Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup and Redhead on our way back.



*Townsend's Solitaire
Photo by
Wayne Tree*

In Clark Fork we went across the river to the Johnson Creek Rec Area, and picked up a couple more Bald Eagles and a Townsend's Solitaire. We went back to Clark Fork for a sweet stop at the famous bakery, before heading home. It was a pretty good trip, even with the heavy rain: 28 identified species. The best for the day were the 19 Bald Eagle, 5 Red-breasted Merganser, 40 Tundra Swan, and a Townsend's Solitaire. Trip participants were Janet Callen, Darlene Carlton, Dick Cripe, Karen Williams, Marilyn Stein, and Bill Gundlach.



Great Backyard Bird Count

February 14

Lisa Hardy

The itinerary for our GBBC field trip included Fernan Lake and the northwest corner of Coeur d'Alene Lake. Our route took us to both ends of Fernan Lake. Fishermen were lined up along the shore at the upper end of Fernan, while offshore cruised a whopping 54 cormorants - clearly, the fishing was good. A walk through the old Fort Sherman residential neighborhood turned up surprise Bewick's Wren and Killdeer. A Merlin stirred up a flock of American Robins and then settled on a tree-top giving us good looks.

We kept waiting for the sun to show, but it never did. At Blackwell Island, we walked through the boat launch and parking areas, and on the boardwalks. The water level on the Spokane River was so high that one portion of boardwalk was underwater, and this meant that most of the shoreline where gulls and waterfowl might congregate were also underwater. We found a half-dozen Mallard, including 2 domestic, all-dark Mallards.

A quick search of the internet turned up some interesting information about Mallards and domesticated ducks. Mallards are the most numerous duck species in the northern hemisphere, with an extensive range across most of North America and Eurasia. They

have been introduced into South America, Australia and South Africa.

The Mallard genome was sequenced in 2013, and studies indicate that Mallards evolved "fairly recently", i.e., within the last 125,000 years. Mallards are considered to have a "malleable" genetic code, and this may explain their adaptability and hence their success. They are able to interbreed with 63 other duck species, for example, and readily adapt to urban habitats. Where introduced, Mallards may interbreed with indigenous wild ducks, creating conservation concerns.

Apparently only two species of duck have ever been domesticated - the Mallard and the Muscovy Duck. By far, most domesticated ducks are descended from the former, and this is probably also related to the Mallard's genetic malleability. Dozens of domestic varieties have been created, with names such as Golden Cascade, Silver Appleyard and Blue Swedish. The two domestic ducks that we saw at Blackwell Island appear most similar to "Cayuga" ducks, an all-dark breed with an iridescent green head. Curled upper tail coverts in addition to their green heads belied their Mallard ancestry. They seemed less concerned with our presence than the wild Mallards. From a distance, they might be confused with American Black Duck.

But enough digression. Let's see...we were just leaving Blackwell Island. Our next stop was the marshy area between Highway 95

Continued page 5

Winter Birding

Lincoln County, WA - February 21

Roland Craft



Photo by Andrea Wilkey
Western Meadowlark

Well, we did not find our target bird in the Lincoln County, WA area - a Snowy Owl. Three had been seen two weeks ago in the Swanson Lake vicinity

but perhaps they have headed north due to the warmer weather. However, we had a great time birding, finding 36 species. The weather was sunny although a strong wind blew all day. We want to thank Chris Janett of Davenport for telling us which roads to travel to see the most birds.

We started birding in Reardan at Audubon Lake, spotting many species of waterfowl and then traveled on the Old Sunset Highway to Davenport, seeing quite a few Horned Larks and a Northern Shrike. We then drove to the Swanson Lake area to hopefully spot a Snowy Owl previously seen there, but no luck. During the entire trip we saw many birds of prey, including Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed and Rough-legged hawks and American Kestrel. Several Red-tailed Hawks were a very dark variety. Katie Saylor figures we averaged a Northern Harrier every 15 minutes because there seemed to be many! The crowning glory of the trip was Andrea Wilkey spotting a Great Horned Owl. It was almost invisible tucked in the fork of a tree next to the junction of

Morrison and Janett roads SE of Davenport. Jim and Sheelagh saw two Mountain Bluebirds. Another good spotting was 2 Snow Buntings by Lisa.

Participants were Roland Craft, Janet Callen, Lisa Hardy, Jim and Sheelagh Lynn, George and Katie Saylor and Andrea Wilkey.

See complete species list and photos at:

http://cdaudubon.org/February_21_15%20Lincoln_Co.pdf

Great Backyard Bird Count

Continued from page 4

and the beginning of Cougar Gulch Road. We counted 248 Mallard and 1 Red-winged Blackbird there. We crossed the highway to The Nature Conservancy property, hiked a short distance on the trail, and then drove to a better vantage point over Cougar Bay.

On Cougar Bay, we found some wigeon, scaup, Redhead and Ring-necked Ducks scattered around a raft of American Coot. Two swans were at too great a distance to identify as to species. All of the day's grebes were congregated in Cougar Bay, though we did not find any Red-necked Grebes, an expected species. We rounded out the day with a Pacific Wren, a few more chicklets and Pygmy Nuthatches.

Thanks to all participants for lots of keen spotting: Kris Buchler, Janet Callen, Roland Craft, Sally Jones, and Lynn Sheridan.

See complete results on our Website: http://cdaudubon.org/Februry_14_GBBC_15.pdf

Coming Field Trips



Northern Hawk Owl
Photo by
Larry Krumbleman

Participants should contact the trip leader at least 24 hours in advance of the field trip for any changes in the meeting place, time or destination.

Participants will share in mileage reimbursement for the driver.

Additional field trips will be added if we have someone to lead them. Please contact our field trip coordinators, Janet Callen 664-1085 and Roland Craft 457-8894, for suggestions or volunteer to lead a trip.

Mica Bay Survey

Date: March 10, Tuesday

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318 and Janet Callen 664-1085

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

Cougar Bay Preserve

Date: March 14, Saturday

Time: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Leader: Kris Buchler 664-4739 and Janet Callen 664-1085

Activity: We will hike and bird along the Preserve trails, including the new BLM trail that goes out to the point

Raptor Survey



Northern Harrier - Photo by Bill Linn

Date: March 14, Saturday

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet: Hayden Albertson's

Leader: Doug Ward 762-7107

Activity: We drive a set route across the Rathdrum Prairie and record hawk species and numbers. This is a regional survey being coordinated by the East Cascades Audubon Society. 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.



Short-eared Owl - Photo by Wayne Tree

Flathead Valley, Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge

Date: March 27-28, Friday- Saturday

Time/Meet: Details to follow.

Leader: Kris Buchler 664-4739

This will be a two-day trip to observe the courtship displays of Short-eared Owls, and view spring arrivals on the refuge. One stay overnight (add the 29th for those who want to stay 2 nights.) Lodging: Ninepipes Lodge. Call for reservation to get group discount - 10% gives us rooms for \$89.99. Ask for Brian or Susie and tell them you are with CDA Audubon. Phone - 406-644-2588. For those who want to share a room, let me know and I can tell you who our single travelers are. Travel: We'll organize car pools when we know who is going. Let me know if you plan on going by yourselves. We will want to be at the lodge by mid-afternoon as we likely will have an early dinner and then head out to watch the courtship displays of the Short-eared Owls. This happens only in the evenings. Mornings are good for observing them hunt and feed. (great views last year). Ed will research sunset time for the end of March as we want to be set up 1 1/2 hours before sunset. The owls display primarily

during twilight. Montana is in the Mountain Time Zone. Saturday: Last year we had good luck eating granola bars while heading out early to watch the owls. Then, we came back for a nice late breakfast at the lodge. We can bird some of the refuge on Friday as we travel to our lodging which is on the eastern edge of the refuge. You might like to visit the National Bison Range for mammals and birds on your way back. This can take



several hours



Short-eared Owl - Photo by
Wayne Tree

Please email or call me if you still intend to make this trip. Denver Holt will likely join us again if he is in town. It can't get much better than that. Let me know your travel needs or plans and if you will stay just the one night.

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