

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

March 2016

Volume 26 Number 7

March Program

DATE: March 8, Tuesday

PLACE: Lutheran Church of the Master,
4800 N. Ramsey, CDA TIME: 7:00 p.m.

SPEAKERS: Joe and Cordi Atkinson

Joe and Cordi have been involved with Golden Eagles for more than 30 years. Their eagles have appeared on many nature programs and films, most recently "The Sage Brush Sea", produced by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and shown on PBS.

PROGRAM: "Philippine Eagles"

They recently returned from working in the Philippine jungle training the critically endangered Philippine Eagle for a documentary also produced by Cornell Lab of Ornithology to be shown worldwide later this year. Cordi is an internationally published photographer and through her lens you will have a very rare opportunity to see this powerful and exotic eagle. With only 300 of these magnificent eagles left on the planet their hope is to bring awareness to its plight and the efforts that are being made to prevent its extinction.



President's Report

Eula Hickam

A lot is happening (as usual) in our Audubon Chapter! The PowerPoint presentation shown by Ed and Kris Buchler in February was very informative about birding in the far north! I really enjoyed the pictures and dialogue.

We are getting ready for the 25th Anniversary party of the formation of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society. The dinner at the Greenbriar Inn on April 17 will be a great celebration, - you won't want to miss it! Thanks to George Saylor who is working on the details. This is also a fundraiser for our Osprey Sign Project.

I'd like to expand the CDA Audubon Society's Education Committee. With the

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President's Report

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computer and projector being purchased with funds from the Norcross Foundation Grant, we can develop our own PowerPoint presentations on various topics for school classrooms and other meetings. So, if you would be interested in helping, talk to me and we'll get together soon.

Field Trip Coordinator - Who would be interested in working with Janet Callen on this? This is a good opportunity for someone to step up and help.

June Picnic - we have some good leads on a place to hold the annual get-together, but I'd like to hear any other ideas you have.

International Migratory Bird Day - This event will not be held this year, but we are hoping that next year we will be able to do so.

Happy Birding!



Bluebird Trails

Needed! "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 and April general meeting, or contact Rob and Nancy Kroese for information or to volunteer:

rnkroese@gmail.com - 667-5369.

Refreshment Volunteers!

Thanks to Ellie Emm for volunteering to become our Hospitality Chair!

Refreshments are provided at each of our monthly meetings and it might be right up your alley to volunteer to bring them one time! We plan for about 30-40 people and Eula always makes the coffee. Refreshments can be either homemade or store bought. If you would like to volunteer to bring TREATS, please contact Ellie at ep1724@gmail.com or leave a message at (907) 744-0104. She'll find a meeting that will work for YOU!



Adopt - A - Highway

It's Time for Spring Cleaning!

Date: April 16, Saturday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

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

We will start the pick-up effort at about 8:20. Wear appropriate clothing (which could mean rain gear), bring a pair of gloves and a lot of ambition! We are typically finished before noon.

It is essential that you SIGN UP for the event to allow us to comply with IDOT regulations. Do that at the March or April Audubon meetings.

Contact Mike (208.755.0560) or Val Zagar (208.819.5115) for more information.

Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter's Anniversary Party



Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society

In case you weren't at the last meeting and missed the announcement, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society has been around for 25 years! Your board decided that was cause for celebration, so we are having our 25th Anniversary Party on April 17th, starting at 5:00 pm. Once again we are at the Greenbriar Inn, 315 E. Wallace in Coeur d'Alene

If you were at one of our two previous fundraisers there, you know how good the food is and what a wonderful time we had. This time, we will focus more on honoring our 25 years of celebrating and protecting birds and other wildlife. We will raise some money through the sale of tickets, which are \$40.00, and through a silent auction with just a few major items to bid on. Without giving too much away, I can say they include vacation time in great accommodations on or near the water.

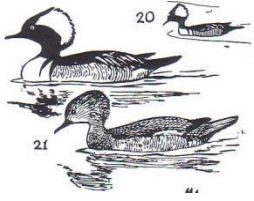
There will be a short program reviewing some of the highlights of our history and celebrating some of our achievements and members. . A portion of money raised will go toward the purchase of signs that will be placed near Osprey nesting sites to encourage boaters to stay clear of them.

Dinner options are as follows: Beef Tri Tip with mushroom marsala sauce, Eggplant Parmesan, Crab Cakes with Aioli , and Oven Baked Cedar Planked Salmon. Dinners include their wonderful house salad, coffee, and a dessert sampler. To order tickets you can buy them at our next two monthly meetings or send cash or a check to: Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society, PO Box 316, Coeur d'Alene, ID, 83816. Be sure to specify which dinner option you prefer.

Did you know that our first newsletter was printed in November 1990 and that field trips were already being planned, or that by the January 1991 newsletter we were officially incorporated as the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society? These are just a couple of the interesting things you will learn about our organization. Of course, there will be the joy of fellowship with members from throughout the years. At least one of our current members was involved in the very creation of our club. Wonder who that is?

I hope to see you there.

George Sayler, Vice President



Pend Oreille River & Lake and Priest River - February 6th

Bill Gundlach

Good weather this year made for pleasant enough birding compared to the rainy day we had last year for this trip. Our first stop was at the Sagle Slough and residential area just southeast of the Long Bridge before Sandpoint. There was some open water where we observed some Canada Goose, Hooded Merganser, Bufflehead, and Mallard. We also drove some of the streets in this area and saw about 20 California Quail in a bush, and a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks near the top of a tree, in addition to some other species and a large raft of American Coot (500) in the lake.

We then drove to the Sunnyside area to bird along Oden Bay and on around to Hawkins Point to look over the lake and the Pack River Flats. This is usually a very productive area and it did not disappoint the five of us this time. The bay had large flocks of Northern Pintail, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Canada Goose, American Coot, Common Merganser, Ring-necked Duck, Tundra Swan, and others seen previously. The Bald Eagle nest on Fisherman Island was active with two adults and two immatures perching and flying around. The adults appeared to be getting ready for nesting time. In the lake, we saw 16 Horned Grebe, 2 Common Loon, 5

Pied-billed Grebe, 6 Western Grebe, 1 Red-necked Grebe and 41 Double-crested Cormorant. The flats had 106 Tundra Swan feeding on the exposed plants on the mud. There was also a large group of gull species (30+) where I observed a large light-colored gull with pinkish legs and no black that I think may have been a Glaucous Gull; unfortunately I lost it after telling the others about it and nobody else saw it to verify it. There were also Bald Eagles at this stop.

Our last stop was Denton Slough along the highway between Hope and Clark Fork. Here we saw more Tundra Swan (20) and more Canada Goose, in addition to other species. There were 6 mature and 4 immature Bald Eagle here. We ended our trip here to head for home. On this outing we saw 34 species which included 14 mature and 7 immature Bald Eagle and these additional species not previously mentioned: Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, Common Raven, Northern Flicker, Black-billed Magpie, Black-capped Chickadee, Belted Kingfisher, Rock Pigeon, American Crow, American Goldfinch, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Goldeneye, Ring-billed Gull, Song Sparrow, and Ruddy Duck. The different rafts of American Coot amounted to more than 2500 birds! Trip participants were Janet Callen, Sally Jones, Roland Craft, Dick Cripe, and me, Bill Gundlach, and we all managed quite well in my Subaru Forester. It was a good day! Thanks to all for coming.

Lincoln County Winter Bird Field Trip February 2nd

Roland Craft

The day started out with bright sunshine and it lasted all day. Our first stop was Audubon Pond in Reardan to look for waterfowl. We saw many Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Redhead and more than 20 swans. They were too far away to identify the species but most likely were Tundra Swan. Also seen were Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Mallard, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck and one mature Bald Eagle. Another Bald Eagle was seen towards the end of the trip.

An interesting event happened in Davenport. We were told in advance that there was a Great Horned Owl in a row of cottonwood and a Merlin somewhere in town. Sure enough, Janet spotted the owl sitting on top of a large pruned branch, looking like a big swelling at the end of the limb. We went around several corners and Mary saw the Merlin sitting on a conifer branch. We all had plenty of time to study each bird.

We then spent most of the time driving country roads. Everywhere we went Horned Larks flew across the road. On Kuch Road we came across a small pond so full of Canada Goose that we barely could see water. Lisa saw at least two Cackling Goose among the group.

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Great Horned Owl - Photo taken at the Wilhelm Farm. Huetter, ID. - Photographs by Tom Rogers – this female had 2 young



Lincoln County Winter Bird

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The number of raptors we saw was great - 2 Bald Eagles, 9 Red-tailed Hawks, 14 Rough-legged Hawks, 1 each Merlin, American Kestrel and Northern Harrier.

We thank Chris Janett of Davenport for indicating roads and areas to find birds.

Participants were Janet Callen, Lisa Hardy, Maurine Simpson, Skyler Reynolds (a young budding birder), Darlene Carlton, Jerry and Sharon Hanson, Jan Severtson, Mary Deasy, Matt Thurley, Kathy Mohns, Ellie Emm and Roland Craft.



Montana Audubon's *Wings Across the Big Sky Festival*, co-hosted by Five Valleys Audubon Society, will be held June 3-5, 2016 in Missoula. Festival headquarters will be located at the Holiday Inn Downtown at the Park.

There are over 20 field trips are planned to a variety of habitats, including wetlands, uplands, mountain forests, sagebrush shrub-steppe, and large rivers. Expected species: Lewis's Woodpecker, Black Tern, Long-billed Curlew, Clay-colored Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Rock Wren, Canyon Wren,

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

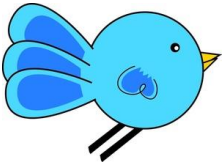
Bobolink, Gray Flycatcher, Sagebrush Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, and Williamson's Sapsucker. Post-festival day-long field trips are available for serious birders .

For non-birding enthusiasts, we again are offering our popular Friday night bat walk with local biologists plus other walks for wildflowers and butterflies. Then there is a large art show as well as history tours, shopping, and more shopping. Remember Montana does NOT have any sales tax. In appreciation of that, we are providing a fantastic optic and camera sale opportunity. Our Saturday morning market for local produce and crafts draws hundreds of tourists.

Saturday night keynote Speaker--Dr. Erick Greene, Division of Biological Sciences, University of Montana, an engaging speaker who studies threat communication shared between bird species as well as other genera, and contaminant levels in our local Osprey population.

Registration starts in March at <http://mtaudubon.org/birding/montana-bird-festival/>

Contacts are: Cathie Erickson, Montana Audubon, cerickson@mtaudubon.org, (406) 443-3949 or Rose Leach, Five Valleys Audubon, rleach-2@bresnan.net, (406)-721-0779



Field Trips

Rathdrum Prairie Hawk Survey

November through March. This two hour, fast-paced journey across the prairie is a learning experience that is a lot of fun. Limited to one car - call Doug Ward to reserve a spot 208 699-9327

Swans in Migration Field Trip

The peak swan migration through our area occurs in March, but the exact period depends on the weather. We will try to catch the peak when thousands of swans are present along the Chain Lakes. Lisa Hardy will lead a day trip, with the date to be announced just a day or two ahead of the trip. It could be any day of the week. If you are interested, contact Lisa to be put on an e-mailing list to be notified about the trip. The date will probably be between the 5th and 15th of March, but no guarantees! The swans set their own schedule.

On the appointed day, we will meet at the Rose Lake I-90 exit at 8:30 AM. We will check Canyon Marsh, Killarney Marsh and Lane Marsh. Expect to wrap up mid-afternoon, so bring lunch. Plan on muddy driving.

contact Lisa:

208-783-1262 or basalt@frontier.com

Mica Bay Survey

Date: March 8 , Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month) - times vary

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Leaders: 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

Turnbull Beginning Birdwatching Class



Date: Tentative Early April 2016

Time: To be determined

Meet: To be determined

Leader: Janet Callen

These classes are held at Turnbull from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. We will provide transportation and entry fee for the vehicles. The class will include a tour of the Refuge.

Malheur Wildlife Refuge

Date: _April 28, Thursday, through May 1st, Sunday 2016

Time and Meet: To be determined

Leader: _George Saylor 664-2787

Target Birds: Migrating waterfowl and songbirds. The refuge has recorded 320 bird species and 58 mammal species. More information: www.fws.gov/refuge/malheur

Volunteers and ideas needed for field trips and a co-leader next year

Call Janet Callen 664-1085

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664-5318

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Individual \$10.00

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