

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

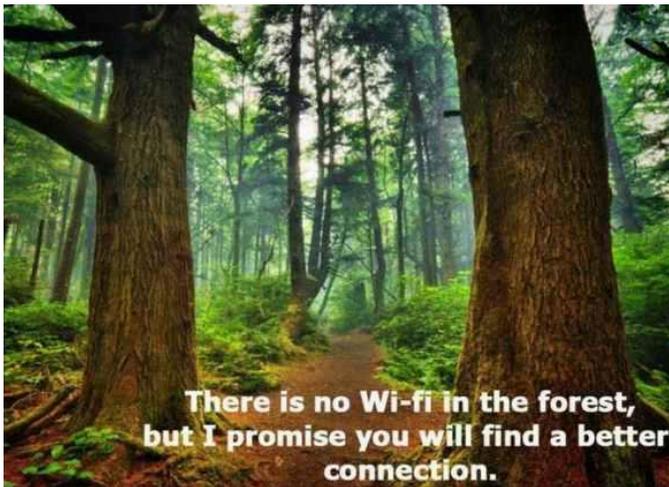


Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society
www.cdaaudubon.org

March 2020

Volume 30 Number 7

March Program



Date: March 10, Tuesday

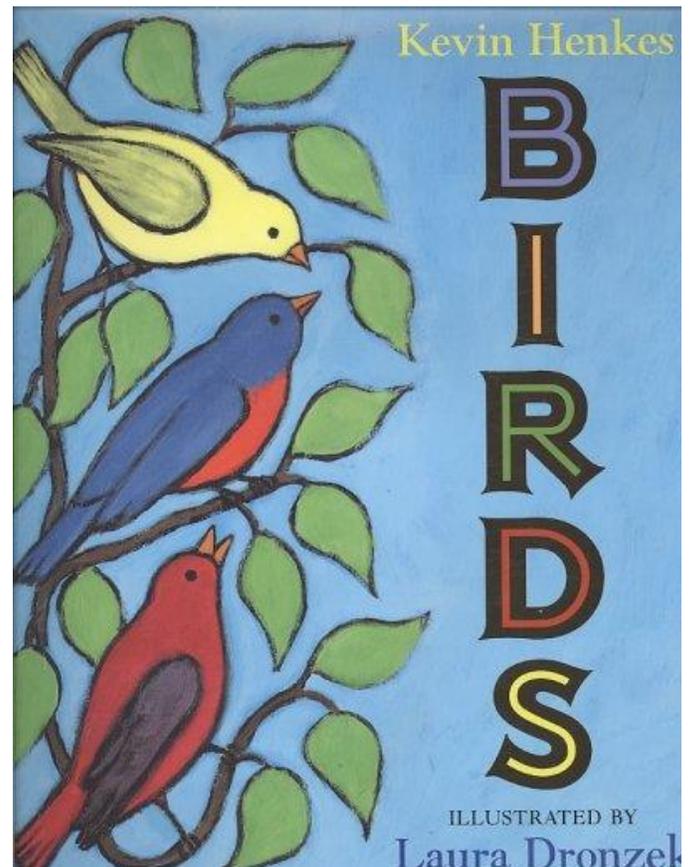
Place: Lutheran Church of the Master,
4800 N. Ramsey, CDA

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: *Mike and MerryLynn Denny*

Program: Mike Denny with his wife MerryLynn will share a film that the two of them made last year about the Northern Blue Mountains. It will be the 45 minute premier film entitled "The Secret Life of the Forest: The Northern Blue Mountains". This is part of a 13-part series they did for Blue Mountain TV in Walla Walla, Washington. The series won a Telly Award this spring for excellence in filming.

President's Message



Birds Are Cool! We've always known that, but now the word is out. When I visited The Well-Read Moose recently I saw that they have a whole table of books featuring birds - children's books, philosophy of life books, scientific books, and photo books - all featuring birds! I wanted to buy all of them!

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President's Message

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Janet Callen and Valerie Zagar
listening for woodpeckers on an Audubon
field trip - Photo by Dick Cripe

What do you think of this glorious weather? Forgetting the ominous portend for a moment, it's a great time to be outside and looking around. I've surveyed the chain of lakes and we recently had a field trip to Lincoln County, WA, for our annual expedition there. We saw owls and hawks in addition to the usual suspects (but no Snowy Owl this year). More field trips will be planned for the spring.

Sometimes it is easy to get pessimistic about the future of everything, but we have to keep focusing on the positive. Our school education program is going again this year and we'll be participating in Earth Day (April

25) and International Migratory Bird Day (May 16). So, we'll be busy.

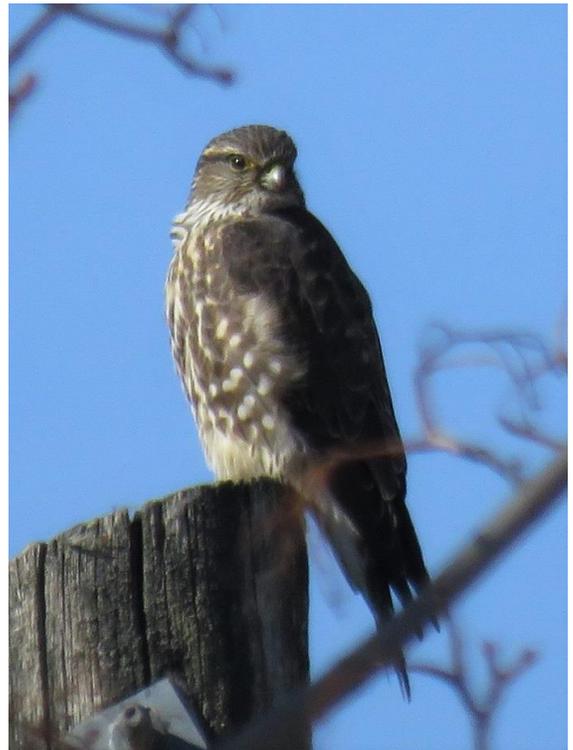
One last thought - we're looking for board members to replace outgoing officers and anyone interested in volunteering should notify me or one of the other current members. We have to keep things going with some new ideas.

Happy Birding,
Dick



Reardon and Davenport Field Trip

Article and Photographs by Darlene Carlton



After a beautiful spring like week, the weather held one more day for our February 22nd field

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Reardon and Davenport

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As we stepped out of our cars, around 2,000 Canada Geese came out of the south with an incredible symphony of sound, floating down into the already occupied pond. This was one of those magic moments that make birding with friends so special.

From there we went to Davenport and the Cemetery. Ellie spotted the Great Horned Owl in town, and when we met Chris Janett (a local farmer/excellent birder) at the cemetery, he found us another. Ellie also found the beautiful feathers from a Short-eared Owl. We also saw some Robins, Juncos, and a pair of Red-tailed Hawks around their nest at the NW corner of the cemetery.

Chris recommended Kuchs Road for a Prairie Falcon, Northern Shrike, and Snow buntings near Harrington. We went down Kuchs where we saw a pair of Rough-legged Hawks near the road before turning back at Rocklyn. It was starting to get cloudy with a light breeze. We went down Omans Road to Detour Road. Chris had warned us that the area where we used to see Short-eared Owls had all the brush removed so no owls. We did see 2 eagles and another Harrier. On the way home, we saw multiple Red-tails on the power poles.

Joining us on this trip were Janet Callen (thank you for the great list keeping!), Dick Cripe, Angela Moenich, Dave Moughmer from Montana, Ellie Em, Teresa Potts, and Mike Blackbird. Thank you everyone! In all we saw 31 species.

trip to Eastern Washington. Our first stop was the Airway Heights MacDonald's where we were greeted by a pair of Red-tailed Hawks. With coffee in hand, we proceeded to Audubon Lake in Reardon. Highlights were a dozen Swan (3 definitely Trumpeters), many duck species mainly Canvasbacks and Pintails, Canada Geese, Red-winged Blackbirds, Pheasants, 2 Northern Harriers, and 3 Bald Eagles. In the town of Reardon, Mike and Teresa spotted a Merlin for us on a telephone pole by the street. Great views!

From there we traveled through the wheat fields seeing quite a few Horned Larks and a pair of Rough-legged Hawks on our way to Mondovi Pond. For many this was the highlight of the trip.



My two dads: Eagle trio sees parenting success in Illinois

February 21, 2020

From the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Newsroom



Nesting bald eagle trio in 2019. Photo courtesy of Stewards of Upper Mississippi River Refuge.

We at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service know that families come in all shapes and sizes, and that's true for wildlife too! Meet Valor I, Valor II and Starr, a breeding trio of bald eagles that live along the Mississippi River in Illinois. For several years, fans from all over the world have been watching this nontraditional family through a webcam as the eagles deal with the trials and tribulations of parenting.

Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the public's understanding and enjoyment of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, began the webcam project in 2011. Over the years, the friends group based in Thomson, Illinois has

built a fanbase for the eagles, with thousands of people tuning in throughout the course of the breeding season.

History of the trio

Having more than two birds assist with feeding and rearing young isn't all that uncommon, but it is interesting to see that these males seem to prefer the teamwork approach to raising a family. The original trio formed in 2013 after the female chose a new mate. Even though the original male, known as Valor I, had been replaced by a new male, known as Valor II, he hung around the nest throughout the breeding season and was assumed to be engaged in the nest. It wasn't until 2016 that the friends group and refuge staff were able to document that cooperative nesting was indeed taking place. In March of 2017, family dynamics changed dramatically when Hope, the female named by her devoted fans, was killed by another eagle.

The current nesting female, known as Starr, arrived on the scene later in September and successfully laid two eggs in mid-February 2018 with support from the two males. While both of the eggs hatched, only one of the eaglets successfully fledged. The other fledging died from unknown causes about three weeks after hatching. In 2019, the trio had a remarkable year. Starr laid three eggs and all three eaglets successfully fledged!

Continuing the tradition in 2020

On Valentine's Day, Starr laid her first egg of the new year. A second egg followed three days later. Within the next few days, a third egg may arrive. Continued on page 5

My two dads: Continued from page 4

The trio conducts shift work when it comes to incubation. During any given shift change at the nest, the relieving adult will land in the nest and nudge the incubator to take over duties. If nudging doesn't work, more aggressive moves such as walking on the tail feathers or back of the unrelenting incubator is conducted. If still no movement, the reliever will snuggle against the incubator and wait for an attitude change.

Fans are tuning in to the eagle cam to witness the amazing adventures of this very unique family. We wish the trio continued success. [Learn more about Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge](#) and plan your visit today!



Citizen Science Cornell Lab of Ornithology

From their Website

Hundreds of thousands of people around the world contribute bird observations to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology each year, gathering data on a scale once unimaginable. Scientists use these data to reveal how birds are affected by habitat loss, pollution, disease, climate, and other environmental changes. Your participation will help us trace bird migration, nesting success, and changes in bird numbers through time. These insights inform conservation plans and key actions to protect birds and habitats. Find a project that's right for you!

If you enjoy watching birds, contribute your passion to help science and conservation, whether by watching birds at your feeders, monitoring nests, or sharing your sightings any time, anywhere. We welcome your participation! Please join our community by getting started today.

Projects

Celebrate Urban Birds

Join our bilingual project focused on urban, rural, and underserved communities. Watch for 10 minutes and report on 16 species of birds. Join in community art, habitat, and bird events with help from our educational kits and mini-grants. [Get Started](#).

eBird

Keep track of your bird sightings and contribute to worldwide data for birding, science, and conservation. Explore maps, charts, photos, and more. [Try eBird Today](#).

NestWatch

Help measure nature's success. Learn how to find and monitor bird nests, then record data on species, eggs, and young. Your contributions help scientists understand how climate change, urbanization, and land use affect breeding birds. [Learn How](#).

Project FeederWatch

Count birds at your feeders from November through April. Your observations help scientists monitor changes in the abundance and distribution of birds, including the influence of changes in habitat, disease, and climate. [Learn How](#). Continued on page 6

Citizen Science

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Great Backyard Bird Count

February 15-18, 2019. Help create a real-time snapshot of birds around the world. Count birds for at least 15 minutes at any location you choose on one or more days of the count. Put Your Birds On the Map.

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The Great Backyard Bird Count is behind us for this year and Project Feeder Watch is winding down in April. Coming up soon is Nest Watch.



What Is Nestwatch?

NestWatch is a nationwide monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive. Our database is intended to be used to study the current condition of breeding bird populations and how they may be changing over time as a result of climate change, habitat degradation and loss, expansion of urban areas, and the introduction of non-native plants and animals.

How you can help:

Participating in NestWatch is easy and just about anyone can do it, although children should always be accompanied by an adult when observing bird nests. Simply follow the directions on our website to become a certified NestWatcher, find a bird nest

using our helpful tips, visit the nest every 3-4 days and record what you see, and then report this information on our website. You can also download the NestWatch Mobile App for iOS and Android and record what you see at the nest in real time. Your observations will be added to those of thousands of other NestWatchers in a continually growing database used by researchers to understand and study birds. Simply put, without your help it would be impossible to gather enough information to accurately monitor nesting birds across the country. And while you are contributing extremely valuable information to science, you will learn firsthand about birds and create a lifelong bond with the natural world



Winter Bird Sightings

Tundra Swan - 110 est. - February 19 - Chain of Lakes, most in Killarney Lake - Bill Gundlach

Common Loon - 3- February 11 - Mica Bay Survey - Janet Callen, Darlene Carlton, Angela Moenich, Bill Gundlach

Bald Eagle - 5 - February 11 - Mica Bay Survey - Janet Callen, Darlene Carlton, Angela Moenich, Bill Gundlach

Cooper's Hawk - February 5 - chasing down a Morning Dove in their yard - Rob and Nancy Kroese

Northern Pygmy Owl - January 28 - in their yard - Rob and Nancy Kroese

Northern Shrike - January 20 - Mica Bay - Darlene Carlton

Steller's Jay - February 16 - 1st one she has seen in her yard this year - Peggy Albertson

Varied Thrush - in their yard - Rob and Nancy Kroese

Field Trips and Activities



Mica Bay Survey

Date: March 10
Tuesday (Held 2nd
Tuesday of each
month - times vary
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Meet: Fairmont

Loop and Highway 95

Leader: Janet Callen (208) 664-1085

Activity: We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome.

Rathdrum Prairie Hawk Survey

Date: Done once a month November through March-Day/time vary-it takes about 3 hours

Leader: Doug Ward

Activity: a specific route is followed on roads covering Rathdrum Prairie. For safety reasons only one car is used for the survey. If interested in going, call Doug to reserve a space. 208 762-7107 Or his cell 208 699-

Chain of Lakes, CdA River

Date: March 7, Saturday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: Fernan Forest Ranger Station

Leader: Dick Cripe-208-665-0010/ Janet Callen - 208-664-1085

Activity: Half-day trip checking out new arrivals in the various lakes with a special tour around Black Lake.

Our Annual Spring/Summer Field Trip

Note; We have determined that late May and early June is not a particularly good time to visit the Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary near Vancouver, BC to see birds that we don't see here. So, we are considering that trip for late September when the geese and shore birds would be returning from their summer in Alaska.

Instead, we are considering the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival in Sisters. This would be different than most club events where we're on our own.

Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival

June 5 - June 7

<https://www.ecaudubon.org/dean-hale-woodpecker-festival>

Enjoy finding up to eleven different species of woodpeckers (including White-headed, Black-backed, and American three-toed) as well as 200 other bird species that make their homes in the spectacular forests, burn areas, and diverse habitat of central Oregon's Cascade Mountains and high desert. Sponsored by East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS), this festival offers a fun, friendly, casual atmosphere that is all about the birds. The trips are affordable and guided by two local field-trip leaders, with the proceeds supporting the many ECAS projects. Online registration opens April 1, 2020, at 8 am PDT, and tours fill quickly. Contact: Diane Roberts, Dhwf2019@gmail.com; Ken Hashagen, khashagen@outlook.com; or call 541-548-4641.

New Member Application

Join Online

Become a member of the
National Audubon Society, Join

Online at:
https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation2?df_id=8080&8080.donation=form1

Pick Chapter Code G06

From the dropdown list

Join by Phone

You may also call National
Audubon at **1-844-428-3826**
And remember to reference our

Chapter Code G06

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Local Membership Dues

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

Total \$ _____

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