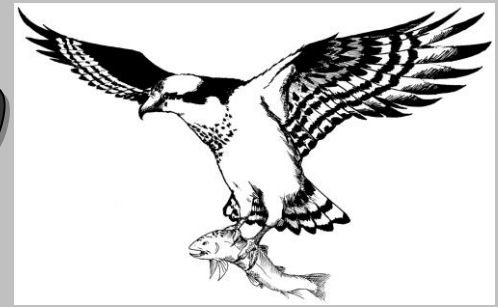


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society

May 2002

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 9

Visit our website: www.cdaaudubon.org

COMING EVENTS

BOARD MEETING

DATE: May 7, Tuesday
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Mountain West Bank
125 Ironwood Dr.

MAY PROGRAM

DATE: May 20, Monday
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: First Presbyterian Church,
521 Lakeside
PROGRAM: "Wetland Determination
and Variability in Eastern Washington
and Idaho"
SPEAKER: Dr. Bob Quinn, professor
of Geography(Climatology and
Wetlands), Eastern Washington
University
Dr. Quinn will review methodology for
determining wetlands and the wide
variety that exist in our geographic
area. He will discuss values and
functions of wetlands and his work in
mapping regional wetlands. (A Slide
presentation)

AUDUBON CHAPTER PICNIC

DATE: June 17, Monday
TIME: 5 p.m. Social hour, 6:00 p.m.
Dinner
PLACE: Mica Bay, BLM boaters'
campground. Boat across or walk
trail from Loffs Bay Rd.
ACTIVITY: Come to our annual picnic
and end of year gathering. Bring your
drinks and a dish to share along with
something to put on the grill. Dessert
will be provided. Meet your new
officers for the coming term.

NEXT NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER

AUDUBON GARAGE SALE



When: Saturday, June 1st

Where: Theresa Potts' Garage
4103 Arrowhead Road, Cd'A

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Set-up: Friday, 9 a.m.

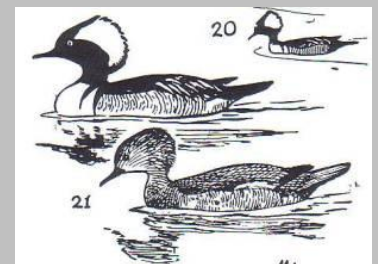
We welcome volunteers to help organize, sell, and clean up. A sign-up sheet will be at the May monthly meeting to help Friday and/or Saturday. Call Jan at 667-6209 or Theresa at 765-0229.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Date: Saturday, May 11, 2002

Time: 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Place: Mica Bay. Four locations:
Boat docks, wetland sign, Loffs Bay
Road, viewing platform/trail off of
Loffs Bay Road.



Help us celebrate IMBD!!! Join chapter members in a morning of wetland birding. Scopes and assistance will be available at four locations at our adopted wetland. Information, posters and treats for school children will be located at one viewing spot. All ages welcome! This is a great opportunity to learn about birding and wetlands.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

FIELD TRIPS

We will probably have one or two field trips during the summer, but they have not yet been finalized. These will be field trips that are not easily held in the other seasons, such as a high-elevation trip, or a sagebrush specialty trip. We will notify by e-mail, and if you do not have e-mail, give me a call if you think you might be interested, and I will call you when a trip is scheduled. Lisa Hardy (208) 682-4808.

BLUEBIRD TRAIL

We will be checking the bluebird trails in the Hoodoo Valley and in Mica Bay and Mica Flats every 10 days or so throughout the nesting season. We check all the nest boxes, keep records on the nests and band some of the adults and young. There are no set times. If you are interested in participating, call Shirley Sturts 664-5318 or Theresa Potts 765-0229

MICA BAY SURVEYS

Summer Surveys will continue

Dates: 1st Monday of each Month and 3rd Tuesday of each Month

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Day and time could vary - Check with Shirley 664-5318, Kris 664-4739 or Theresa 765-0229

At the May meeting we will all be voting on a slate of candidates to fill several offices. The nominating committee - Kris Buchler, Dick Cripe, Judy Waring and Susan Weller - presented a roster of people that are willing to take position openings.

- ◆ President - Dick Cripe
- ◆ Vice President - Lisa Hardy
- ◆ Treasurer - Ronn Rich
- ◆ Secretary - Lynn Sheridan
- ◆ Education Committee - Janet Callen/ Kris Buchler
- ◆ Conservation Committee - Mike Mihelich
- ◆ Field Trips - Lisa Hardy
- ◆ Membership - Jan Severtson
- ◆ Hospitality - Judy Waring
- ◆ Newsletter Editor/webmaster - Shirley Sturts
- ◆ Newsletter Sending - Joan Gundlach

Nominations are still being accepted and encouraged. Please let a member of the nominating committee know if you are interested in running for any of these offices.

May 11, 2002 will be a good day to stop in at Super 1 and Tidyman's grocery stores in Coeur d' Alene. Both stores have generously donated brown-paper



bags, which Audubon has distributed to area schools for

decoration.

Fourth grade students have been asked to draw, paint or color their depiction of

International Migratory Bird Day.

Both stores will be using the decorated bags for purchases and may have some displayed. We've also asked the student artists to sign their work. Please stop by, view the artwork, thank the store and if you make a purchase, ask for one of the decorated IMBD bags. Super 1 is on Highway 95 at Kathleen Avenue and Tidyman's on 95 at Neider Avenue.

**UPCOMING OFFICER
AND BOARD ELECTION**

**CELEBRATE
INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATORY BIRD DAY
VISIT A GROCERY STORE**

Janet Callen

MAY FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

1. Please register with the leader ahead of time.
 - a. It helps the leader plan the trip.
 - b. You will be informed if the trip time or location is changed or if the trip is canceled.
2. Fees: (to paid to the driver of the car) \$5.00 - all day trips \$3.00 - 1/2 day trips.
3. We sometimes use radios to communicate between cars. If the radios are used we are asking participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries.

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES/TIME: May 6, Monday and May 23, Thursday / 8:00 a.m.

MEET: Canal Street (Fairmont Loop) and Highway 95

LEADERS: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318 - Theresa Potts 765-0229

ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours twice a month counting birds in the Mica Bay area. Beginner birders are welcome to join us. SURVEY OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

On the latter date, we will be conducting a survey of amphibians and reptiles in addition to the bird survey. Join us and learn where to look for frogs, salamanders, snakes and turtles, and how to identify our local representatives. There is a real shortage of data on amphibians and reptiles in our region, and the chapter is hoping to start correcting that deficiency by incorporating an annual survey into our Mica Bay program.

NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT

Anyone who wishes to count birds on Saturday, May 11 for the annual NAMC, can contact Lisa Hardy for more information: 682-4808 or basalt@earthlink.net

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE/TIME: May 14, Tuesday, 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

MEET: 3RD Steet entrance to Tubbs Hill

LEADER: Lynn Sheridan (leave messages for Lynn with Kris Buchler 664-4739)

ACTIVITY: We will walk as far as time permits along the trail that goes around Tubbs Hill. Come enjoy both spring flowers and birds with Lynn.

MARY MINERVA McCROSKY STATE PARK

DATE: May 18, Saturday

TIME: 7:00 a.m.

MEET: K-mart parking lot, behind Fast Burger

LEADER: Lisa Hardy, 682-4808 or basalt@earthlink.net

ACTIVITY: This will be a full day trip to the scenic park south of Plummer. Bring lunch and water, and wear shoes suitable for light hiking.

BIRDING BY EAR – BIRDS OF THE GARDEN

Can you identify birds that you cannot see? Susan Weller will lead a workshop to teach us to identify the songs of common birds of the garden. Join her at her home on Wednesday morning, May 22 and learn to distinguish the individual notes of the spring chorus. Call Susan to register for this workshop 682-3413 (time and directions will be provided).

CENTURY COUNT

DATE: June 8, Saturday

ACTIVITY: Come help us count 100+ bird species in one day in Shoshone County. We will bird From dawn to dusk. Call Shirley Sturts for information and to register 664-5318.

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

SEE PAGE 2

the
the
d in
log
ed it
struggle for two days, then cut it
loose and brought it to me. Who

FISHERMEN



This cartoon may look funny but the dangers posed by fishing line are serious. Discarded fishing line and plastic six-pack rings cause needless suffering and death to birds and other wildlife. Please deposit fishing line in a covered trash can or take it home.

Have a great day fishing and thank you for helping protect Idaho's wildlife!



Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society
www.cdaudubon.org

knows how long the bird had been there before the inevitable throng of weekend campers arrived? The line had cut so deep into the leg that in places the bird's flesh had healed over it. I had to tear flesh to unwind and extract the strand. Then there was the common crow caught in fishing line and dangling by one wing from a power line above Bull Run. A resident watched all day as the crow's struggling unwound the line so the bird finally hung only inches from the water. Fearing it would drown, she enlisted a neighbor and his boat and rowed out to cut the crow free. A careful check revealed an

undamaged wing and the bird was released the next day.

These are the happy ending stories about birds' encounters with fishing line --- line fishermen have stripped off the reel and thrown on the ground. Many of the birds that get entangled in fishing line weigh far less than the test weight of the line. Even a Bald Eagle or Osprey is helpless against five or 10 pound test line. For every happy ending, there are countless tragic endings: the birds we never find, the ones that starve or are eaten by predators.

One tragic story is told by an oriole's nest Coeur d'Alene Audubon President, Kris Buchler, has among her vast collection of

4
bird nests. The mother bird used fishing line as nest building material, winding it around and around the cup-shaped nest. Hanging from the nest by a loose length of the fishing line is a fledgling oriole's wing. The young bird became entangled in the line and could not get free. Your imagination can fill in the gaps as to why only the wing remains. But the wing dangling by a strand of monofilament is a sad testament to how humans can unknowingly affect the natural world. Buchler uses the nest to help educate schoolchildren. Through provocative questions, she hopes to make them think about the impact their actions might have. Buchler reminds us, "A mother bird is just trying to use the best possible materials to construct a sturdy nest; she doesn't know the dangers or consequences when she picks up a piece of fishing line."

Audubon members frequently walk along Idaho's shorelines --- from rivers, sloughs, and wetlands, to creeks and lakes --- and come home with pockets bulging with fishing line and plastic six-pack rings. One summer Shirley Sturts and Buchler watched helplessly as an Osprey in Cougar Bay made repeated attempts to free itself from the piling where it was held fast by a piece of fishing line.

Retired Idaho State Fish and Game employee Jack McNeel remembers capturing a duck weak from near starvation. The bird had the inner ring from a gallon milk jug stuck on its bill. "The bird wouldn't have lasted much longer if I hadn't found it. All types of discarded plastic can be dangerous to wildlife, and baling twine is also a problem," says McNeel.

Phil Cooper, currently with the department, says discarded fishing



line and its disastrous effects on wildlife are a problem nationwide. Cooper has a photo collection, snapped in different states, of birds tangled in fishing line and other plastic garbage. One photograph of a goose with a plastic six-pack ring struck around its neck vividly illustrates the point.

Fellow birder Shirley Sturts and I have taken turns over the years writing letters to the editor to remind fishermen to pick up their discarded line. This year Coeur d'Alene Audubon became more proactive by reaching out to people at the source, namely, the places they fish. Audubon's Conservation Committee has designed a sign the group will place at nearly 40 locations in Kootenai and Shoshone Counties.

Shenango Screen Printing donated a portion of the time it took to design the sign's artwork. Moneys for the sign have come from Coeur d'Alene Audubon, the Idaho Audubon Council, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The sign depicts well-known cartoon characters Daffy Duck and Tweety Bird entangled in line with a plea for fishermen to put their discarded line in a covered trash can or to simply take it home. Audubon doesn't want the signs to give the impression that another regulation or rule is being imposed upon fishermen. "The cartoon aspect guarantees little kids will drag their parents over to look at the sign, so we hope the influence of the message will be multigenerational," said committee member Elaine Codding.

Audubon's members will be out in force placing the signs at public docks, boat launches, marinas, sporting goods stores, and other places frequented by fishermen. The sign ends on this

positive note to fishermen: "Have a great day fishing and thank you for protecting Idaho's wildlife!"

AVONDALE GOLF COURSE PROJECT

Lynn Sheridan

Last year Avondale Golf Course, via Janet Allen, whose brother is on the Board of Directors, approached Audubon to have a wildlife assessment done. After Susan Weller, Theresa Potts and Elaine Codding did a consultation and tour of the course, a decision was made to replace the existing old birdhouses with standard bluebird and chickadee-size nesting boxes, and put them in better locations.

On March 9th, volunteers Janet Callen, Del Cameron, Jack Sheridan and Dick Cripe joined me at Dick's home to inventory boxes on hand, and assemble more from kits that had been in storage in various garages.

Then on March 28, four of us went to Avondale to finish the project. Bill Gundlach and Del Cameron did most of the ladder climbing and hammering, while Susan and I held the ladders and fetched tools. We rode in 3 golf carts, as Susan guided us to the best locations, helping place the boxes in bird-friendly habitat. One Wood Duck box (provided by Avondale), 13 chickadee boxes and 7 bluebird boxes were put up, while most of the old ones were taken down.

The boxes will need to be checked and cleaned in the autumn. Avondale donated \$200 to our chapter.

Thank you everyone!

BROWN BAG BIRDING

April 9, 2002

Lynn Sheridan

Participants who joined me for a walk on Tubbs Hill were: Phyllis and Don Heumkier, Margaret Rhode, Trishuwa, Roland Craft and Kris Buchler (with Blizzard). While waiting by the dock, Roland saw 2 Osprey and 2 Red-necked Grebe. A few Mallard and 10 Ring-billed Gull scavenged for food around the docks.

On the hill there was no obvious sign of the recent controlled brush burning. Many pretty wild flowers were there to be admired: Yellow Fawn Lily, Grass Widow, Spring Beauty, and furry Heartleaf Arnica shoots.

We had to watch quietly to find Black-capped and Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a Northern Flicker. A large dark hawk sp. (Accipiter) flew above us.

Continued on page 6

BROWN BAG BIRDING

Continued from page 5

After part of our group had dispersed, Margaret spotted a Red Crossbill atop a tree, and a chorus of robins "applauded" in song.

Though cool and drizzly, it was a lovely walk. On the drive home, Roland and I confirmed the Osprey pair is nesting, as in other years, on "their" light pole platform over the baseball field.

A thank you to everyone who joined me on this walk.

FARRAGUT STATE PARK

Lisa Hardy

On the first summery day of the year, 4 Auduboners



birded Farragut State Park at the south end of Lake Pend Oreille. Both Mountain and Western Bluebird had set up residence on the model airplane field, providing everyone in the group with their first look at these species this year. We chased after the sound of a Western Meadowlark, finally finding a bright, gaudy yellow male singing in the sun. We heard a Ruffed Grouse drumming in the distance.

After parking at the boat ramp and admiring a pair of Spotted Towhee, we hiked the trail south along Idlewilde Bay to Buttonhook Bay. The usual forest species surfaced – all three chickadee species, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Then we heard an Orange-crowned Warbler, but never got a good look at it. We heard two more warblers, but none of us have our ears tuned up yet for the spring influx. Listening to tapes later, I think we may have been hearing MacGillivray's and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

The only waterfowl at Buttonhook Bay were Horned Grebe molting to breeding plumage and a Canada Goose.

At the viewpoint, we stopped to put the scope on a mountain goat on the far hillside.

Lastly, we looped through the town of Bayview, walking out on the dock to scope out Scenic Bay. Here we found more Horned Grebes and a female Long-tailed Duck. It seems that all of our sightings of Long-tailed here in north Idaho are of females, so, as only the males have the long tail feathers, we never see the aspect that gives them their name.

It was a beautiful day to be birding.

Trip participants: Roland Craft (thanks again for the record keeping!), Lisa Hardy, Lynn

Sheridan, Phil Waring (and Tina). 33 species total. The complete trip list can be found on the webpage www.cdaadubon.org

CHAIN LAKES

Lisa Hardy

The Chain Lakes attract large numbers of waterfowl in migration, and the April 6 field trip found 25 species of ducks and other water birds. We started out at Rose Lake Junction under gray skies, which threatened but never delivered rain. On North Doyle Road, a late Common Redpoll was found in a group of typical feeder birds.

Porter Lake and Lane Marsh were filled with a wide variety of waterfowl, including 13 species of ducks. Among the American Wigeon, we found 3 Eurasian Wigeon males. We seem to see more of these each year. Also spotted were Wood Duck, scaup and Ring-necked Duck. The Cinnamon Teal at Porter Lake elicited "oohs and ahs".

Hundreds of American Coot bobbed in a loose raft off of Medimont in Cave Lake. Bob and Marcella, who live nearby, told us that if there were any Bald Eagles in the vicinity, the coots would be behaving quite differently. When threatened by an eagle, the coots bunch up in a tight raft – obviously there were no eagles today. A half dozen Canvasback were diving beyond the coot raft.

After a quick coffee stop, we parked for lunch overlooking the west end of Cave Lake. Shirley spotted a coyote hunting rodents far out in the marsh, and we took turns watching it with a scope.

Next we headed to Harrison. Parking at the marina, we walked east on the "Rails-to-Trails" along the Coeur d'Alene River delta. Here we found Yellow-headed Blackbird, American Goldfinch

and Northern Rough-winged Swallow. When the trail is completed later this year, it will provide some wonderful birding access.

The trip rounded up 59 species, including quite a few first sightings for our Kootenai County Big Year. See the website (www.cdaadubon.org) for the complete list. The trip also yielded our first spring sightings of the Hansons and the Warings.

Trip participants: Roland Craft (thanks for keeping the list!), Dick Cripe, Bob and Marcella Hanson, Lisa Hardy, Jan Severtson, Shirley Sturts, Judy and Phil Waring (and Tina!).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!!!!

February: Adylene Anderson, Fred Bardelli, Joan & Warren Crandall, Rochelle Fairfield, Bess Frazier, Marcella Hanson, Patricia Shea.

March: Robert Getty, Judith Meyer, Vera Bronson, Jean Graham, Ellen Manning, Jim Taylor

We look forward to meeting you and welcome you to our activities!

OBSERVATION POST

OBSERVERS:) Kris/E Buchler (KBUC, EBUC), Del/Corinne/Cliff Cameron (DCAN, CCAM, CLCAM), Janet Callen (JCAL), Roland Craft (RCRA), Dick Cripe (DCRI) Rochelle Fairfield (RFAR), Bill Gundlach), Jerry Hanson (JHAN), Lisa Hardy (LHAR), Jan Severtson (HSEV), Lynn Sheridan (LSHE), Shirley Sturts (SSTU), Theresa Potts (TPOT), Judy and Phil Waring (JWAR, PWAR)
Mica Bay Survey March 26 and April 8, 25 (SSTU, KBUC, RCRA, RFAI, JSEV, JHAN, BGUN), TPOT)

Common Loon 1 Fernan Lake March 26 and 3 April 9, and 2 April 25 (SSTU); 3 Wolf Lodge Bay April 24 (LHAR); 2 Mica Bay Survey April 25

Turkey Vulture 1+ Farragut State Park April 18 (CCAM,DCAM,CLCAM)

Eurasian Wigeon 1 Wolf Lodge Bay, CDA Lake March 26 (PWAR,JWAR)

Harlequin Duck 1 Lewiston-Clearwater River April 4 (SSTU)

Barrow's Goldeneye 3 Mica Bay Survey April 8

Ruddy Duck 1st arrival in the Kingston Area April 16 (LHAR)

Osprey 2 at nest Mica Bay Survey April 8, 25; 1 Fernan Lake April 12 (LSHE), 1st arrival in the Kingston Area April 16 (LHAR)

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 Ocean Avenue CDA April 14 (JCAL)

Bald Eagle 1 adult, 1 immature March 25 and 1 adult April 8 and 25 (1 pr has nest) Mica Bay Surveys

Golden Eagle 1 immature Mica Bay Survey April 8

Ruffed Grouse 1 Fernan Lake April 23-24 (SSTU)

Common Snipe 1st Fernan Creek April 7 (JWAR,PWAR), 1 Mica Bay Survey April 8; 3 Wolf Lodge Bay April 24 (LHAR)

Calliope Hummingbird 1st in his yard Coeur d'Alene April 19th; (PWAR); 1 In their yard Coeur d'Alene April 23 (CCAM, DCAM); 1 Armstrong Hill Feeder April 26 (KBUC); 1 Fernan Lake feeder April 27 (SSTU)

Red-naped Sapsucker 1st in his year Coeur d'Alene April 13 (DCAM); 1 Mica Bay Survey April 25

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 Kingston area April 8 (LHAR), 1 Mica Bay Survey April 25

White-breasted Nuthatch 1 Fernan Lake March 26 (SSTU)

Western Bluebird 1-3 pair Mica Bay Survey April 8 and 25; 1 pr Hoo Doo Valley Blue Bird Trail May 20 (TPOT)

Townsend's Solitaire 1 Rathdrum Prairie April 8 (DCAM,CCAM)

Orange-crowned Warbler 1st Armstrong Hill April 26 (KBUC)

Yellow-headed Blackbird 130+ Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge April 13 (KBUC,EBUC)

Western Meadowlark 1 Rathdrum Prairie April 8 (DCAM,CCAM)

Savanna Sparrow 1st Rathdrum Prairie April 8 (CCAM,DCAM); 2 Mica Bay Survey April 25

Varied Thrush 1 at feeder Coeur d'Alene March 17 (JWAR,PWAR)

Fox Sparrow 1 North Fork CDA River in her yard March 2 (LHAR)

White-crowned Sparrow 1st Coeur d'Alene April 22 (LSHE), 1 Coeur d'Alene April 23 (JCAL)

Western Meadowlark 1 North Fork CDA River in her yard March 22(LHAR)

CHECK IT OUT

Top Ten Tips for Bird-Friendly Living

American Bird Conservancy

www.abcbirds.org

Continued from February Newsletter

2. Be Judicious in Your use of Pesticides. Not only can they be toxic to birds, but they kill the insects birds use for food. **Weed instead of spraying!** A little old-fashioned weeding is good for you, good for the environment, and may even help you get a little bird watching! Visit your local organic grocer or health food store and look for biopesticides and organic fertilizer. If they don't stock them, ask them to!

If you have pests invading your home, consider how and why they're getting in: Do they have easy access to food and water in your house? Check your weather stripping, gaps in floors and around windows and plumbing fixtures, and faulty screens. For a list of other tips on pesticides and your home, visit ABC's "Pesticides and Birds" campaign website at www.abcbirds.org/pesticides/FAWs.htm

Another great resource, including a list of Non-Toxic Pest Controls and companies that engage in enviro-friendly pest control, visit: www.beyondpesticides.org