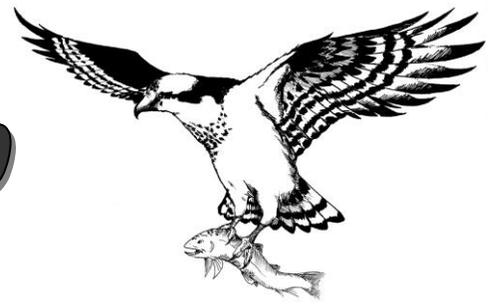


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society

September 2005

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 1

COMING EVENTS

BOARD MEETING

DATE: September, Monday, 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mt. West Bank-125 Ironwood

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

DATE: September 16, Monday, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: First Presbyterian Church, 521 E. Lakeside, CDA

SPEAKERS: Vera Weniger and Ann Seddon

PROGRAM:

THE OLD SNAG

Dick Cripe

"I think it's time to take out that old snag", I stated firmly. "It's leaning and likely to fall one of these days and the birds no longer pay any attention to it".

"What do you mean-the birds no longer pay any attention to it-they're on it all of the time", replied Antje.

"Yea, they perch there as they come and go, but there are no bugs in it and they no longer nest there, it's too rotten. It's dead, dead, dead.

The snag under discussion is about 30 feet of the bottom half of a sizable ponderosa pine that broke off many years ago. All of the bark is peeled off and it is full of holes of various sizes. The

woodpeckers and nuthatches have been busy on it over the years. When we bought the house eight years ago it was an old snag. Although it is against our back fence our yard is shallow and the snag looms over our back deck. Birds have nested there from time to time since we bought the place. The last time was two summers ago when a pair of flickers raised a nest of three. We watched them develop from unseen cheeps, to hungry demanding mouths, to frightened fledglings. Our sister-in-law actually saw the third and final flicker chick take its maiden leap from the safety of the nest out into space-an exciting moment. Last year, however, the snag was vacant and unused all summer.

"I think you should leave it there" said Ken Roberge of Specialty Tree Service and an Audubon member. "It doesn't look like it's going to fall down anytime soon and it adds a lot of character to your yard". So, I was out-voted. The snag was spared for another year.

"I think somebody's pecking in the snag. Maybe they are making a nest!", exclaimed Antje, sometime later.

Sure enough, a pair of pygmy nuthatches could be seen working on one of the existing small holes chipping it out to meet their specifications. We heard their tap-tap-tap regularly over the course of a week. We thought a couple of times that they had abandoned it, but they soon returned and resumed their work. Now they are clearly nesting. We can see one nuthatch looking out the hole while the other adult comes back and forth bringing something to eat. We don't know if one is nesting and the other is collecting food, or if they are taking turns. But, they are well into their parenting adventure now.

There was a flurry of noise and activity around the snag a few days ago. I looked out and watched a flicker checking out a larger hole just below the nuthatches who were taking exception to his presence and raising a ruckus. Shortly the flicker flew off presumably to find another nest site and everything quieted down again. I was surprised, then, yesterday, while watching the nuthatches, to see the head of a flicker peering out of the other hole. The flicker couple have, indeed, taken up residence. Now we have flickers and nuthatches both nesting in the snag a couple of feet from each other-a multi-cultural community. We believe in diversity!.

Over the next month we will watch these two families with interest and see how much of the chicks' activity we will be able to observe. This should keep us busy. And the snag will stay until it falls down.

BIRD



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Kris Buchler

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MAY AND SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

SEE PAGE 4 FOR FIELD TRIPS IN JUNE AND JULY

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 be 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.

WESTMOND LAKE - ROUND LAKE

DATE: May 8, Sunday

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEET: K-Mart parking lot, south end

LEADER: Janet Callen - 664-1085

ACTIVITY: This small lake has some diverse habitat. In addition to waterfowl, we hope to see shorebirds and some neotropical songbirds. If time allows and the group wishes, we will visit nearby Round Lake also. Bring a lunch and water.

MICA BAY SURVEY PLUS...

DATES: May 10 and 24, Tuesdays

TIME: 7:00 a.m.

MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

LEADERS: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318 - Kris Buchler, 664-4739

ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds in the Mica Bay area and one day we may visit other areas.

SUMMER SURVEYS: We will continue doing the survey the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Call Shirley or Kris ahead of time to make sure the day has not been changed.

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE: May 17, Tuesday

TIME: 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

MEET: Tubbs Hill - 11th Street entrance

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

ACTIVITY: Bird for an hour on the trail around Tubbs Hill.

ATTENTION BIRDERS!!!! CENTURY COUNT

The Century Count (trying for 100 species in one day), has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 31. We are doing Bonner County this year and will begin at Schweitzer Mountain about 4:30 AM. In order to begin right away, we have looked into renting a condo or room/rooms in the lodge for Monday night, May 30. The type of accommodations depends on how many will join us. Also, we can go up in time for dinner at the Grill or stop in Sandpoint. Everyone will have to bring their food for the day of the count.

Please contact Kris Buchler as soon as possible if you are interested in participating in the Century Count and will start the day with us on the mountain. There is an alternative for those who want to drive early in the morning and meet us about 6:30 AM in Sandpoint. Also, if anyone wants to do a half day, I'd like to know that also.

Please join us for this annual event!!!!!! We have wonderful memories from past counts and this is our first Bonner County Century Count. Newcomers are encouraged and welcome. Kris Buchler Call 664-4739 or email at eagleroost@adelphia.net, for more information or to register for the count.

Continued on Page 4

OBSERVATION POST

Shirley Sturts

2005 Kootenai County Big Year - as of April 22 -- go to our website for a complete list

#107 Northern Shoveler: 1+ Cataldo area, March 29, Lisa Hardy

#108 Osprey: 1 Fernan Lake, March 31, Shirley Sturts

#109 Turkey Vulture: 1 Coeur d'Alene River south of Rose Lake, April 1, Stephen Johnson

#110 Cinnamon Teal: 1+ Coeur d'Alene River south of Rose Lake, April 1, Stephen Johnson

#111 Brewer's Blackbird: 1+ Rathdrum Prairie, April 3, Stephen Johnson

#112 Savannah Sparrow: 2 Rathdrum Prairie, April 3, Stephen Johnson

#113 White-crowned Sparrow: Rathdrum Prairie, April 7, Stephen Johnson

#114 Virginia Rail: 1 Cataldo area, April 8, Lisa Hardy

#115 Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 Rathdrum Prairie April 10, Stephen Johnson and another 1 in Post Falls, April 18, Steve Lindsay

#116 Chipping Sparrow: Farragut State Park, April 10, Michael Woodruff

#117 Vesper Sparrow: - Rathdrum Prairie, April 14, Stephen Johnson

#118 Calliope Hummingbird: 1 Armstrong Hill in Coeur d'Alene, April 15, Kris Buchler

#119 Sora: 1 Fernan Lake April 17, Kris Buchler

#120 Black-chinned Hummingbird: 1 at her feeder Armstrong Rd, CDA, April 18, Kris Buchler

#121 Rough-winged Swallow: 1 Cataldo area, April 18, Lisa Hardy

#122 Wilson's Warbler: 1 Post Falls, April 17, Stephen Lindsay

#123 American Goldfinch: 1+ Post Falls, April 19, Stephen Lindsay

#124 Nashville Warbler: 1 Tubbs Hill, April 19, Kris Buchler and Stephen Johnson

#125 Red-naped Sapsucker: 1 Blue Creek Bay, CDA Lake, April 20, Lisa Hardy and Kris Buchler

#126 Orange-crowned Warbler: Blue Creek Bay, CDA Lake, April 20, Lisa Hardy and Kris Buchler

#127 Long-billed Curlew 1 Rathdrum Prairie, April 20, Doug Ward

#128 House Wren : 1 Armstrong Hill,

CDA, April 20, Kris Buchler

#129 Rufous Hummingbird: 1 Fairmont Loop Road, CDA, April 21, Jan Severtson

Other Birds

Common Loon 1 Fernan Lake, April 10, Shirley Sturts, 2 April 17,

Kris Buchler

Virginia Rail 1 Fernan Lake, April 17, Kris Buchler

Pileated Woodpecker 1pr home of Laura Bayless on 11th Steet -they flew toward Tubbs Hill, April 22, Nancy Mertz

Blue Jay X Steller Jay Hybrid: 1 still coming to the feeder of Nancy Mertz on Pine Ave., CDA as of April 22

BIRD QUOTE CORNER

"There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way they build and yet leave the landscape as it was before"

-- Robert Lynd, American Sociologist --

"Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip"

■ **Will Rogers --**