

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society

May/June 2006

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 9

BOARD MEETING

DATE: May 15, Monday

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mt. West Bank
125 Ironwood Dr.

MAY PROGRAM

DATE: May 15, Monday

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: First Presbyterian Church,
521 E. Lakeside, Coeur d'Alene

VOTING: Board members for 2006-2007
will be voted on.

SPEAKER: Carrie Hugo, Wildlife
Manager for the Coeur d'Alene Wildlife
Management Area

PROGRAM: "Bats, their natural history
and importance in North Idaho"

JUNE PICNIC/POTLUCK

DATE: June 19, Monday

TIME: 5:00 p.m. Social Hour

6:00 Potluck

PLACE: To be announced at the May
meeting or contact one of the board
members.

ACTIVITY: Come to your Annual
picnic/potluck and end of year gathering.
Bring your drinks and a dish to share
along with something to put on the grill.
Bring your own utensils. Honor your
officers and board members for this
year and meet your new officers and
board members for the coming term.

ADOPT-A HIGHWAY PROJECT

DATE: June 17, Saturday

See page 2 for details

International Migratory Bird Day May 13, 2006

Janet Callen



Lazuli Bunting - Fuertes
Collection

Audubon will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day at the pavilion in McEuen Field. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a dedication of the Idaho State Birding Trail by Representative George Saylor. George is a long-time Audubon member and he was the sponsor of HCR 38, the bill that created the official Idaho State Birding Trail. Tubbs Hill is a part of the state-wide system of birding trails and Audubon

chapter members will offer nature walks on Tubbs at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Please join us for this event. We are fervently hoping the birding trail maps will be published in time for the event and available to give to attendees. If not, we'll make certain they get to anyone interested. Migratory Bird Day posters will be available. **Go to page 4 to see the poster and read about Migratory Bird Day.**



GARAGE SALE!!!!

Our yearly fundraiser will be June 3rd, Saturday, 9:00a.m. - 2:00p.m. at Theresa Potts' house, 4103 Arrowhead Rd. We need help in organizing/pricing on Friday and selling/clean up on Saturday. A sign-up sheet will be at the May meeting. Call Theresa at 765-0229 or Shirley Sturts at 664-5318 if you have items to donate and/or need help in delivering them on Friday. (No clothing, unless new or almost new). Also, let Jan Severtson, 667-6209, know if you have any items that would be good to put in the newspaper garage sale add. **THANK YOU!**

BIRD TRACKS



AUDUBON MEMBERS MAKE A
DIFFERENCE



ADOPT-A
HIGHWAY PROJECT
June 17, 2006

Litter, garbage, refuse - I'm talkin' trash here. It's all out there along our two mile stretch of Highway 95 awaiting our bi-annual cleanup. It is always surprising to see what the weeds conceal. Surely this is the round that will yield a treasure!

We will meet at the Mica Flats Grange Hall (left side of the highway just before mile marker 423) at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 17 for the traditional donuts and juice. Long pants, long sleeved shirt, and a water bottle are advisable.

This project calls for several volunteers. The more "pickers", the quicker it goes, so let us see your smiling faces on this June morning.

For more information call Judy Waring at 765-5378.

GREEN TIPS

Green tips will be a monthly feature in our newsletter. It is designed to give you ideas for taking personal conservation action to improve the environmental health and habitat quality of our yards and neighborhoods. (Members are encouraged to send tips to the editor for inclusion in future newsletters.)

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Lisa Hardy

Indonesia has the third largest expanse of tropical forest in the world, after Brazil and Congo, and it is losing that forest at a rate of 2 million hectares (roughly the size of Massachusetts) per year. The country's timber-processing capacity is three times greater than the harvest allowed by the Ministry of Forestry, and the extra timber comes from illegal operations. These illegal logging operations produce lumber at a lower cost because they are not paying royalties. It is estimated that illegal logging worldwide depresses prices on the order of 10%, and spurs legal operations to cut costs, typically by reducing employee wages. This is of course good news for our wallets when we purchase lumber for our latest home improvement project, but there is a hidden cost in the resultant loss of biodiversity and lack of economic sustainability.

Large purchasers of wood have come under increasing pressure in this country to support ethical and sustainable logging. Home Depot and Lowe's, respectively, the number one and number two largest buyers of wood in the world, have both agreed to align their procurement policies with such goals. To that end, both Lowe's and Home Depot carry lumber products that are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, a global organization that has developed a set of criteria for forest management. To read these criteria, go to the FSC website <http://www.fscus.org/>. Next time you buy lumber or wood products at either of these chains, ask for products that

carry the FSC logo. U.S. Forest Service.

BLUEBIRD PROGRAM PRESENTED IN SANDPOINT

Kris Buchler



Coeur d'Alene Audubon was invited to present a program to the members of the Kinnikinnick Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society on March 25. This chapter has a large membership and over 50 people attended. Among them was renowned birder Earl Chapin, our link to birding activities in Bonner and Boundary Counties.

Kris Buchler traveled to Sandpoint to share our slide program, "The Gertie Hanson Memorial Bluebird Trail" and a delightful video, "Bluebirds inside the Nest Box," which documents nest building, egg laying, hatching and rearing of bluebirds. The video cam has allowed observers to see the most important part of the lives of bluebirds. This migratory species has only a few short months to reproduce before returning south for the fall migration.

The audience enjoyed seeing our nest display with real bluebird eggs. Many were interested in nest boxes and where and how to place them to encourage bluebirds or other nest box users.

Following the program, Earl Chapin was to lead a field trip to Denton Slough for an afternoon of birding.

**Bird Tracks
Continued on page 4**

MAY/SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

1. **PLEASE REGISTER:** Dates and trips could change.
2. **COST:** Participants will share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver at a rate of \$0.25/mile, with the trip leader responsible for collection and distribution of the compensation.
3. **RADIOS:** We will ask participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries as needed.
4. **UNSCHEDULED TRIPS :** Sign up to be on the group email list for unscheduled trips with Shirley Sturts: s.sturts@verizon.net, or get on a call list by calling Shirley at 664-5318.

RATHDRUM PRAIRIE SEARCH

DATES: May 2, Tuesday (And continuing through the summer months - 1st Tuesday each month)

TIME: 9:00 - 11 A.M.

MEET: 8732 North Meyer Road (One road east of Highway 41 and between Prairie and Hayden Ave.) home of Stephen Johnson.

LEADER: Stephen Johnson

ACTIVITY: Come help Stephen with his Rathdrum Prairie bird study. He will be reporting from time to time what he finds out on the Prairie. He is asking for our help! It should be fun. Please call Stephen ahead of time and let him know if you are coming. He can then let you know if he needs to change the day or time of the trip.

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES: May 9, Tuesday (And continuing through the summer months - 2nd Tuesday each month)

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. Beginner birders are welcome.

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE: May 16, Tuesday **TIME:** 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

MEET: Tubbs Hill, 3rd Street entrance

LEADER: Lynn Sheridan, 765-2603

ACTIVITY: Take an hour out of your busy day to enjoy the out-of-doors, see how many different species of birds and flowers one can find in an hour and get to know people that share your interest in nature. Beginner bird watchers are welcome.

CHENEY WASHINGTON AREA

DATE: Sunday, May 7 **TIME:** 7:30 A. M.

MEET: K-Mart parking lot, south end.

LEADER: Roland Craft, 457-8894 (May be a joint trip with Spokane Audubon)

ACTIVITY: Visit Turnbull Wildlife Refuge, Fishtrap Lake and the surrounding area. This is a full day trip. Bring a lunch and water.

BEGINNING BIRDERS TRIP

DATE: Saturday, May 20 **TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

MEET: Fernan Ranger Station

LEADER: Dick Cripe, 665-0010

ACTIVITY: Visit local feeders (half day). Learn birding basics, correct use of binoculars, field marks, field notes and use of bird guides.

CENTURY COUNT

This is a Big Day style count in which we attempt to locate 100+ species in a single day. All skill levels welcome for this event. The 2006 Century Count will be in Kootenai County on May 30, Tuesday (dawn to dusk) It's a blast! For details and to register call Shirley, 664-5318 or Lisa, 682-

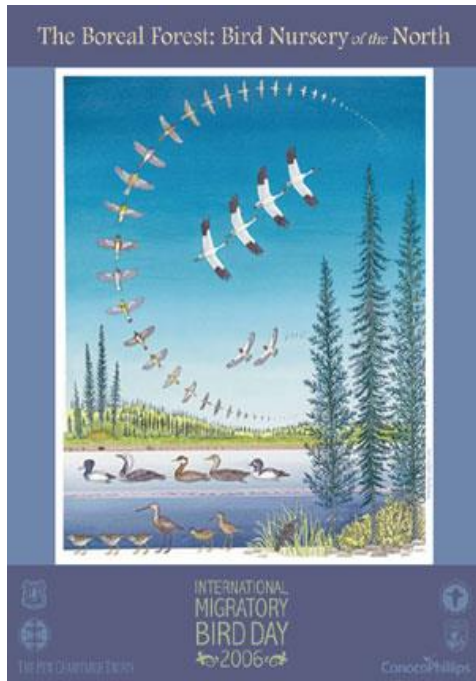
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BIRD TRACKS

BIRD TRACKS Audubon Members Make a difference

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International Migratory Bird Day



This poster will be available at the dedication ceremony at the pavilion in McEuen Field at 10:00 a.m. - see page 1

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) celebrates the incredible journeys of migratory birds between their U.S. and Canadian breeding grounds and their wintering sites in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. The event, which takes place on the second Saturday in May each year, encourages bird conservation and increases awareness of birds through a series of public events and education programs.

The theme for 2006 is *The Boreal Forest: Bird Nursery of the Americas*. North America's Boreal Forest encompasses approximately 1.5 billion acres (2.35 million square miles) and

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stretches from Alaska to Newfoundland. The region includes one of the world's largest intact forests, which is dotted with lakes, rivers and wetlands.

The region's importance, however, extends far beyond Canada and Alaska to the Lower 48 states, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Billions of birds of over 270 species migrate long distances from these locations to the Boreal Forest where they nest and raise young in what is known as North America's "bird nursery." Although still relatively undisturbed, less than 8% of the Boreal is protected, and much of it is under threat from industrial pressure due to logging, oil and gas exploration, mining and hydroelectric dams. Boreal trees provide more than a third of all newspaper used in America, and the forest feeds the ever-growing supply of catalogs and mail that are sent out every day.

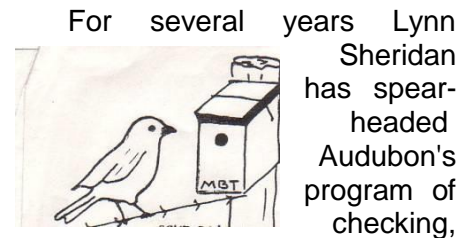
IMBD will officially be on May 13 this year, but many organizations will continue to conduct hikes, festivals, bird watching events and a range of educational programs throughout the entire month of May and beyond.

For more information on events in your area (see page 1 of this newsletter), or to find out how you can register your own organization's event, visit www.birdday.org or email MigratoryBirdDay@aol.com. For information on birds and the Boreal Forest, visit www.borealbirds.org.

From: *Bird Calls*, Vol. 10, No. 1, March 2006. Published by American Bird Conservancy.

BIRD HOUSE PROGRAM EXPANDS

Dick Cripe



cleaning, repairing and/or replacing bird houses on local golf courses. This spring, Lynn and Dick Cripe visited Brian Woster, manager of Circling Raven Golf Course at the Coeur d'Alene Casino near Worley, and were given a tour of the course. Brian had already placed 17 bird houses around the course, and wanted advice as to how to attract a greater variety of birds. He reported that mostly wrens were using his houses. After checking with our experts, we delivered four of Roger Young's birdhouses to Brian and advised him where to place them to attract bluebirds (on a post next to a tilled or natural field; not on a fairway, in the trees, or near bushes). We agreed that we will stay in touch with Brian and help monitor the bird activity at Circling Raven throughout the year.

While building the bird houses in his workshop, Roger suggested that we place some of the houses at the nearby Ponderosa Springs Golf Course, a small par-3 course on French Gulch Road. After meeting with the owners who were very enthusiastic about the plan, Roger and Dick placed six houses on that small course.

Roger and Dick have been taking morning walks exploring the north slope of Best Hill where there are some cleared fields, remnants of old

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orchards and a dairy farm. They located a couple of desirable-looking sites and placed six bluebird houses. Just as the last house was being secured to a fence post, a pair of Western Bluebirds was already checking out one potential homesite. So Dick and Roger are hopeful that the houses will see a lot of use this breeding season.

EARTH DAY APRIL 22

Janet Callen

If the number of attendees is any measure of an event's success, then the Earth Day celebration at the Harding Center was a smash hit. Visitors streamed in the open door all day. Since Audubon's display was the first one by the entrance, Lynn Sheridan, Kris Buchler and I were kept busy all day talking with people interested in birds and gardening without pesticides. The focus of our display was maintaining a good-looking lawn with a minimum of chemical products. We gave away door prizes which were donated by several area businesses. Single bright yellow Marigolds, potted in small paper cups were given to every visitor and were a hit. Lynn generously donated a pink Buddleia (Butterfly Bush) as one of the door prizes.

Thanks to the following donors for their generous support of Earth Day and Audubon.

Cooperative Supply, Inc. (Cenex): A bag of Bradfield Organics Luscious Lawn & Garden Fertilizer. 5831 North Government Way.

Northland Nursery: Uncle Malcolm's Weed-Whompin Mulch, with corn gluten 8093 W Prairie Ave.

Pedal Pushers Nursery: 48 healthy Marigolds. 1842 N Government Way.

Wild Birds Unlimited: A bag of black-oil sunflower seed and a small feeder. 296 W Sunset Ave.

We hope all of you will visit these establishments when you need plants, organic products or bird seed and feeders.



If I were to make a study of the tracks of animals and represent them by plates, I should conclude with the tracks of man"

Henry David Thoreau

BROWN BAG BIRDING

Lynn Sheridan



It was a cool, sunny day as Penny Gedeon, Betsy Heber, Pat Benson,

Judy Edwards, Roland Craft and I met at the 11th St entrance to Tubbs Hill. A robin greeted us at the start, while Violet-green Swallows flitted overhead. We were all happy to see many yellow glacier lilies, pinkish spring beauties interspersed with a few shooting stars, buttercups, grass widows and bedstraw.

More robins sounded, then we heard Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Common Raven and Red Squirrel (imitating a flicker). Near the dock, a dozen Ring-billed Gull squawked overhead. We were delighted to spot a lovely Common Loon very close.

Thank you everyone. See you again in May.



Photograph by Wayne Tree

OTHELLO SANDHILL CRANE TRIP

Dick Cripe

It didn't start out auspicious - rain, wind, low-hanging clouds, light so limited it was hard to see your map, auto mechanical problems, and screwed-up lodging reservations - no, it was not a good day Saturday. We patrolled the plowed fields southwest of Othello where the Sandhill Cranes are often seen. I am told that we saw cranes, but I can't confirm that. Through my rain-spotted scope I made out some gray apparitions that someone said were cranes moving around on the far side of a field, so maybe they were. Through the window wipers of the car we did manage to see a few other birds that day.

Sunday, however, was another day with high clouds, no rain, light wind, and Doug Schonewald, a local birder from Moses Lake, who became our guide. Doug led us through the refuge to various habitats. We saw a variety of birds including great views of small clusters of cranes as they approached, landed, fed, lifted off, and soared away from a small flooded field.

We had a great view from a bluff where we could look down on the cranes in the field.

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We saw a large assortment of waterfowl and several species of shore birds including Black-necked Stilts, Greater Yellowlegs, American Avocet, Long-billed Curlew, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Killdeer, and Caspian Tern. We saw several raptors and a nest of Great Horned Owls, but did not spot any Burrowing Owls. In total we saw 61 species. Participants: Herb and Jan Severtson, Bill and Joan Gundlach, Marv and Karen Williams, Dick and Antje Cripe, Ed and Kris Buchler, Roland and Pat Craft, Lisa Hardy, Russ Hersrud, and Janet Callen.

Those who stayed over Sunday night report having sat on the dock with wine and cheese, with a beautiful sunset over Pothole Lake, watching several loons in breeding plumage at fairly close range. Lisa, Janet, and Karen spent Monday on the Washington State Birding Trail from Othello to Grand Coulee and saw a whopping 85 species.

Overall, everyone was glad they came, impressed with the refuge as a birding place, and grateful to Doug Schonewald for his guidance. Let's go back!

8TH AND FINAL ARTICLE IN A SERIES
OF ARTICLES ABOUT LAWN CARE

THE BEAUTIFUL LAWN, PART VIII

Janet Callen

I telephoned 22 lawn-care services listed in the Coeur d' Alene phone book, asking each if they provided organic lawn services. Only two companies responded.

A Natural Solution is locally owned and operated, and has been in business since 1998. They provide services to customers in Kootenai and Spokane Counties. To quote their web site: "A Natural Solution Organic Based Lawn, Tree & Shrub Care offers a safe alternative to traditional methods of lawn care & tree care. All of our programs are based on your tolerance level towards pesticides. Applications are selectively done, so that you control the level of any products applied on your property."

Telephone (509) 226-2122
(208) 660-0188

Web:

www.a-naturalsolution.com/

e-mail:

anaturalsolution@msn.com

Living Water Lawn & Tree Care, is a Spokane-based company that will use organic fertilizer when it is requested.

Telephone 1 800 529 6227

email:

contactus@livingwaterspray.com

There may be other services that will provide some organic products if one asks for them. Ask your lawn care company what they will do for you.

And another source for organic lawn products is **Cooperative Supply Inc. (Cenex)** at 5831 North Government Way, in Coeur d' Alene. Not only do they carry Orland's Safe-T-Weed Corn Gluten meal, they stock the following products:

Bradfield Organics Luscious Lawn & Garden Fertilizer,
Bradfield Organics Luscious Lawn/Corn Gluten Meal
Bradfield Organics, and
Perfect Pasture & Farm Fertilizer
They also carry 100% organic seeds produced by Ferry Morse.

The store has a variety of organic flower and garden fertilizers and the manager, Art Grant is very helpful.

TruGreen ChemLawn offers a Natural Nutrient Program using non-synthetic fertilizer and core aeration.

www.trugreen.com

1-800-846-8548

Thanks everyone for listening. And thanks to Judy for helping.



OBSERVATION POST

. From the Journal of Kris Buchler - April 18, 2006

Ed spotted a large bird soar over the house and into view from a dining room window. It was an immature Bald Eagle and probably about 4 years old, judging from an almost white head and tail and over 50% mottling of brown and white body feathers. It cruised north towards a Western Larch snag that is a favorite roost for eagles and hawks. Instead of perching, it seemed to select a branch too small for its size, breaking it and dropping it to the ground.

It flew back towards us, went up over the house and then dove down about 15 feet from our deck and windows. Our cockatoo shrieked and ducked, a normal response to a predator, and we gasped in glee as it flew back to the snag.

This time it flew at a large branch, hitting it with extended feet and talons and breaking it

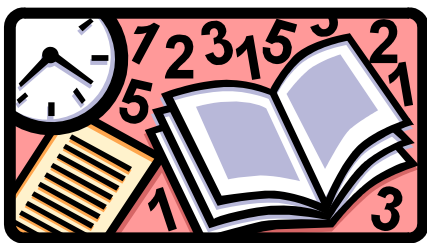
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off, just as I have observed Osprey doing when collecting nesting material. It clasped the branch and soared around our ridge for several minutes, turning and dipping much as a harrier would. We thought it looked to be searching for a nest sight or playing. It flew out of site around the ridge but returned in a few minutes, still holding the branch. A little later it dropped it and disappeared.

I have seen Osprey do this many times but this is the first I have observed the behavior in eagles. It only makes sense that they use the same techniques as Osprey to collect branches for nests. There is a nesting pair of Bald Eagles at the east end of Fernan Lake and it is questionable that they would tolerate another pair on the lake. However, Ed and I would happily welcome them and would be delighted to have a pair nesting in view of our dining room window.

From the Journal of Shirley Sturts - nests June 19 - July 11, 1974



June 19th I found two nests today. One was a Oregon Junco nest on the side of a road cut behind my house on Fernan Lake. It contains 3 young. They opened their mouths for food when I looked in on them. The other nest is that of a Yellow Warbler. It is in the crotch of a low shrub about 4 feet off the ground. It contains 3 eggs, One egg is considerably larger than

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the other. I think this egg is that of a Brown-headed Cowbird.

June 24 - 29

The junco young are still in their nest and the eggs in the warbler nest are not hatched.

June 25

I noticed a ground squirrel running across the road coming from the direction of the junco nest with two juncos flying near him. Later, when I checked the nest I found it empty except for one unhatched egg.

June 30 This morning I found 2 baby birds in the warbler nest. One is considerably larger than the other.

July 3

There are 2 warbler young and 1 cowbird young in the nest

July 8

The baby cowbird now seems to take up the whole nest. The two baby warblers are peaking out from underneath the breast of the big cowbird.

July 9

There is only one baby warbler in the nest today. Possibly the other one was fledged. That is my hope anyway.

July 10 3:00 p.m.

The parents are busy feeding the two young in the nest. I hope the other possibly fledged warbler may be getting food as well. The cowbird gets very excited when the adults bring food and at one point jumped up on the rim of the nest. In 10 minutes of nest watching, the cowbird is fed 3-4 times to only 1 feeding of the smaller warbler. **6:00 p.m.** The cowbird is on the ground being fed by the male and one of the young warblers is being fed by the female in a bush about 70 feet away from the nest. The female came in three times with food for the fledged warbler.

July 11

The cowbird fledgling is still on the ground by about 50 feet from

the nest and the warbler fledgling is about 30 feet away from where it was last night. The parent birds are still busy feeding them both.

No further entries. I left for an out-of-town trip that day,

Brown-headed Cowbird notes

The cowbirds are known as generalist parasites, laying their eggs in the nests of about 200 other bird species. Usually there is only one egg laid in a nest. Often the cowbird will remove one of the host's eggs and replace it with one of her own. She doesn't want the host species to abandon the nest. From what I read only 3% of cowbird eggs and nestlings reach adulthood.

If the cowbird is raised in the nest of species that is the same size or larger than itself, the cowbird has little effect on the nesting success of the host species, except for the possible removal of one egg. However, if the host bird is smaller, as in the case of the Yellow Warbler, the aggressive cowbird young can outcompete the host young, often causing them to starve or crowd them out of the nest.

My Yellow Warbler pair were very diligent parents and they were able to find enough food for both the cowbird and at least one, if not two, of their own young.

Cowbirds have been blamed for adversely affecting songbird populations. This is certainly true for restricted habitat species such as the Kirkland's Warbler. However, according to David Sibley, it is only one factor and in most cases not the most important one. Habitat loss and predation may be more significant.