

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of Audubon

MAY/JUNE 2007

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 9

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

BOARD MEETING

DATE: May 21, Monday

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mt. West Bank
125 Ironwood Dr.

MAY PROGRAM

DATE: May 21, Monday

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: First Presbyterian Church, 521
E. Lakeside, Coeur d'Alene
SPEAKERS: Carol Mack", educator
from WSU, based at the Ponderay
County Extension Office in Newport,
Washington

PROGRAM: "Butterflies in North
Eastern Washington and Northern
Idaho, and the Plants they Need"

AUDUBON

GARAGE/YARD SALE

DATE: June 9th, Saturday

June 8th, Friday - organize sale

TIME: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

PLACE: Theresa Potts' home at 4103
Arrowhead, Coeur d'Alene

HELP NEEDED: Sign up at the May
meeting or call Jan at 667-6209 or
email: jansjam@verizon.net.

JUNE PICNIC/POTLUCK

DATE: June 18, Monday

TIME and PLACE: To be announced at
the May meeting or contact one of the
board members or check out website
after the May meeting.

Visit our website:

www.cdaaudubon.org

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROJECT MAY 5



Fuertes Collection

Spring has sprung and the trash along Highway 95 has once again piled up. Amazing how much litter can accumulate in just six months. So, in the interest of community pride, our Audubon chapter will be out there on May 5 to clean it up. We will meet at the Mica Flats Grange Hall at 8 a.m. for donuts and juice. The process takes about two hours or less and all hands are welcome.

For information call Judy Waring, 765-5378

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY MAY 12, 2007

Janet Callen

This year Coeur d' Alene Audubon will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day by picking up trash, and then going on a short bird-watching trip.

At 8:30 a.m. we will meet at the Fernan Lake west boat launch where we will join the Fernan Lake Conservation and Recreation Association and will pick up trash along Fernan Lake. Our organization has focused the past several years on educating the public about the dangers of fishing line to birds and other creatures. We have posted signs featuring Daffy Duck and Tweety Bird at boat-launch areas, so we will be looking for the discarded line along with fast-food wrappers and beer cans.

At 10:30 a.m. we will return to the Fernan Lake west Boat Launch for juice and cookies and then we will conduct a bird identification field trip, again along the lake, where we will look for migrants and residents. The field trip will begin at 11:00 a.m. and end by 1:00 p.m. Beginners are welcome.

Please call Kris Buchler at 664-4739 or Janet Callen at 664-1085 before the event for information and/or potential change of plans.

BUTTERFLIES

Reprinted from the Audubon Website



Donald Ekstrom

Butterflies exhibit one of nature's most astounding phenomena--complete metamorphosis. With its four-stage growth process, the insect changes its physiological makeup: transforming from a lumbering, leaf-chewing machine into a feathery flyer on a liquid diet. Butterflies are terrestrial insects that make up the order Lepidoptera.

The body temperature of a butterfly is subject to ambient temperatures; a butterfly will wait for the sun to warm its wings and body before taking to the air; its flight "season" generally occurs in warm, sunny months. If it's too hot, cloudy, or wet, butterflies will seek the protective cover of plants, rocky crevices, and downed tree limbs. Flower nectar is its primary source of food, but butterflies also drink sap

and liquid from rotting fruit, and from mud, which provides needed minerals. When it comes time to place their eggs, each species seeks out specific plants on which the hatching larva will feed.

More than 700 butterfly species occur in the United States, where they are enjoyed by a growing number of butterfly watchers.

Why are butterflies important to birds and the environment?

Butterflies, and especially caterpillars, serve as a source of food for birds. Sharp-eyed birds have the uncanny ability to find camouflaged caterpillars; many bird species--including seed-eating birds--exploit this seasonal resource by feeding caterpillars to their young in the nest. If a caterpillar goes unnoticed and reaches adulthood as a butterfly, it becomes a beneficial pollinator, carrying pollen from one flower to another as it feeds on nectar.

Both birds and butterflies are vulnerable to habitat loss, which limits sources of food and shelter. Fungicides and herbicides present a risk to a caterpillar eating a treated plant; insecticides intended to kill the smallest of soft-bodied insects, such as aphids, will also kill caterpillars. Pesticides applied to flowering plants will result in nectar tainted with toxic substances that can be fatal to butterflies.

Getting Started: What You Can Do

- Plant a butterfly garden or native wildflower meadow that provides resources for each stage of a butterfly's lifecycle: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. A butterfly garden should include locally native plants that provide foraging needs for adults (nectar); host plants for caterpillars, which begin eating almost immediately after hatching (adults lay their eggs on or near plants that will provide food for the caterpillar); and areas of shelter, such as stone walls, and stick or leaf piles, which offer protective sites for resting adults and overwintering larvae.
- Investigate which native plants in your region will attract the greatest variety of butterflies. Consider targeting the needs of butterflies with declining populations. For species information, contact your local Audubon chapter, native plant society, North American Butterfly Association chapter, or other butterfly club.
- Provide a source of water. Sand and pebbles placed in a shallow pan or in a terracotta flowerpot drip tray and filled with water can serve as a puddle for butterflies. Moist, bare spots in a garden or yard will provide a place for butterflies to get the minerals and other nutrients they need from the mud.

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Helpful Links

- [North American Butterfly Association](#)
- [The Xerces Society](#)
- [Butterflies of North America](#)
- [Audubon At Home Regional Resources \(Native Plant Societies, plants for butterflies\)](#)
- [Audubon At Home: Alternatives to Pesticides](#)
- [Butterfly gardening](#)



AUDUBON GARAGE/YARD SALE

**** We have several volunteers for the "organizing session" on Friday but could use more help on Saturday. Please sign up at the May meeting, or call Jan. 667-6209**

June 9th, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Theresa Potts' home at 4103 Arrowhead, Coeur d'Alene.

Please save your "junque" for our yearly fund-raising sale. Pick up for large items can be arranged. We will take just about anything except clothing unless it is in excellent condition. Check your yard for pretty plants that can be potted for sale.

We always need and appreciate help. Sign-up sheets will be available at the Audubon meetings, or call Jan at 667-6209, or email: jansiam@verizon.net. Friday, June 8th is the day to help us sort, mark, and organize for Saturday's sale. We definitely need help on sale day. We will need two people at the cashiers' table, additional people to help customers and keep things organized, and several people to help at the end of the sale to haul away unsold items and clean up Theresa's garage. There will be several shifts to choose from so no one should have to stay all day. THANK YOU !!!!

AVONDALE PROJECT

Lynn Sheridan



The golf course suffered the loss of over 15 big trees during winter storms, and with them some of our bird boxes were lost, or end up on the ground. Roland Craft, Laura Bayless and I spent a few hours on March 13 and March 26 locating, re-placing, repairing and cleaning out 22 boxes. We added 2 new ones. We found mostly swallow nests, 2 chickadee, 2 possible blue bird, and a family of wasps. Eight were empty. No unhatched eggs, or dead birds were found, thankfully. We always hope for full occupancy, so we will keep trying!

I sent in my annual report to the golf course and a note to thank Tim Mack for his help. We received a card of thanks, and a check for \$100.00.



GREEN TIP: PAPER OR PLASTIC?

Green tip is 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.)

Reprint from the Environmental Literacy Website

Did you know?

It is estimated that somewhere between 500 billion and one trillion plastic bags are consumed throughout the world each year.

In 1977, supermarkets began to offer plastic grocery bags as an alternative to paper bags. By 1996, four out of every five grocery bags used were plastic.

Shoppers have the opportunity to make a choice every time they make a trip to the grocery store: paper or plastic? Many consumers may wonder which type of bag is better for the environment. To assess the comparative environmental impacts of each material is not a simple matter; it requires consideration of the inputs of matter and energy throughout each stage of the life cycle of each product.

Plastics are produced from the waste products of oil refining. An analysis of the life cycle of plastic bags includes consideration of the environmental impacts associated with the extraction of oil, the separation of products in the refining process, and the manufacturing of plastics. The total environmental impact depends upon the efficiency of operations at each stage and the effectiveness of their environmental protection measures. Paper is produced from trees; environmental impacts include those associated with extracting timber and processing it for paper products. Again, the environmental impacts depend on whether the timber was obtained from a sustainably managed forest -- most industrial timber products in the U.S. come from plantations -- and the environmental management of the paper processing plant. Comparatively, plastic bags require less energy to produce.

Both paper and plastic bags have to be transported to stores, which requires energy and creates emissions. In this comparison, plastic is preferable because plastic bags are lighter in weight and more compact than paper bags. It would take approximately seven trucks to transport the same number of paper bags as can be transported by a single truck full of plastic bags.

The disposal of bags entails additional environmental impacts. If landfilled, plastic bags are more environmentally benign than paper, as they require less space; paper occupies approximately half of overall landfill volume. Plastics (not just bags) generate 14 to 28 percent of the volume of trash in general, but because much of it can be compressed, only 9 to 12 percent of the volume of waste in landfills. Although plastics do not biodegrade, modern landfills are designed in such a way that *nothing* biodegrades, because the waste is isolated from air and water in order to prevent groundwater contamination and air pollution. As manufacturers have continued to make their plastic packaging thinner and lighter to save materials, the percentage of landfill volume taken up by plastics has remained steady since 1970 even as plastics have become more widely used.

Not all trash ends up in landfills; in the U.S., about 80 percent does. Stray plastic bags, which have been estimated at one to three percent of the hundreds of billions that are produced each year, are now found almost everywhere on the planet. Although littering and trash laws in developing countries have significantly reduced the amount of improperly disposed trash, many developing countries have fewer trash receptacles, landfills, and programs to handle the increasing amount of trash.

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Green Tip Continued from page 4

Plastic bags pose a threat to marine life, because, if ingested, the bags can block the stomach and cause starvation. Sea turtles, for example, mistake plastic bags for jellyfish. In 2002 a minke whale that washed up on a beach at Normandy was found to have 800 grams of plastic and other packaging in its stomach. Stray plastic bags can also clog sewer pipes, leading to stagnant, standing water and associated health hazards. In 2002, Bangladesh banned plastic bags after drains blocked by bags contributed to widespread monsoon flooding in 1988 and 1998. Ireland has decreased plastic bag consumption by placing a consumer tax on plastic bags. Perhaps the most strict plastic bag regulations are found in the Indian province of Himachal Pradesh, where people caught with plastic bags are fined \$2000. To see how many plastic bags your household uses in a week, download Environment Australia's Household Plastic Bag Survey (.pdf).

Recommended Resources

Institute for Lifecycle Environmental Assessment: Paper vs. Plastic Bags

In 1990, Franklin and Associates completed a life-cycle energy analysis comparing two common grocery bags.

Australian Department of the Environment and Heritage: The Impacts of Degradable Plastic Bags in Australia

This 2004 report on the possible impact of introducing degradable plastics for mass consumer use in Australia, builds on two previous reports summarizing the country's plastic bag use and corresponding environmental impacts.



Lynn Sheridan

BROWN BAG BIRDING

April 17 Fernan Lake



Photograph by Bill Linn

As we all gathered at the west end boat launch, we noted resident Ring-billed Gull, Mallard, Canada Goose, and a few Bufflehead on the water. The Red-winged Blackbirds were noisy, making several different calls and a few of their "sparrowy like" mates were clearly seen. But the thrill was to see 2 Red-necked Grebe diving, courting and adding sticks and wet leaves to their floating nest, in plain view, close to the boat launch. They have a very distinctive call, too! A few Great Blue Heron were on their nests and in the wet grass. House Sparrows were in the bushes.

Part way along the lake towards the eastern wetlands, we stopped to look for the Bald Eagle nest--in vain. On previous sightings it was noted to be well hidden in a living tree. At the marsh we joined a few fishermen watching, as 2 Osprey swirled above, splashing into the

water for food: only one attempt looked successful. Other sightings were American Coot, Bufflehead, 2 male Ring-necked Duck, and Violet-green Swallows.

A great day. Thank you Shirley Sturts, Dale Horst, Roland Craft and Jan Severtson.

EARTH DAY -- APRIL 21, 2007

Janet Callen

Audubon was represented at the 2007 Earth Day Fair by Janet Callen, Jan Severtson, and Kris Buchler. This event keeps growing every year with more exhibitors and many more visitors. We focused on creation of a bird-friendly yard. Plants of the Wild, a nursery in Tekoa, WA. donated 24 shrubs, some in gallon pots and some seedlings. All were native species and included Serviceberry, Elderberry, Oregon Grape, Mountain Ash, Wild Rose, Chokecherry and a Ponderosa Pine. We gave them away to good homes along with some Liatris we had purchased. Both Petal Pushers and Wild Birds Unlimited lent feeders and houses and seed for us to display. Thank you Plants in the Wild, Petal Pushers and Wild Birds Unlimited. Our display would have been rather plain without your help.

FROM THE JOURNAL OF... LISA HARDY

Lisa does a weekly Survey from her home along the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and sends in a report to ebird <http://ebird.org/content/> Here is her report for April 4, 2007

This morning while returning from my weekly survey, I heard a flock of finches, and located them foraging in the top of a tall conifer. I managed to get a look at two males and a female - all had single white wing bars, and the males were pinky-red. When they flew, I estimated the flock at 50, and they made a dry chittering noise. I was unable to pick out any Red Crossbill sounds, so I concluded that they must have been a monospecific flock of WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL

Also, I observed two TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE tooting at each other in alternation. One was in a tree fifteen feet above me and the sound was so close that I didn't recognize it at first. And, I thought I heard a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, but it was so faint that I may have imagined it.

It was a very finchy morning. Walking back along the two mile route, I heard Pine Siskin in several places, but never saw a flock in flight that I could get a count on. Here are my survey results (all Shoshone County, ID):

Notes: Cloudy, light snow, 32 F. 15 swallows (Violet-green or Tree), 4 unidentified chickadee/kinglet.

Number of species: 15 Canada Goose 2, Common Merganser 3, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Red-naped Sapsucker 1, Northern Flicker 1, Common Raven 1, Chestnut-backed Chickadee 5, Black-capped Chickadee 6, Winter Wren 3, American Robin, Varied Thrush 2, Song Sparrow 20, Red-winged Blackbird 1, Red Crossbill 7, Pine Siskin 2 (heard only)

"2007 YARD LIST CHALLENGE"

In its 7th year

Now is the time to take your bird watching one step further. Join Lisa Hardy's "2007 Yard List Challenge". It can be as simple as keeping a list of species observed in 2007 and date seen, or keeping a detailed personal journal of what birds and other wildlife use your yard. You can also count all birds that fly over, swim by (if you are looking out over water), are perched across the street or can be heard from your yard. In your journal, you could include information about feeders, bird baths, plants utilized by birds for food, or shelters, nesting boxes etc. Other information to include could be arrival and departure dates of migrants, numbers, and interesting behavior observed.

A "Yard List Checklist" to help you keep track of species seen is available. You can email Lisa at basalt@earthlink.net and she will send you a copy of the list. On January 1st you tally up your list and send it to Lisa.



LIMERICKS BY LYNN

Members are invited to join the fun. Send in a limerick, poem or quotation for our next newsletter.

Lynn Sheridan

There once was a dog from old Boise
 Who flushed out a Snipe who was noisy
 "Stop" said his owners
 "we're true Auduboners"
 And with a whirr of its wings it was hist'ry.

While walking a path near our Moscow
 A girl heard a bird call "Chi-ca-go"
 A California Quail?
 On an Idaho trail?
 "No, to Illinois you can't go!

MAY AND JUNE FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

1. **PLEASE REGISTER:** Dates and trips could change - check future newsletters or our website - or call the trip leader ahead of time
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. Those without email may get on a call list by calling Shirley at 664-5318.

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES: MAY 1 , JUNE 12, JULY 10, AUGUST 14, TUESDAYS

TIME: 7:00 a.m. (NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIME)

MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

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

ACTIVITY: We spend about 2-3 hours once a month counting birds in the Mica Bay area.

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE: May 15, Tuesday

TIME: 12:00 - 1:00 P.M.

MEET: 11TH Street entrance to Tubbs Hill

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 who share your interest in nature.

Beginner bird watchers are welcome.

CENTURY COUNT

DATE: May 26, Saturday

MEET-TIME: It will be early - check with the leaders

LEADER: Lisa Hardy 682-4808 or Roland Craft 457-8894

ACTIVITY: This is a "Big Long Day" style count in which we attempt to locate 100+ species in a single day, from dawn to dusk. All skill levels are welcome for this event. The 2007 count will be in Shoshone County. It's hectic and a blast.

MORE BEGINNING BIRDERS DAYS

DATES: June 6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesdays - TIME: 7:00 - 8:00 PM

MEET: 3rd Street entrance to Tubbs Hill

LEADER: Roland Craft 457-8894.

ACTIVITY: We will have several good birders available to help beginners. We will also advertise these events in the paper and elsewhere to get as many beginners as possible.

