

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

May 2009

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 9

MAY PROGRAM

NOTICE: Meeting date changed to May 12, Tuesday



DATE: May 12, Tuesday

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE: Lutheran Church of the Master
4800 North Ramsey**

SPEAKER: Wes Hanson, a locally well known and respected environmentalist, teacher and artist

PROGRAM: "The Proposed Nature Center at Cougar Bay"

The Cougar Bay Community Nature Center would be located on The Nature Conservancy's preserve at Cougar Bay. It would offer the public convenient access to the natural world, host workshops on various aspects of nature, provide educational opportunities for local schools, serve as the starting point for hikes on Nature Conservancy and adjacent Bureau of Land Management properties, supply information on Cougar Bay's wetlands and uplands, and provide a place to coordinate the management of Cougar Bay and its surrounding lands. The Nature Center and its amenities would be created and operated through the cooperative efforts of The Nature Conservancy, the Bureau of Land Management, and a local nonprofit group.

Wes Hanson bicycled across Canada forty years ago, met and married Gertie Carder Hanson, and settled on her family's farm. The Carder homesteaded this farm in 1902 and had a deep commitment to preserving it as open space. Before Gertie's death, she signed a conservation easement agreement with the Inland Northwest Land Trust. In the 1990s, Wes, Gertie, and some other people worked to preserve Cougar Bay's shoreline from development. Through acquisitions by The Nature Conservancy and the Bureau of Land Management and various upland conservation easements, this has been accomplished. Wes is currently working with The Nature Conservancy and BLM to establish a community nature center on the Conservancy's Cougar Bay preserve.

ANNUAL JUNE PICNIC



WHEN: Wednesday, 3 June. Gather at 5 pm. Dinner at 6 pm.

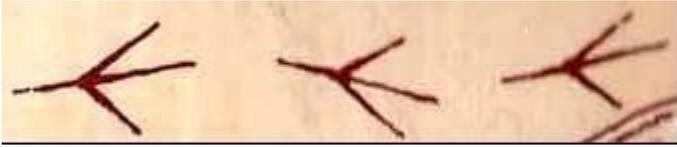
WHERE: BLM Boater's Park off Loffs Bay Rd. - South side of Mica Bay

BRING: Your own entrée (you can BBQ if you wish), a dish to share with others (salads, desserts, appetizers, your own utensils and your own beverage.

This Newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ed Buchler



Because this is our last Newsletter until the fall, I thought it would be appropriate to brief our members on the more important activities and accomplishments of your Board of Directors since last September. I sincerely thank all of our board members – and several other members - for their energy, ideas, achievements and individual efforts. We are always interested in considering members for service on the board. If you have the urge, please contact me to talk about it.

- Derek Antonelli and Valerie Zagar were unanimously approved as new board members.
- The recipient of the Susan Weller Memorial Fund Award of \$500 will be decided at our last board meeting on 12 May. The decision was delayed so that we could gather more information and consider more candidates.
- The chapter wrote a proposal and won a grant for \$600 from the National Audubon Society's Collaborative Funding to Idaho chapters. This was used to create and purchase four informational signs, each addressing a specific species, to be installed along Idaho Birding Trail sites in North Idaho. This was done with input and additional funding from other stakeholders, primarily the WREN Foundation. Details relating to the signs have been published in previous Newsletters.
- A successful fundraiser was held during which Phyllis Stephens addressed the public on making yards bird friendly.
- We sent a letter to Idaho state congressmen endorsing an increase in hunting and fishing license fees. A significant amount of the funds is used to protect wetlands and wildlife habitat.
- 138 classrooms in North Idaho agreed to participate in the "Audubon Adventures" program and will receive the supplemental teaching materials. As in previous years, this was paid for entirely by the Margaret W.

Reed Foundation. Scott Reed received a letter of appreciation for his generous support.

- The board approved renewal of our 2-year contract with the Idaho Dept. of Transportation for continuing trash collection efforts along HW 95.
- Our Conservation Committee members continue to keep a close watch on the Fernan Lake road reconstruction project. The primary concerns are lake and stream siltation.
- We are making ourselves available to the local Boy Scouts of America troops to assist them in completing their Bird Study merit badge.
- We obtained 144 copies of the new book "Birds of the Inland Northwest and Northern Rockies" for only shipping costs due to a minor printing error. We have inserted CdA Audubon Society donation bookplates and will be giving them to school libraries and young people who attend Audubon meetings.
- The chapter participated again in the Earth Day Fair at the Harding Family center. The emphasis was on informing the public about local birding sites.
- There will be three local birding opportunities offered to the public during the summer. They are particularly directed at novice birders.
- We are in excellent financial condition with approximately \$3000 in checking and \$4500 in a CD.
- Our membership stands at about 300. We are always interested in gaining more!

On behalf of the board, we are also grateful to each of you who helped in so many ways this past year including organizing and presenting educational programs to many local groups, organizing and participating in the Christmas Bird Counts, IBA monitoring, Mica Bay surveys, organizing and leading our numerous field trips and conducting Breeding Bird Surveys.





See the article in our October/November issue about the Idaho Birding Trail Signs by Kris Buchler. In the October/November issue, we featured the Red-naped Sapsucker sign that is now up in Mica Bay. The Great Blue Heron sign is installed west of the docks at Fernan Lake.

The Great Blue Heron was Photographed Tom Michalaski



GREAT BLUE HERON



Great Blue Herons nest together in colonies called rookeries. Tall trees near water may host a dozen or more stick nests 20-60 feet high in the branches. Males gather the twigs while females build the nests, lining them with fine plant materials.

Herons are territorial while feeding. They spear fish, insects, frogs, and small animals in the water or on the ground. Noisy hatchlings sound like puppies barking when their parents bring food. The young react to a threat by regurgitating food over the side of their nest onto intruders.

Young herons are ready to fly in two months and migrate by the end of summer. The white-crowned adults, standing at 46 inches, are easy to distinguish from the gray juveniles with dark heads.

In older rookeries, the droppings from the birds may cause the nest trees to die.



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The text of the sign reads:

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HIGGENS POINT

Lynn Sheridan

On March 26th, while I was walking on Higgens Point, I saw chickadees and nuthatches flying back and forth to a flat stump. I watched awhile, then moved on and found that someone had put a couple of handful of sunflower seeds on the flat surface! A little further along, another flat stump had sunflower seeds and cracked corn, which a chipmunk was enjoying. Parks and Recreation manage the area, so I called and spoke to Jim Richards, who's been charge since 1996. I asked if they were putting out food for the critters? "No", he said. I wonder who it is? I complimented Jim on how clean the trails were, and he said all the users have been very tidy over the years. Good job, nature lovers!



Photo by Bill Linn

TUNDRA SWAN FESTIVAL

Field Trip Report
March 21, 2009

Roland Craft

Our visit to the Tundra Swan Festival on March 21, in the area around Usk, Washington, had some interesting developments. The previous week had thousands of swans on the Pend d'Oreille River but before we arrived most had flown somewhere else, perhaps to the Coeur d'Alene River drainage. However, enough remained that we had good sightings of many swans along with other waterfowl. The Festival was hosted by the Kalispel Tribe of Indians and the Pend d' Oreille River Tourism Alliance. We boarded buses and the drivers took us to many places along the river to spot swans..

Approaching noon, we were driven back to the tribe's Wellness Center for a free lunch. After lunch, presentations were given on wildlife and habitat protection and restoration, birding in the area, and an excellent talk about Trumpeter Swans by Martha Jordan with the Trumpeter Swan Society.

For a little history of the tribe, I'm quoting some passages from the tribe's magazine. "The Pend d'Oreille or Kalispel people occupied homelands that extended west from the south Flathead Lake/Clark Fork area, down the Pend d'Oreille River into Washington and southern British Columbia, to the Columbia River, encompassing more than 3.5 million

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

acres. There is no agreement on the tribe's original name. The tribe's first contact with white men likely was with explorers and fur traders from the Hudson Bay Company and it was not much longer than this that white men started occupying portions of the Pend d'Oreille/Kalispel aboriginal lands. As reservations were in the most part forced on native Americans in the west, the Kalispel Indians refused to give up its ancestral lands, but a reservation was established by an executive order of President Woodrow Wilson in March 1914. This was a narrow, 4,600-acre parcel of mountainside and flood plain along the Pend d'Oreille River. In 1951, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians filed a petition with the Indian Claims Commission, alleging that the United States took lands belonging to the tribe without paying compensation. In 1958, the commission determined that the tribe was entitled to recover fair market value for 2,373,000 acres, and in 1963 the tribe was awarded \$3 million. This money was used for various projects to help the Indian economy. In 1996, the federal government proclaimed that 40 acres of trust land in Airway Heights, WA. be added to the Kalispel Indian Reservation, which resulted in the building of the Northern Quest Casino." Now the tribe is taking back some of the white man's money!!!

After the indoor presentations, we decided to bird along the south side of the Pend d'Oreille River, where we saw many Tundra Swan, Bald Eagle, Wild Turkey, Belted Kingfisher, Killdeer, many swallows and all sorts of waterfowl. I believe we all had an enjoyable time.

Present on the field trip were Janet Callen, Jackie Beery, Ed Buchler, Bill Gundlach, Jan and Herb Severtson, Valerie Zagar, Roland Craft, and Ronn and Roberta Rich.

BEGINNING BIRDING WORKSHOP "AWAKEN YOUR SENSES"

Location: Meadowood Lodge Bed & Breakfast in McCall, Idaho

Date: June 12, Fri. at 5pm – June 14, Sun. at 2pm.

Cost: \$150-195 per person(Need-based sliding scale)

Includes: 2 nights lodging, 2 to-go breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 eve. programs, 2 all-morning field trips.

Instructor: Ashley Martens, M.S. Environmental Science

For more information or to register, contact

www.meadowoodlodge.com or

ashmartens@yahoo.com

or call, Ashley at 208-883-4998.



FEEDER AND NEST BOX SPRING CLEANING

Kris Buchler

If you haven't noticed, feeder activity has picked up and many birds are picking out their nest boxes by now. Here are a few tips for preparing your feeders and bird boxes for the spring and summer seasons.

Feeders: This is a good time to clean and disinfect your feeders. Wash them well, removing any seed debris. Soak in a solution of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. This will kill bacteria, mold spores and many of the diseases transmitted to feeding birds. Also, space your feeders to prevent crowding and stress.

A variety of feeder types and foods will appeal to a greater variety of species using them. For you who have European Starlings, try only small tube feeders with short perches or feeders enclosed with a metal cage that will not allow starling-sized birds to reach the seed. If you feed suet, only offer small amounts in summer months and change often.

Hummingbird feeders should be filled with a solution of 1 part sugar (no artificial sweeteners or honey) to 4 parts water. Boil the water and add sugar. Refrigerate unused portions. It is best to hang feeders in shade and out of direct sun. Wash feeders and change to fresh sugar water when the solution turns cloudy.

Nest boxes: Boxes should have been cleaned in the fall but March is the target date for having them ready for new occupants. Many swallows have already chosen their homes and chickadees are scrutinizing every opening. Removing old nest material lessens the chance of parasites overwintering and the birds have a better chance of surviving predators when the nest is built on a clean floor far from the nest box hole. If squirrels have enlarged the holes, a predator guard should be placed over the opening. These can be wood or metal ones are available at our local bird store.

If you have boxes that have been ignored, try a new location and change the direction the opening faces. It is best to have it facing away from the prevailing winds. Some birds prefer aged or natural materials over cutie, bright-colored houses. Also, sometimes it takes 1-2 years for the birds to decide to use a house.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT RESULTS

email from: Janis Dickinson, Director of Citizen Science, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Rob Fergus, Senior Scientist, National Audubon Society

Thanks to you, 2009 was another record year for the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)! Birders from across the United States and Canada submitted more than 93,629 checklists during the four-day event, a 9 percent increase in checklist submissions since last year. Participants counted a record 11,550,200 individual birds representing 619 species and submitted thousands of photos of common and rare birds.

Data Highlights: New species show up each year during the GBBC. This year we were excited by reports of the Sinaloa Wren, spotted north of the Mexican border for the first time. Xantus's Murrelet and Pink-footed Shearwater were two new oceanic species spotted from California this year. Black-billed Cuckoo, Blackpoll Warbler, and Baird's Sandpiper also made their GBBC debuts in 2009. For a more detailed summary of this year's results and to view the year's 10 most-reported species, visit the GBBC web site at www.birdcount.org. You can explore maps and photos and browse lists of participants who won GBBC prizes.

GBBC Photo Contest: Judging for the GBBC photo contest will take place in the months ahead, and the winners will be announced in the fall. Although we always receive many more photos than we can display in our gallery, we are thrilled that so many of you shared your photos with us. Visit the photo gallery <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/gallery/2009-photo-gallery> to see the 400+ photos that are posted. These photos are a spectacular glimpse at birds across the continent during the weekend of the count. Thanks to all of you who gave us a peek through your camera lenses!

Staying Involved - Introducing My Yard eBird!: Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are pleased to announce the launch of My Yard eBird, a new online tool that allows you to keep track of the birds around your home all year round. Visit <http://ebird.org/content/myyard> to find out more information. By reporting the birds you see each day, week, or whenever you'd like, you can help us track bird populations throughout the year. It's fun, free, and good for the birds! Now that spring has officially arrived, consider getting involved in the NestWatch project from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

GREAT BACKYARD... CONTINUED

Participants monitor nests and nest boxes to let scientists know when eggs are laid, when they hatch, and how many chicks fledge. It's an important way to measure the impact of climate change and other factors on breeding birds. To check it out, visit www.NestWatch.org

We'd like to thank Wild Birds Unlimited for helping to sponsor the 2009 GBBC.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the next year's event: the 2010 Great Backyard Bird Count, **February 12 – 15, 2010!**



MAY-JUNE ACTIVITIES/FIELD TRIPS

New Participants Wanted:
Beginning bird watchers are welcome to join us on our field

trips. Required: An interest in birds, a love of the outdoors, and binoculars, if you have them. Our group is composed of friendly people with varied birding skills who will serve as your guides for the day.

PLEASE REGISTER: Watch the website or newsletter for updates to our field trip schedule. Participants should contact the trip leader at least 24 hours in advance of the field trip to find out if the meeting place/time or destination has been changed. **Participants share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver (see President's message in the September newsletter).**

BIRD FESTIVAL AT WEST VALLEY OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER

On the grounds of: Pasadena Park Elementary School
8706 E. Upriver Drive Spokane, WA 99212
(509) 340-1028 www.wvolc.org

On Saturday, 2 May, the Learning Center will be hosting a bird festival. It will be an open house type format – FREE – that features different activities throughout the day to educate the public about birds and their habitats. Turnbull NWR and the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture will be partnering with the Center to offer activities to youth and families. There will be live raptor shows, tips on bird watching techniques, American Indian bird legends, bird house and bird feeder construction, touch tables, etc. The event will take place from 11 AM to 4 PM and is related to the broader International Migratory Bird Day event.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROJECT



Time again for some spring cleaning along the two mile stretch of Highway 95 that our chapter of Audubon has adopted. We meet at the Mica Grange and work our way down the backside of the hill going south. Our first trip out was in the fall of 2003 and every spring and fall we return to do some badly needed tidying up.

The date this spring is **Saturday, May 9**. Meet at the Grange for the ritual fueling up with donuts and juice at 8:00 a.m. Plan on about 1-2 hours. Long pants, long sleeves, and water are advisable. Come out and enjoy a pretty spring morning and see if this is the time that one of us finds a treasure out there.

For more info call Judy Waring at 765-5378.

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATE: May 12, Tuesday

TIME: 8:00 a.m.

AND: June 9, July 14 and Aug. 11 at 7:00 a.m.

MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

LEADER: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318

ACTIVITY: We spend about 2-3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Everybody is welcome including beginner birders. We will help you with identification skills.

PHILLIPS FARM AND STEPTOE BUTTE

DATE: May 16, Saturday

TIME: 7:45 a.m.

MEET: K-mart Parking Lot- parking south side

LEADER: Janet Callen 664-1085

ACTIVITY: This will be a full-day trip so bring a lunch. Phillips Farm is a Latah County Park with some hiking trails. Steptoe Butte is a Washington State Park. We'll visit Phillips Farm first, then journey to Steptoe Butte. Visit them at: www.phillipsfarm.org and www.parks.wa.gov Click on park information and then Steptoe Butte State Park.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

**MAY-JUNE ACTIVITIES AND FIELD TRIPS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6**

WORLEY AND CONKLING PARK

DATE: May 30, Saturday

TIME: 8:00 a.m.

MEET: K-mart Parking Lot- parking lot behind Mexican restaurant

LEADER: Kris Buchler 664-4739

ACTIVITY: This is a half day trip but bring a snack and water. We will look for Rock Wren and Canyon Wren as well as other returning spring migrants such as warblers, flycatchers and nesting sapsuckers.

CENTURY COUNT, JUNE 5-6, 2009

SELKIRK HOUSE – Your Base Camp to Outdoor Adventure!

DATE: June 6, Saturday, dawn to dusk.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Selkirk House, Friday - Saturday nights June 5-6.

Three bedrooms, Sunroom, 2 baths (sleeps 6-8) Camper okay.

ACTIVITY: Our annual Century Count will explore Boundary County this year. We hope to cover some new territory. Selkirk House has been offered free of charge but we will require a donation to cover housekeeping. Please reserve early. Bed spaces require full participation in the count. The sun porch can sleep any number in sleeping bags.

Final details regarding food and meals will be decided later. Fun and games are guaranteed!!!

Contact Kris Buchler: 664-4739 or

eagleroost@roadrunner.com.

We have 7 signed up so far and would like to have more join us. Birders of all skill levels are welcome.

BIRDING TRIP TO THE SCOTCHMAN PEAKS AREA: 27 JUNE 2009



Guided by Jonathan Isacoff

Ed Buchler

I'm sure you remember the wonderful program given by Phil Hough and Jon Isacoff in January on the Scotchman Peaks proposed wilderness area. Jon has graciously consented to lead an all day field trip for us to the surrounding areas. It will be limited to 12 on a first-come, first-served basis. Details are given below.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

This trip will explore the region in and adjacent to the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area (for more info., see www.scotchmanpeaks.org <<http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/>>). We will begin birding at the Pack River Delta to target waterfowl and possible lingering shorebirds. We will then proceed to the Clark Fork Log Jam and enjoy the gorgeous views while searching for waterfowl. We next head up to Lightning Creek Road, where we will park and hike the road for 2-3 miles, targeting Harlequin Duck, Kingfisher, Dipper, and riparian Passerines. Our final stop will be a large clear cut adjacent to the Scotchman Peak Trailhead (namesake of the proposed WA) where we will hike the meadows and forest edge for about 1-2 miles. Target species here include: Ruffed Grouse, Vaux's Swift, Pileated Woodpecker, Olive-sided and Hammond's Flycatchers, Clark's Nutcracker, Hermit, Swainson's, and Varied Thrushes, Pine Siskin, Cassin's Finch, and Evening Grosbeak. Other hoped-for possibilities include: Red-eyed Vireo, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Northern Waterthrush, and Pine Grosbeak. Limited to 12 participants. Contact Ed or Kris Buchler at 664-4739 or eagleroost@roadrunner.com if you would like to go. They will maintain a time-stamped wait list if more than 12 wish to participate.

3 BEGINNING BIRDERS BIRDING TRIPS THIS SUMMER

10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.



Leader: Lynn Sheridan (Lynn suggests you call her in case there is a change in the time) Home: 765-2603, as late as you like. Work: Mon, Wed, Fri 10-2:30 or leave a message: 665-7546 (North Idaho Dermatology)

June 11, Thursday: Honeysuckle Beach: meet at the parking lot, and scout the lake, then walk along the dike road. I'll try to bring extra binoculars and bird guides for each outing.

July 9, Thursday: Blackwell Island. Meet at Fairmont Loop, then walk back along hwy, to entrance.

August 13, Thursday: Cougar Bay. Meet at Fairmont Loop, and car pool to Cougar Bay (not much parking there). We'll walk up the trail, see the interpretive signs (if they are still there!!)

