

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
[www.cdaudubon.org](http://www.cdaudubon.org)

May 2010

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 9

Articles for the newsletters are welcome. Please submit to the editor, Shirley Sturts at: [shirley.sturts@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.sturts@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. All submissions are subject to editing. Thank you and happy reading!

## MAY MEETING

**DATE:** May 4, Tuesday  
**PLACE:** Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800 North Ramsey  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**SPEAKER:** Kathleen Cameron of Bellevue, ID.  
**PROGRAM:** The Idaho-Costa Rica Majestic Feathers Connection  
**WEBSITE:** <http://www.majesticfeathers.com/>

This will be a multimedia presentation emphasizing the spectacular birds of Costa Rica and the ecological and migration connections between the northern and southern hemispheres. Conservation efforts in Costa Rica will also be addressed.

Annual Members Meeting: This will also be held on this date. The slate of candidates who have offered to hold office for the next two years will be introduced and voted on. Others may also be nominated by members at this time.

## BOARD MEETING

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

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

**DATE:** May 22, Saturday  
**PLACE:** Mica Grange for the ritual fueling up with donuts and juice  
**TIME:** 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.

website: [www.cdaudubon.org](http://www.cdaudubon.org)

## AUDUBON JUNE PICNIC

**DATE:** Tuesday, June 1  
**TIME:** 5:00 p.m. – Social  
6:00 p.m. – Dinner  
**PLACE:** Higgens Point – Picnic pavilion – Reserved for Audubon  
**BRING:** Something to grill and a dish to share, eating and cooking utensils and drinks. Briquettes will be provided.

This site is handicapped accessible and the gate will be unlocked for us. The pavilion is being reserved by Idaho Parks and Recreation at no cost to us as a thank you to Audubon for habitat improvement projects.

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OVERLOOKING LAKE COEUR D'ALENE !

## AUDUBON FUNDRAISING YARD SALE

**DATE:** June 19th, Saturday (Set up June 18, Friday - call for time)  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Derek Antonelli's home and garden, 821 W. Mustang Ave., Hayden.

Save your good throw-a-ways re-usable "junk": furniture, tools, pots, pans, dishes, books, music, and lots of starter plants from our gardens, as we did in the past.

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:** Lynn Sheridan - 765-2603, Jan Severtson 667-6209 and Valerie Zagar 819-5115 --

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Call Organizing Committee

## ROGER YOUNG MEMORIAL

Ed Buchler

Your board decided to make use of the Susan Weller Memorial Fund this year to purchase a remembrance for Roger Young, a long-time Audubon member, pioneer in the preservation of Tubbs Hill and builder of hundreds of bluebird nest boxes. We have contracted to have the following inscription etched in one of the rocks at the east entrance to the Tubbs Hill trail: CDA AUDUBON REMEMBERS ROGER YOUNG. It will probably be there by the time you receive this newsletter. The rock is within viewing distance of the home where Roger lived in his youth.

## 2009 YARDLIST CHALLENGE

Lisa Hardy

Finally, after some technical problems on my part, here are the results of the 2009 Yardlist Challenge. Eight yards reported 2009 lists, for a total of 92 species.



**Northern Saw-whet Owl**  
Photograph by Wayne Tree

Highlights include Common Nighthawk spotted by Donni Moen, Northern Saw-whet Owl detected by Kris Buchler and Shirley Sturts, Wilson's Snipe heard by Doug Ward, and Brewer's Backbird found by Janet Callen. While five yards reported Steller's Jay, only the Warings spotted a Blue Jay, and Lynn Sheridan reported the only hybrid Steller's X Blue Jay.

Several reporters noted nests in their yards: Western Flycatcher (Shirley Sturts), and Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren and ... mice hosted by Donni Moen's nesting boxes.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Valerie Zagar noted that a water feature in her yard was a big draw for many species, including nuthatches and finches.

A few more statistics: 20 species were reported from only a single yard, and 5 species (Northern Flicker, Black-capped Chickadee, Mountain Chickadee, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco) were reported from all eight yards.

A big thank-you to all reporters. The complete, tabulated 2009 results can be found on the website. And remember that the "challenge" is a personal one - to jot down a few notes from time-to-time on the world going on outside your door.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS BIRD PROGRAM TO HOME-SCHOOLERS.



Eula Hickam

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, Eula Hickam and Kris Buchler presented a program on Adaptations and Bird Songs to about 60 Middle-schoolers who are part of the Idaho Virtual Academy. This chartered school is free to families that are home-schooling their children. While parents teach most of the curriculum, several times a year the group gets together for a day of enrichment. On this day, students had science projects that they had been working on to share with each other. Our program added an enrichment element to their learning. In addition to the presentation, 20 copies of "Birds of the Inland Northwest and Northern Rockies" were given out to families that entered a drawing. These books, donated to the Coeur d'Alene Chapter, are to be put into the hands of children. This was a great opportunity!

Later this summer, we'll be traveling to the Sandpoint Library to present a program to 1st -4<sup>th</sup> grade children. Anyone who is interested in being on the Education Committee should contact Eula Hickam at 208-661-3228.

## SUMMER FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITY

**A Maps Banding Station**  
**Photograph by Lisa Hardy**



Carrie Hugo

There will be a summer field trip opportunity to see a MAPS (monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) bird banding station along the north fork of the CdA River. On June 23rd we will meet at the Fernan Ranger District at 7:00am. Folks should bring bug spray (there will be plenty of mosquitos this year!!), field guides, binoculars, cameras, and snacks. We can plan to have lunch at the Rose Lake Cafe on the way home, or bring sack lunches and picnic somewhere along the way. Those who want to attend should call me to RSVP so I can provide a head count to the banders from the USFWS. 769-5048.

## BIRDING BASICS FIELD TRIP 2010

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Kris Buchler

April 10 brought sunshine and 19 eager birders to Fernan Lake. Owners of spotting scopes generously shared them so everyone could observe the heron rookery with several pairs actively arranging nesting materials or in a few cases, incubating eggs. I can only account for about 8 active nests at this time. This is down from 12 nesting attempts last year and 28 in 2008. Reasons for the decline may be the FHA road project and the death of the main nest tree, now a prime ponderosa snag. A few herons appeared to still be nest-building. At least two were down in the nests incubating. I usually have observed chicks being fed by the beginning of May.

A new addition to this Idaho Birding Trail site is a pair of Bald Eagles who are not yet nesting but seem to be establishing a territory. They perched nicely for the birders in the large snag overlooking the rookery. These eagles have been observed in the vicinity the last few weeks. Hopefully, they will be able to remain but face stiff competition from the pair who nest on the east end of Fernan Lake. Several groups of at least 3 have been observed soaring as well as some interactions with screeching and irritable behaviors. We will follow the drama. I've asked birders and residents of Fernan to keep records daily of all eagle sightings so we can determine which pair we are seeing and where.

Also seen and heard near the docks were Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, House Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-winged Black-bird. Double-crested Cormorant, Mallard, and Bufflehead.

Driving along Fernan Lake currently does not offer stopping opportunities due to the FHA road project. The best pullout for eagle nest observing near the east end has been blocked with large boulders. Consequently, our group went to the far end to the large pullout near the wetlands. The water is up and the yellow pond lily is just emerging in Lily Pad Bay. In addition to female Common Goldeneye seen along the lake, at this location we saw Osprey, 2 more Bald Eagle, Red-necked Grebe, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Bufflehead, Great Blue Heron, Double-crested Cormorant and Song Sparrow. The eagle nest across the lake appears very tattered and mostly destroyed by recent strong winds.

A drive further up Fernan Creek gave everyone a complete look at the road project and some new species. We added many European Starling, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Black-billed

Magpie and a Red-tailed Hawk. We failed to attract the Virginia Rail which we found in February or a Sora which we had hoped to find.

We welcomed many birders new to our group and hope all of you will join us again in the near future. Our chapter is always eager to encourage new birders in this wonderful hobby.

Participants were: Derek Antonelli, Linda Bernhardt, Ed and Kris Buchler, Roland Craft, Bill Gundlach, Kathy McKeown, Judy and Fred McMurray, George and Katie Saylor, Jan Severtson, Lynn Sheridan, Ruth Spencer, Adela Sussman, Margie VanVlymen, George Wilson, and Linda Wright.

## 2010 FIELD TRIPS



### MICA BAY SURVEY

**DATE:** May 11, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)

**TIME:** 8:00 a.m.

**MEET:** Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

**LEADER:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318

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

### ELK RIVER POND AND ELK CREEK FALLS

**DATE:** May 1, Saturday

**TIME:** 7:30 a.m.

**MEET:** Fernan Ranger Station

**LEADERS:** Janet Callen 664-1085 and Roland Craft 457-8894

**ACTIVITY:** This area is described at N37 of the Idaho Birding Trail book. We will first stop at the Elk Creek Recreation area for a hike (about 3 miles) to view the three waterfalls that make up Elk Creek Falls. The tallest falls is the highest in northern Idaho with a total drop of 300 feet. Then we move on to Elk River Pond and Reservoir for waterfowl. On our way home we will stop at the Elk River General Store for soft huckleberry ice cream. This will be a full day trip.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Bring a lunch and water. Please let us know in advance if you will join us.

## SPRING ON THE BITTERROOT BIRDING TRAIL

**MONTANA FIELD TRIP - PLEASE LET JANET KNOW  
ASAP IF YOU ARE INTERESTED**

**DATES :** May 14, 15, 16 (3 days, 2 nights)

**LEADERS :** Janet Callen & Kris Buchler

**ACTIVITY:** We will visit: Lee Metcalf Wildlife

Refuge: [www.fws.gov/leemetcalf/](http://www.fws.gov/leemetcalf/)

Teller Wildlife Refuge: [www.tellerwildlife.org](http://www.tellerwildlife.org)

Many other stops along the Bitterroot Birding Trail:

[www.montanabirdingtrail.org/maps/](http://www.montanabirdingtrail.org/maps/). We'll visit as

many sites as time allows.

**Lodging and Meals:**

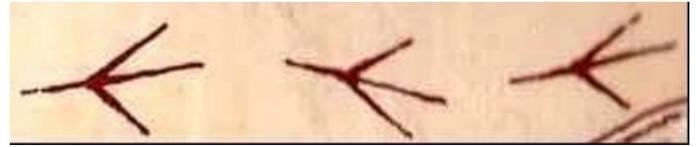
There is lodging in Hamilton and Missoula.

**Please let Janet Callen know if you are interested**

**in going on this trip at either**

[jgoldfinch@roadrunner.com](mailto:jgoldfinch@roadrunner.com)

**or call 664-1085 for details on travel, meals and meeting place.**



### CENTURY COUNT

**June 5:** Bonner County Century Count

Our annual all-out Big Day of birding is coming up soon. Details will be on our Website. We will be arranging overnight accommodations - if you are interested, please contact Kris Buchler (664-4769) before May 12.

### SUMMER BIRDING



Leader Lynn Sheridan- 765 -2603

These are designed for beginning bird-watchers, but anyone is welcome - Each trip will last approximately two hours, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Tentative dates are:

- **June 17:** Honeysuckle Beach in Hayden
- **July 15:** Cougar Bay and the Nature Conservancy Preserve
- **August 19:** NIC and the Spokane River
- For details/meeting locations call Lynn at 765-2603

## RIO GRANDE VALLEY OF TEXAS

Leader: John Shipley, Kingfisher Bird Tours  
<http://www.kingfisherbirdtours.com/>

Trip in the planning stage - Call Ed Buchler if you are interested, 664-4739

**More information on our Website**

Tentative date: November 6-14 (Saturday through the following Sunday)

## Coeur d'Alene Audubon Member Survey

What is your preferred day for meeting each month next year?

Monday	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Tuesday	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Wednesday	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Thursday	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Friday	1st	2nd	3rd	4th

What is your preferred meeting time? Please circle one: 5:30pm 6:30pm 7:00pm

Do you support having meetings and/or organized field trips through the summer?

Please circle one: *Meetings* *Field Trips* *Both*

What topics would you like to learn about during speaker presentations? Please list a few.

Are you interested in skill building workshops indoors and in the field? Please circle any option and/or provide suggestions:

Birding by ear

Birding by habitat

Birding technology workshops

Other suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to pay a small amount in addition to your annual membership (for example- no more than \$10.00 per year) to put towards refreshments, educational materials, presenter fees, volunteer reimbursement etc? *Please circle one:*

Yes

No

If organized overnight field trips are offered would you be likely to attend (for example, trips to southern Idaho to watch sage grouse on their leks)?

Yes

No

If you are not currently attending meetings could you please tell us why and any changes you suggest to the meeting timing, format etc that would make you more likely to attend?

If childcare in a safe and fun environment was provided for a nominal fee- would you be more likely to attend?

Yes                      No                      Not Applicable

If you have any additional comments or ideas, please write them on the back of this page.

*Please help us by filling in the survey and sending it to:*

*Coeur d'Alene Audubon - P.O. Box 361*

**Coeur d'Alene, 83816**