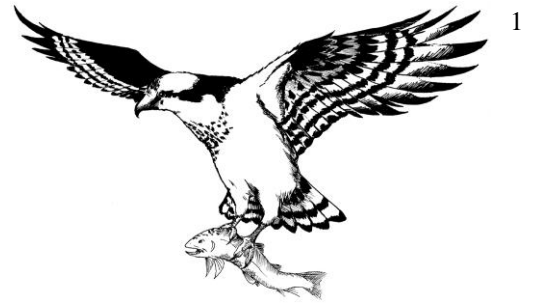


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

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AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE KOOTENAI ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE GALA

Reprinted from the KEA Website

Our 2nd annual Earth Day Gala was held on April 20th at the Hayden Lake Country Club.

At the Gala, KEA President Janet Torline presented awards to some great KEA members for service to our mission and our community.



The Art Manley Award — Named after a KEA founder, this year's award went to **Kris Buchler** for her hard work as an activist and educator with Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society. Kris has created bird identification classes and educational programs, leads bird counts, and has been monitoring bird populations in the area for more than 12 years.

Kris,
Congratulations from all of us in Audubon



Scott and Mary Lou Reed Community Conservation Award – Named for great local citizens, this year's award went to **Sandy Emerson**, a long-time business owner and conservationist. Sandy's work in the business community

brings together many interests in the name on conservation, and his work has led to the preservation of thousands of acres for public use, habitat, and permanent protection through conservation easements throughout the region. Scott and Mary Lou Reed, who were out of town, sent their congratulations to Sandy, noting "He never quits thinking about how to use our natural resources wisely."

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MAY-JUNE PROGRAM

Date: May 8, Tuesday

Place: Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey, CDA

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dave Leptich

Program: "Wildlife Habitat Fundamentals"

People should come away with a more complex view of wildlife habitat and a framework from which to understand and interpret management decisions and actions.

JUNE PICNIC

DATE: Tuesday, June 12

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Q'emiln Park –Post Falls

BRING: Please plan to bring a dish to share!

There will be grills available for barbecue as well. Bring utensils and your own Beverage.

ADOPT-A HIGHWAY



SPRING CLEAN-UP for our section of Highway 95!

Date/Time: Saturday, May 12th, 8:00 a.m.

Place: Meet at Mica Grange Hall for donuts, coffee and road assignments.

Activity: Pick-up will take about 2 to 2 1/2 hours, depending on number of volunteers. Wear long pants & sleeves; work gloves are advisable. Otherwise, dress for the weather.

Advance sign-up required at next Chapter meeting. If in doubt, sign up and cancel later by notifying Mike or Val Zagar at 208-755-0560.

KEA GALA AWARDS

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Community Volunteer Award — This year's award went to **Kim Normand**, the tireless leader of the [Shared Harvest Community Garden](#)

on 10th and Foster in Coeur d'Alene. The Garden, entering its 4th growing season is a wonderful community asset, growing local fresh food for plot holders, and for KEA's Community Roots program.



Community Business Award — This year's business award goes to [DOMA Coffee Roasting Company](#), a leader in sustainable business and roaster of extremely delicious coffee. DOMA is

a great supporter of local conservation causes, and a great supporter of KEA's work.

BIG YEAR MARCH ADDITIONS

Benewah County

Reported by Donni Moen

Spotted Towhee - March 18

Cassin's Finch – March 29

Turkey Vulture – March 30

Tree Swallow – April 8

Violet-Green Swallow – April 10

Evening Grosbeak April 11

American White Pelican April 11

Reported by Mike Haldeman April 19

Sandhill Crane

Wood Duck

Green-winged Teal

Gadwall

Western Meadowlark

Wilson's Snipe

Reported by Terry Gray – April 22

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Brewer's Blackbird

Kootenai County

Mountain Bluebird – March 28 – Darlene Carlton

Osprey – March 31 – Roland Craft (field trip)

Yellow-headed Blackbird – April 11 – Sally Russell

Evening Grosbeak – April 14 – Kris Buchler

American White Pelican – April 7 – Mike Schlepp

Black-necked Stilt - April 21 – Paul Lehman

Calliope Hummingbird – April 23 – Aaron Buchler

Sora – April 25 – Shirley Sturts

Eared Grebe-April 24–Theresa Potts and Doug Fagerness

Reported by Doug Ward

Turkey Vulture – March 31

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – April 6

Red-naped Sapsucker – April 10

Nashville Warbler - April 21

Yellow-rumped Warbler – April 21

White-crowned Sparrow – April 21

Brewer's Blackbird – April 20

Reported by Mike Haldeman

American Pipit - April 11

Eurasian Collared-Dove – April 11

Western Meadowlark - April 14

Savannah Sparrow – April 14

Cassin's Vireo – April 24

Reported by Terry Gray - April 22

Cinnamon Teal

Ruddy Duck

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Cliff Swallow

House Wren

Orange-crowned Warbler

165 - YEAR-OLD MYSTERY OF DISAPPEARING BLACK SWIFT

New Release from ABC Website 2012



Researchers attaching geolocators on Black Swift. By Todd Patrick

Washington D.C.,
March 14, 2012

For 165 years, the Northern Black Swift has pulled a fall migration disappearing act that the famed illusionist Harry Houdini would envy. Where the high, flying bird

vanishes to after breeding and spending summers in many parts of western North America has puzzled ornithologists since the species was discovered in 1857. Now, thanks to a new study, we learn that at least some of them travel about 4,300 miles to a remote part of western Brazil in lowland rainforest.

The study, which was published in the March 2012 issue of the *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, involved attaching geolocators (tiny devices that record and store tracking information) to four adult Black Swifts from two nesting sites in Colorado, then recapturing the same birds at the same sites the next year to download the stored data. Three of the four tracking devices were recovered, and showed the birds departing for the fall southerly migration between September 10 and September 19, arriving in Brazil between September 28 and October 12, departing Brazil between May 9 and 20, and arriving back at their Colorado breeding sites between May 23 and June 18.

“Winter ranges have been identified for most neotropical migrant bird species, but data on patterns and timing of migration for the Northern Black Swift is virtually non-existent...their winter range was previously, unknown,” said Jason Beason, the lead author of the study with the Rocky Mountain Observatory.

The data we acquired is very important to understanding species ecology, including reproductive success, population dynamics, behavioral ecology, evolution, and response to changing selective pressures,” he said.

“This is one of the last major mysteries left in ornithology – where Black Swifts spend the winter”, said Bob Altman, Wildlife Biologist with American

Bird Conservancy and coordinator of Black Swift monitoring in the Pacific Northwest. “Thanks to the efforts of the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory we can now begin the process of further identifying and protecting wintering sites of conservation importance for one of the most unusual breeding birds in North America.”

Several factors contribute to the lack of knowledge about migration and winter distribution of this species including difficulty in accurate field identification of individuals due to their high and rapid flight, problems differentiating the species from similar-sized members of other species that occupy Central and South America, and the inability to verify observation records. No band recoveries exist outside the United States from about 200 Northern Black Swifts banded from 1950 forward.

Further, satellite GPS devices, which transmit real time tracking of individuals, are not sufficiently small to place on a species the size of a seven-inch-long Black Swift. As a result, geolocators (which record data but do not transmit it) were used which meant that the study birds would need to be recaptured for the location data to be analyzed. That necessity was made easier on one hand by the fact that the birds typically are very committed to returning to their previous breeding colony, but made more challenging because they tend to nest in areas that incredibly difficult to access – behind waterfalls in deeply shaded niches in steep and narrow canyons

Curiously, the birds averaged about 211 miles per day during fall migration and about 244 miles per day during spring migration, about a 15 percent increase in average daily distance covered. They spend about 220 days in Brazil before migrating north again

“Now that we know where this bird winters, we can identify some concerns. The most obvious are climate change impacts and the current rate of deforestation in Brazil, which could directly threaten this species. It appears likely that the rate of deforestation will increase rapidly in the coming decades, which could result in the loss of up to 30 percent of the forest cover by 2050,” Beason said.

The Black Swift is a U.S. WatchList species of concern as some data show a 6.3% per year range-wide decline from 1966 to 2001. ...

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POST FALLS PARKS

March 31, Saturday

Roland Craft



**Dark-eyed Junco –
Photograph by Larry Krumpelman**

The Coeur d'Alene Audubon field trip to Post Falls parks along of the Spokane River was very interesting and a change from our normal field events. We were fortunate that the weather cooperated with us because most of the day it sure looked like rain but it held off. All of the parks fronted on the Spokane River. A list of parks visited includes Corbin Park (where we watched people playing frisbee golf), an unnamed park south of Mcguire Rd. near Breezy Way, Falls Park, Q'emiln Park and Black Bay Park.

In addition to the regular species such as American Robin, Common Raven, Canada Goose, etc., we observed Pygmy and Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin, Mourning Dove, Red-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle, House Finch, Osprey (1st sighting for the year) , Pacific Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Spotted Towhee and Dark-eyed Junco.

We had quite a difficult time identifying a white object in the river at Black Bay Park. In fact, we had to send someone back to our vehicle to bring the scope. With some effort, we identified an upside-down white plastic chair in a shallow part of the river (keep this quiet from other birders!).

Birders present on the trip were Janet Callen, Darlene Carlton, Mary Deasy, Kris and Ed Buchler, Matt Thurley, Jan Severtson, Judith Sather, John Scarola and Roland Craft.

Black Swift Continued from page 3

One potential reason for the decline is habitat loss and a decrease in abundance of the bird's main food source - winged insects – tied to the use of pesticides.

The Black Swift is the largest swift in the USA. Its plumage is mostly dark gray, although there is a contrast between the upper and lower wings. The shoulders are much darker than the remaining portion of the wing.

Often called the "cloud" swift, these birds hunt in the rising air masses that sweep large numbers of insects into the sky. They hunt at such high elevations that they are often not visible with the naked eye.

The Authors of the study are Jason Beason (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory), Carolyn Gunn, Kim Potter (White River National Forest, U.S.D.A. Forest Service), Robert Sparks (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory), and James Fox (British Antarctic Survey and Migrate Technology Ltd.).

10TH ANNUAL LEAVENWORTH BIRD FESTIVAL -- May 17-20, 2012

Come bird with us the third weekend in May, and discover the natural beauty of North Central Washington state. The Leavenworth area features spectacular habitats ranging from snow-capped mountains to sunny ponderosa pine forests, to lush riparian zones, to shrub-steppe. All our field trips are led by experts and professionals in their field. Learn about the wide variety of migratory birds that come here for a brief, but important part of their year: the breeding season. Hear the songs sung only during the breeding season while you stroll, bike, boat, or van during the height of wildflower season. While birding is the heart of the weekend, activities also include wildflower walks, arts events, and family activities to ensure fun and learning for everyone, and for birders of all skill levels, with enough built-in "down time" to explore the friendly Bavarian village that we call home.

Most events require registration (beginning May 3) and others are available on a first-come, first-served basis. We keep group sizes low in order to provide an excellent visitor experience, therefore many events fill very quickly! We urge you to register early for the events requiring registration Go to their Website for more information http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com/EVENT_S-10.htm

SPRING FIELD TRIPS

PLEASE REGISTER: 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.



PLEASE NOTE: The following list shows field trips planned by the Coeur d' Alene Audubon Society. Trips may be added with short notice so

check the website often. **Trips also may be cancelled at any time due to bad weather, too few participants, or the lack of a leader.** Contact the leader for more information and to reserve a spot. If you are unable to register before the schedule deadline, yet want to attend, be sure to check with the leader to ensure the trip is still on.

Leaders are club volunteers and are not compensated. Field trips are free. However, if you carpool you will be expected to compensate the driver for your share of vehicle costs.

ILLER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

Date: May 5, Saturday

Leader: Dick Cripe

Meet: K-Mart parking lot, south side.

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Activity: Iller Creek is just beyond Dishman Hill in the Spokane Valley. This is a hike and bird. Our hike will be a 5 mile loop with about 600 ft. elevation gain. It is mostly on a forested ridge. There is one mile of riparian habitat. There are very nice views from Rocks of Sharon on the top. It is a very nice hike for this time of year. We will be looking for returning migrants. Bring a lunch and water.

MICA BAY SURVEY

Date: May 8, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)

Leader: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318

Time: 8:00 a.m. for May (**June, July and August we will meet at 7:00 a.m.**)

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Activity: We spend about 2-3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome. We will help you with identification skills.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

ADOPT-A HIGHWAY SPRING CLEAN-UP

Date: May 12, Saturday - See page 2 for details

MISSOULA BIRDING TRAILS AND MOISE BISON RANGE

Dates: May 19 and 20, Saturday-Sunday

Leader: Janet Callen, 664-1085

jgoldfinch@roadrunner.com

This will be a two-day trip. On the first day, we will travel to Missoula, MT, where we will explore some of the 14 sites along the Missoula Valley Birding and Nature Trail. Many of these include hikes of various lengths. The next day we will head north to the Moise Bison Range and Nine-Pipes NWR. If time permits and participants are interested, we may visit Wild Horse Island State Park on Flathead Lake.

Check our Website for potential additional trips in May and during the summer.

KEA MAY CALENDAR

Visit their Website at:

<http://kealliance.org/>

Thursday, May 3rd: KEA Lunch & Learn

Time: Noon-1:00

Location: The Iron Horse Restaurant

Speaker: Kathy Cousin's, Idaho Fish & Game re: Albeni Falls, Delta Project

Thursday, May 17th: KEA Lunch & Learn

Time: Noon-1:00

Location: The Iron Horse Restaurant

Speaker: Kara Carleton re: Community Roots Program

Saturday, May 19th: The Roots Pursuit

12 challenges. 2 hours.

Location: Shared Harvest Community Garden (Corner of 10th & Foster)

www.kealliance.org/rootspursuit/

Thursday, May 31st KEA Film Series: *Greenhorns*

Location: Pilgrim's Natural Market

Time: 6:00PM

