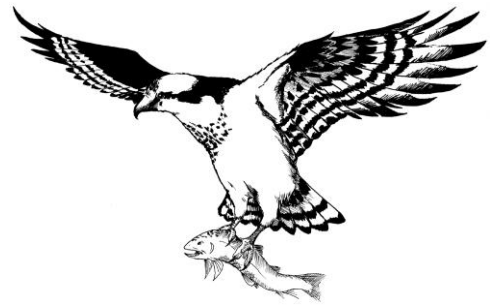


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

May 2013

Volume 22 Number 9



Red Headed Jay -
Photograph by George Saylor

May Program

Date: May 14, Tuesday

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Carrie Hugo

Program: Carrie will talk a little about her birding experience in Kauai and show a DVD "Endangered Hawaii" about the threat to Hawaii's birds. It tells of the extinction of many of its native species, threats facing many of them now, and efforts underway to deal with them.

June Picnic

Date: June 11, Tuesday

Place: Mica Bay picnic site on the south side of the bay (BLM Boaters' Park).

Time: 6:00 p.m. Carrie Hugo

Details: There are tables, barbecue, and a shelter. Parking is on the road above and there is a short walk to the picnic area. Bring something to share, your own meat to barbecue and your own beverage.

Audubon Litter Pickup

Date: May 4, Saturday

Time: 8:00 a.m. - Usually finished by 11 a.m.

Meet: Mica Grange

Leaders: Mike and Valerie Zagar - 819-5115

Activity: We start off with coffee and donuts at 8:00 a.m. Idaho litter pickup is a big effort. Statewide last year, more than 1,600 volunteers devoted nearly 3,800 hours cleaning roadsides and gathered over 100,000 pounds of litter. This allowed the state to devote manpower to other vital roadway tasks while simultaneously keeping Idaho beautiful.

Dress for the weather and bring a pair of gloves. All other items needed for trash collection will be provided for your use.

Coeur d'Alene Audubon Presents

Migratory Bird Day at BLM's Blackwell Island Boat Launch!

Date: May 11, Saturday

Time: 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

Activities: Guided bird walks, Hummingbird Feeder Project, Scavenger Hunt, Bird Song DJ Station, Migration Obstacle Course, Pine Cone Feeder Project, Get "Banded" and receive a FREE bird buddy bracelet, Feather Printing Paint activity, Bird-friendly Coffee Stand, Prizes and Giveaways, Bird House Sale, See Live Owls

See the poster on: www.cdaaudubon.org

or Contact Carrie Hugo 769- 5048

Directions: Head south on Hwy 95 until you cross the Spokane River – Blackwell Island will be on your right. Look for the SIGNS!



Field trips 2013-2014

Janet Callen

Dear Fellow Birdwatchers;
August will be here soon, at
least for those of us who are

the field trip committee. That is when we will plan the 2013-2014 field trips and we need your help. Generally, we try to schedule one full day and one half day trip each month and also at least one overnight trip in the spring. Let us know of any trips you have enjoyed and would like to do again. Let us know of new places you would like to go or home territory that you would like to explore. If you will lead a trip, we'll be overjoyed. Many thanks to our members who lead trips last year. The journeys were always a good adventure. If you've never joined us for a field trip it is a great opportunity to learn about birds and share the enjoyment of the outdoors in both new and familiar places.

Roland Craft rolcra@roadrunner.com 457-8894

Janet Callen jgoldfinch@roadrunner.com 664-1085



Snow Geese –Photographs by George Sayler

Seventeen of us made the trip over the first weekend in April. Early Saturday morning we arrived at Freezeout Lake as a beautiful sunrise filled the sky, silhouetting several flocks of Snow Geese that had just taken off. It was a wonderful beginning to a very good day of birding. We were able to clearly see Ross's Geese in among the Snow Geese, and also saw a number of blue morphs of both species. After a morning of birding, in very strong and cold wind at the Freezeout Lake Management Area, we had lunch in Fairfield, Mt., then traveled to the Benton Wildlife Refuge about ten miles north of Great Falls. Our great birding continued there as we saw species such as Sharp-Tailed Grouse, Tundra Swans, American Avocets, and a pair of Long-Tailed Duck, a life bird for me.

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End of the Year Message from Our President

George Sayler



It seems it wasn't very long ago that I wrote my first column as president of Coeur d'Alene Audubon, yet a great deal has

happened in the past nine months. We've had some great field trips, some wonderful speakers on a variety of topics, we've done educational and conservation work, and enjoyed great fellowship along the way. Our recent field trip to Freezeout Lake in Montana is a great case in point

Message from Our President

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Photographs by George Saylor

At our end of the day social time we calculated slightly over 50 species for the day! Other highlights included Sandhill Cranes, White Pelicans, Horned Larks and at least 15 species of waterfowl.

Last week I did a program about CDA Audubon and birding at the Coeur d'Alene public library. In preparing for that program I learned anew the unhealthy situation regarding bird populations, not only in the United States, but around the world. Bird populations are in decline and human related factors are the main reason. I also learned that there are many efforts underway to change this situation and to help birds. Some of them are related to government policy, some to activities of organizations such

as the National Audubon Society, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and others. Many are related to the efforts of thousands of individuals around the world, many of whom are involved in citizen-science projects.

Our May program will be a case study of this issue as it relates to Hawaii's endangered birds. I hope you will be there to see what has happened to many of Hawaii's birds, the continuing threats they face, and what is being done to combat them. It serves as an example for all of us to protect the birds where we live, as well as their breeding and nesting grounds in the Arctic or their winter habitat to the south.

So, we have wonderful opportunities to see, learn about, and enjoy birds, and at the same time we are aware of their declining status. All the more reason for organizations such as the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society. What we do is not only enjoyable, it is important. Individually and collectively we can be a voice for birds. While having lunch in Fairfield, I took my binoculars into the restaurant. I wanted the people there to know we were there because of the waterfowl and birds in the area, and because of our presence, they gained an economic benefit. Birders spend billions of dollars each year in pursuit of their hobby, and that economic impact alone makes us a voice for bird conservation.

We also have a chance to educate people and perhaps create a few new birders with our event planned for International Migratory Bird Day. It is from 9:00am – 1:00 pm at the BLM boat launch site across the river on your way to Cougar Gulch. Many of you will be there because you have volunteered to help out. I encourage all to come, participate, and enjoy the activities. Bring children along with you!

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Message from Our President

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So, I thank all of you for your involvement in CDA Audubon this season, and especially to all of you who helped make what we do possible by your volunteer efforts, donations, and payment of dues. We will have a great end-of-the-year picnic at the Mica Bay picnic area on the South side of the bay at the BLM Boaters' Park. The date is June 11th, and let's plan to start arriving around 5:30, so we can get the burgers grilled, the food laid out, and be ready to eat by 6:00 p.m.. A great time will be had by all!

In Memoriam - Joan Gundlach

Joan, a longtime member of our Audubon Chapter was lost to us this past week. Joan wore many hats: wife, mother, grandmother, caregiver, conservationist, adventurer, book-lover, and good friend, among them. As one of her friends said to me, "I will always remember Joan for her wonderful smile". She will be missed.

There will be Memorial Service at the KROC Center on June 1st – time to be posted on our Website under Meetings and Events when known.

The Fallout

Birding South Padre Island and the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas

Kris Buchler

A fallout.

Tiny warblers hopping on the ground, on your feet, or inches away from your face on a branch.

Fifty or more orioles in a small tree.

Twenty Indigo Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks just feet from you, foraging on the ground.

Three species of secretive thrush in full view.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

A photographer's dream, a migratory bird's nightmare.

What causes a fallout? Winds from the north, coupled with rain and cool conditions, pepper the migrants as they fight their way north across the Gulf of Mexico at night. Exhausted, wet, and hungry, the birds literally "fall out of the sky" on the first available land. Fallouts occur in many places around the gulf. Most notable are the Dry Tortugas, off the coast of Florida, or High Island, Texas. Fallouts can occur anywhere when severe weather conditions inhibit migratory birds.

Shirley Sturts, Ed and Kris Buchler and John Shipley, experienced bird guide, were on South Padre Island during a fallout on April 25th. The site was a convention center which had grounds offering native plantings of shrubs and trees (primarily mesquite and Texas ebony), numerous palms and a small water feature with a stream. A local woman, Scarlett Colley, provides an unending supply of seed and fruit for the migrants.



**Cutting up oranges for the hungry birds –
Photograph by Shirley Sturts**

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The Fallout

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Scarlet Tanager Photographed by John Shipley

We saw 27 species of warblers up close and did not even need binoculars for most of them. Notable were Swainson's and Golden-winged, two species we may never see again. Many were life birds for the 3 of us and all were beautiful, including Blue-winged, Kentucky, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Hooded, and my favorite, the Cerulean Warbler.



Painted Bunting - Photographed by John Shipley

Other migrants in large numbers were Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Painted Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush and Swainson's Thrush. Can you imagine standing just feet from elusive Veerys or American Redstarts in Idaho? There were several Yellow-billed Cuckoo and flycatchers which were hard to identify since they were not on breeding territories, consequently not singing. I saw my first "Dicky bird", the Dickcissel, a few "teeter tails", Spotted Sandpiper, and many "butter butts", Yellow-rumped Warblers. These are the pet names given by some of the locals.

The Rio Grande Valley offered different habitats. Sabal Palm Sanctuary gave us great views of Green Jay, Clay-colored Thrush, Curve-billed Thrasher, and a real rarity, a female Crimson-collared Grosbeak, only an occasional visitor from Mexico. Water locations were home to Least Grebe and Green Kingfisher. Raptors were few but we saw a Mississippi Kite, Broad-winged Hawk and a few Turkey Vultures.

Casa Santa Ana was our home in Alamo, Texas, south of McAllen. The bed and breakfast had great habitats of its own and hosted numerous birds including Yellow-fronted Woodpecker and Great Kiskadee, which would appear at dawn to snatch moths off the brick walls where the insects were attracted to a security light. Other resident birds we saw and heard were Baltimore and Hooded Orioles, Buff-bellied and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Brown-crested Flycatcher and both Lesser and Common Nighthawks. One evening the owner traveled with us along a dike and the fields where we located Chuck-will's-widow and Common Pauraque.

We visited Bentsen State Park, Estero Llano Grande State Park, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge and several other wildlife habitats with

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The Fallout

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mesquite forests and lakes or pond for numerous water birds including Roseate Spoonbill, Wilson's Phalarope, Long-billed Dowitcher, Green Kingfisher, egrets, sandpipers, tree ducks and dabblers, and herons.

Our totals of species seen were 166 to 168 species with John hearing a few more. At 60, he still has unbelievable hearing. It was interesting birding habitats so different from home and they are species rich with good visibility. However, our lakes and coniferous forests were a welcome sight.

Swan Field Trip -March 10th

Lisa Hardy



Swans - Photographed by Lisa Hardy

Our field trip started out at Canyon Marsh, then proceeded to Lane Marsh, and the marshes along the road to the Killarney Lake boat launch. We tallied 1600 swans total, and found one swan with a collar, U439. The swan numbers apparently peaked a few days after our trip. Also of note were three Eurasian Wigeon - two

at Lane and one on Killarney Lake, amongst large numbers of other waterfowl.

We also found a Eurasian Green-winged Teal at Schlepp Ranch - the same place we found one on the field trip last year. The sun never really made an appearance, but it didn't rain or snow on us! Thank you, participants, for all the great spotting

David Douglas Exhibit Field Trip

Roland Craft



**Dark-eyed Junco -
Photographed by
Wayne Tree**

Our field trip to visit the David Douglas exhibit at the Museum of Art and Culture in Spokane occurred on a nice sunny day.

David Douglas was a naturalist who traveled the Columbia River basin and southern British Columbia collecting and identifying over 200 plants, animals and birds during the years of 1825-1833. His most well-known species named after him is the Douglas fir tree. We also visited the exhibit of Plateau Indian artifacts including carvings, bead works, baskets, stone utensils, a reed teepee and many more items.

Our outdoor excursion was a birding tour of the Finch Arboretum. We found the following birds: Dark-eyed Junco, House Sparrow, American Robin, Red-tailed Hawk, 4 hawk species, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Crow and Common Raven. Although there was nothing unusual when it came to bird species, we identified or read the name-tags, of hundreds of trees, both native and exotic. We really enjoyed the day.



Little Spokane River in Riverside State Park

Dick Cripe

It was a calm, quiet, overcast day as we walked



most of the 1.7 miles up and back along the trail following the river. Along the way we found 22 species of birds: Pileated

Photographed by Bill Linn

Woodpecker, Varied Thrush,

Rock Wren and a Nashville Warbler were some of the best ones. Participants were Bob & Terri Farr, Russ Hersrud, Janet Callen, Valerie Zagar, and myself. A good time was had by all.

May – June Field Trips

Mica Bay Survey

Dates: May 14, Tuesday
(and the 2nd Tues. of the months June 11, July 9, and August 13 at 7:00 am)

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Meet: Leader: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318

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

Steptoe Butte and Mary McCroskey State Park

Date: May 11, Saturday

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Meet: K-Mart parking lot, south side

Leader: Janet Callen, 664-1085

This will be a full-day trip. Bring a lunch and we'll explore from Coeur d' Alene to Steptoe and back. Target Birds: Spring arrivals

Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest

Date: May 15th-19th, Wednesday-Sunday

Leaders: Kris Buchler 664-4739 and Carrie Hugo 208 589-9600

Check out this event at:

www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com

Bird and Breakfast at Wes Hanson's

Date: June 2, 2013 at 7 am

Maximum 12 people

RSVP to Roberta Rich - 664-3139

County Century Count

Date: June 6, Thursday (tentative date)

County: This year's county: **Benewah**

We bird from dawn to dusk. Our goal is to find 100+ species by nightfall all in Benewah County. When final plans are made, additional information will be on our Website. If you are interested in joining us, sign up at the May meeting or contact Kris Buchler at 664-4769.

Limericks by Lynn

There once was a cat
from Saint Maries
Who wanted to catch
some Canaries
but her owner said
"No"

Kept a latch on the
door

So he never, never got hold of their
primaries!



Lynn Sheridan

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