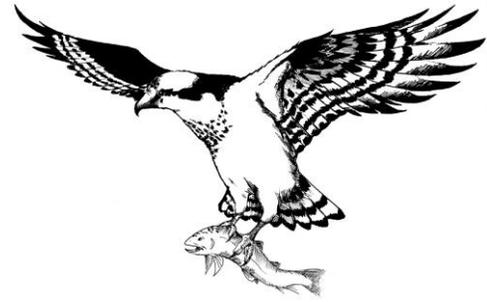


# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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

May 2014

Volume 23, Number 9

## May Program

**DATE:** May 13, Tuesday

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

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

**SPEAKERS: Mark and Terri McClelland**

Mark and Terri are currently volunteer interpretive hosts at Farragut State Park. They have been avid birders since the 1980s and seek volunteer locations and opportunities that allow them to enjoy birds and other wildlife. This is their 12<sup>th</sup> volunteer assignment since they retired in 2011 and began traveling full-time in their RV.

**PROGRAM: "Volunteers for Wildlife"**

Mark and Terri will talk about their past four years as volunteers around the county, with emphasis on the projects involving birds and mammals.

Mark and Terri have led public bird walks from Texas to Maine, counted tens of thousands of ducks and other birds, assisted with trapping mammals as small as deer mice and as rare as the endangered ocelot, and used spotlights to count such exotic species as nilgai antelope from India and feral hogs.

They have also installed and maintained native plant and butterfly gardens, replanted thorny shrubs and trees in South Texas, installed interpretive panels on auto tour loops, and even painted a few houses!

## June Picnic

**Date:** June 11, Tuesday

**Place:** Blue Grass Park: On Ramsey Rd from North or South, turn west on Dalton Ave. Drive ½ mile to the parking lot.

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Details:** Bring something to share, your own meat to barbecue, your own plate and silverware and your own beverage. Coffee and water provided

## Audubon's Birthday Bash

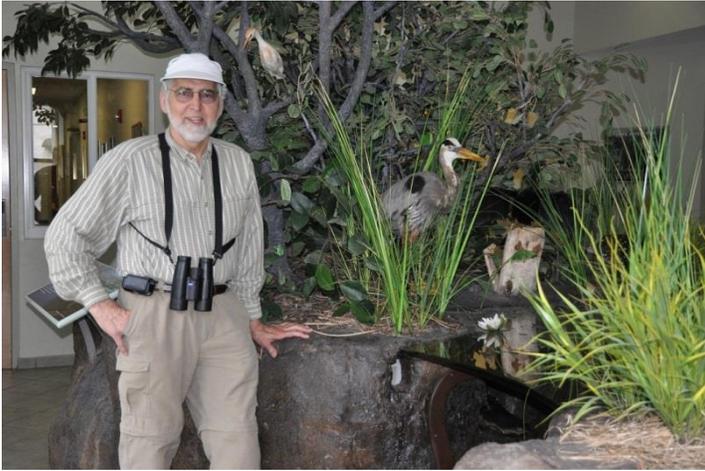
The Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter wishes to thank the following businesses and individuals for their donations to our "2014 Audubon's Birthday Bash" fundraiser. Without their help we could not have had this event. We sincerely appreciate their support.

**Businesses:** ROW Adventures, Cabela's, Ace Hardware, Black Sheep, Tri-State Outfitters, Coeur d'Alene Eye Clinic Hudson Hamburgers, Myhre's Framing, Anettes's Draperies, Pilgrim's Market, Big Five, Cenex and Wild Birds Unlimited

**Individuals:** Doug Albertson, Pat Alexander, John and Donna Schwandt, Larry Krumpleman, Susan Nipp, Jan and Herb Severtson, Darlene Carlton, Carrie and Jerry Hugo, George and Kathleen Sayler, Rob and Nancy Kroese, Eula Hickam, Judy Edwards, George Wilson, Janet Callen, Lynn Sheridan, Jenny Taylor, Lisa Hardy, and the Lutheran Women's Quilting Club

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

George Sayler



As my term as president of Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society nears its end, I find myself looking back while at the same time looking ahead. In my first column I wrote that I was excited and optimistic about what lay ahead (which I still am). I mentioned the many strengths of our organization and referred to some of the significant contributions of our members. I acknowledged and thanked our past leadership for their role in keeping CDA Audubon strong and active, I asked for your input and feedback, and finally, encouraged your involvement in our activities. Now, nearly two years later, I would say amen to all those things.

We've had some great programs, wonderful field trips, great Christmas Bird Counts, maintained the Bluebird trails, monitored Mica Bay, done highway cleanup, contributed to environmental causes, sponsored International Migratory Bird Day and much more. Your response has been generous and welcome, and my thanks to all those, from board members on through the entire organization, who have participated in one way or another. We have also had some great community support such as for our April fundraiser. Many thanks to the individuals and businesses who donated items for the raffle and silent auction.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

So, am I satisfied with where we are? Not quite! In part, this dissatisfaction is because I did not achieve some of the goals I had set out, and this is no one's fault but my own. On the other hand, there are some concerns I believe are germane to our entire organization.

Looking ahead, I see some challenges and areas where we can do better. Although we have re-activated the Conservation Committee, I believe we do not do enough to fulfill that part of our mission statement. We are great at things such as those mentioned above, but could do more as a chapter to "preserve, protect and perpetuate" birds and their habitat. We could be a stronger voice in our community for environmental activism, and we could be more involved with other Audubon chapters in our flyway to address larger policy and environmental issues. We also need new leadership and a way to involve younger members. Relying on the same people for leadership year after year is not healthy for us.

If we are to meet these challenges we need to look at them as opportunities for growth. To take advantage of those opportunities we will continue to need active involvement from our membership as well as expand the number of active participants. How to do this must be a part of our discussion in the months ahead. Please consider your role – are you willing to become more involved in strengthening our chapter? As we search for new officers, board members, and committee members, please consider serving if asked.

In my first newsletter article I also wrote that, through being involved in activities, I have grown and had more fun. To which I can only say again, amen! I hope our programs and activities have been interesting and relevant to you. It has been an honor to serve as your president.



Dear Audubon Friends;  
Thank you from the field trip  
committee.

Judy Waring, Dick Cripe, Lisa Hardy, Kris Buchler and Valerie Zagar all volunteered to lead Audubon field trips this 2013-2014 fiscal year. And the Native Plant Society and Derek Antonelli have invited us to join them on an adventure. Thank you everyone. Without you we wouldn't have had the fun of exploring new and old places searching for birds and other interesting things along the way, nor the camaraderie a day together brings. A special thank you goes to the organizers of the Christmas Counts and Century Counts: Shirley Sturts, Lisa and Kris. These adventures all make our organization a great one in which to be involved.

However, we need more leaders so don't be afraid to step up and volunteer to lead a trip. And, we need a new member on the field trip committee with fresh ideas. I don't know if anyone has noticed, but both of us are getting older. Someday we may schedule a field trip and forget where to go or why we're there.

Roland Craft and Janet Callen



## Volunteers Needed for:

### Membership Committee

The current Membership Chair is retiring in June. The volunteer must have a computer. Data is entered periodically throughout the year. It is recommended that we have a committee rather than just one person doing all the work.

Duties: The Membership Committee shall maintain close contact with the membership department of the National Audubon Society. It shall keep the membership records and shall conduct membership campaigns to enroll new members. It shall endeavor to retain those members who have become delinquent in the payment of their dues. Whenever possible a Membership Committee comprised of more than one individual should be formed and the work of the committee should be shared among its members.

Call Jan Severtson at 667-6209 for more information

**Continued on Page 4**

## Volunteers Needed

Continued from Page 3

### New Board and Committee Members

Anyone interested in serving on our Audubon Board or serving on any committee (field trip, conservation, membership, fund raising, hospitality, etc.) contact Eula Hickam, 661-3228.

### International Migratory Bird Day

*Wildlife Biologist Desperately Seeking Bird Walk Leader and Cookies!*

International Migratory Bird Day is rapidly approaching. May 10th is the date! We have a great group of folks committing their time and effort to make this year even bigger than last year. And a nice chunk of funding from BLM has allowed us to make some great improvements and purchase some nice interpretive items like bird skull replicas, egg and talon replicas, and new signs and banners. I foresee that this will become a regular and treasured community event much like Eagle Watch!

I am so grateful for all the help that has come forward thus far, but I need a bit more from folks. This is what I am looking for: Someone who is willing to lead two guided bird walks (total length of about 30 minutes each). This would consist of simply wandering around Blackwell Island (the boardwalk area, the edges of the site where there is great riparian, shrub, and forest habitat) and talking to people about birds and their habitats. You don't have to be an expert to do this.

The next request is EASY. Cookies and baked goods for our "Bird Friendly Coffee Stand"! Please email me ([chugo@blm.gov](mailto:chugo@blm.gov) or [carriehugo@wildblue.net](mailto:carriehugo@wildblue.net)) or call me 661-9777 and let me know if you are willing to provide some goodies for our event. Preferably no

recipes with peanuts since some kiddos have allergies.

Thanks in advance for your support. **Also see the flyer about Migratory Bird Day on our Website:** [www.cdaudubon.org](http://www.cdaudubon.org)

Thanks a Million! Carrie Hugo

## Saturday's Litter Pick-up

Thanks to the dozen or so members that participated in Saturday's litter pick-up along Hwy 95. We packaged 19 bags of garbage and finished within two or so hours. Teamwork does make a difference!

We will repeat this effort in the fall - date to be announced later.

## Banded Swan

*Continued from our April newsletter*



In the April newsletter, we showed you this photo of a banded swan found by Darlene Carlson and Karen Williams on the Chain of Lakes March 8, 2014.

Darlene reported their find and received the following reply, "Darlene, Thanks for reporting the collared swan. N027 was banded on 21 July 2010, as a second year (hatched in 2009) female near King Salmon, on the northern Alaska Peninsula. Regards, Craig Ely, Alaska Science Center"

## Rathdrum Prairie Raptor Run

There was an article about the Raptor Run" our March 2014 newsletter. See the final survey results on our Website [www.cdaudubon.org](http://www.cdaudubon.org) and look under projects.



## The Loon Rescue

Dan Ratzka

I was driving into work this morning enjoying all the wildlife this time of year. Sixteen elk were at Flying Arrow Ranch and too many deer to count. Lots of ducks were on the water. Just getting onto Blue Creek bridge the wind was howling cross ways to the bridge. Suddenly a large bird came tumbling over the railing and slammed into the pavement almost right next to me. I stopped as soon as I could and parked on the bridge. I had first had thought it was a male Mallard duck.

The wind coming across the bridge forces the air up causing an updraft but as the wind slams into the side of the bridge causing an up draft it also forms a vacuum at the bridge level and across the pavement. The bird got caught in the vacuum and down-draft and was slammed into the pavement. I ran back towards the bird discovering it was a loon. Loons cannot take off from land and it could not get very far in its attempts to take off. Luckily, at 5:45 in the morning there is little traffic. Only one car came by during my attempt to catch the loon. It didn't slow down much and looked like it was going to be a fatal end to the story. My next run towards the bird caused it to go into defense mode and it ran at me wings flailing and beak pecking at me. I threw my jacket over its head and corralled the thing in my arms. I had to walk it all the way across the bridge and down the bank which took me under the bridge to the far side where I could get to the water for release. I took the coat off its head and it again went into defense mode. I quickly moved back and it swam out into the lake hollering its mighty loon call to about 50 feet from me. On and on it hollered then raised up and flapped its wings towards me and turned swam away as fast as it could. I think no worst for the wear.

I walked back up the bank and onto the pavement heading for the truck which was still running next to the railing towards the far end of the bridge. I hadn't noticed the first time but at second glance I noticed someone standing next to my truck. It was the Sheriff's Department patrolman. He stopped and couldn't see me anywhere, truck running unlocked in the middle of the bridge. He was hoping no one had jumped. After explaining my story and taking all my personal information, I was off again to work.

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## Sprague/Rock Lakes, Ewan

Janet Callen

March 22<sup>nd</sup> turned out to be a sunny and calm day and the birding was great. We journeyed first to Sprague Lake where, among hundreds of scaup, Redhead, wigeon, and golden-eye were Ruddy Duck. While there, we heard a Common Snipe and saw a Northern Shrike and a Bald Eagle. Meadowlarks serenaded from fence posts and telephone poles everywhere. We saw large flocks of Horned Lark and two fat marmots. South we went and stopped at Crooked Knee Lake in search of the Mute Swan but did not see it. In fact, no swans were seen. One Yellow-headed Blackbird was picking at the gravel on the road side. Across Glorfield Road to Rock Lake we traveled and among the numerous waterfowl in the flooded fields Judy saw a Cinnamon Teal and we had good looks at Northern Pintail. From the community of Ewan by Rock Lake we traveled home via Pine City and only got lost one time. We did not keep an exact count, but saw at least 20 Red-tailed Hawks, another Bald Eagle and several Northern Harriers. Total species for the day, not counting the marmots, was 41. It was a good day birding and traveling new country with Judy Waring, Valerie Zagar and Roland Craft., plus a welcome to Greg (I failed to get his last name) who joined us for the day.

## Avondale Golf Course Project

Lynn Sheridan

In the spring of 2002, Susan Weller, Bill Gundlach, Del Cameron and I were given the okay by the Avondale management to monitor the few bird houses that were on the golf course. We took down most of the old ones and put up 20 new boxes

After Susan Weller passed away, I decided to continue the project. Over the years, volunteers helping me included Roland Craft, Dick Cripe, Laura Bayless, Bill Gundlach, Valerie Zagar, and this year, Nancy and Rob Kroese.

Each year, I have sent a letter about the season's nesting success to Avondale c/o Tim Mack, the maintenance manager. I didn't realize until a few years went by that they have been donating a \$100 a year for our work on this project.

We have had between 20-30 boxes up each year. The best year for the largest number of active nests was in 2004 with 18 nests. This year (2013) was the worst with only 7 nests. Perhaps this is partly due to our failure to do our usual end of the nesting season box cleaning. One was a bluebird nest and 6 were swallow nests. In the past, we have also had chickadee nests but never a House Wren nest. Other nests were used by rodents and insects. On April 3 of this year, Roland, Rob, Nancy and I put up 6 new boxes, one being a replacement for a box with a broken front.

I remember Susan saying that golf courses were not ideal habitat for birds, but it is worth giving them nesting opportunities.

Thank you to those who have helped me with this project.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

## Field Trips 2014

PLEASE REGISTER:

*Watch the website 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 will share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver*

### Mica Bay Survey

**Date:** May 13 Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. (NOTICE TIME CHANGE)

**Meet:** Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

**Leader:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318

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

### Westmond Lake/Farragut S.P.

**Date:** May 11, Sunday

**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

**Meet:** K-Mart (south side parking lot)

**Leader:** Janet Callen 664-1085

This will be a half-day trip to view the Black Terns at Westmond Lake and, time permitting, look for bluebirds along CdA Audubon's bluebird trail. We'll be home in time for everyone to take Mom out to dinner. Bring a snack and water, in case we stay a little past noon. .

### Trout Creek Wildlife Management Area

**With the Native Plant Society**

**Date:** May 17, Saturday

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Meet:** Walmart in Hayden, NE corner

**Leader:** Derek Antonelli 762-2575

This area is in the Pack River delta near Bonners Ferry. The trip will be close to a full day so bring lunch. We will look for a variety of birds in wetlands, shrub and forest.

**Continued on Page 7**

## Field Trips 2014

Continued from Page 6



Northern Saw-whet Owl  
Photograph by Wayne Tree

### Montana and the Flathead Valley

*Please let Kris know ASAP if you are interested in going - she needs to estimate how many rooms we might require for that weekend*

**Date:** May 23-25, Friday-Sunday

**Leader:** Kris Buchler 664-4739 or eagleroost@roadrunner.com

Leave **Friday** morning and travel east, perhaps birding the National Bison Range on the way.

Check into the Ninepipes Lodge late afternoon

**Saturday**, bird with Denver Holt from the Owl Research Institute

**Sunday**, bird Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge. Head home when people are ready.

Those who want to, may choose to spend another day and bird the Bitterroot Valley and Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge, south of Missoula. Or, you may want to explore Flathead Lake and Valley.

**Lodging:** Ninepipes Lodge, right across from the east side of the refuge. It has a continental breakfast and restaurant.

The Owl Research Institute is located on the refuge

**Century Count** (goal of counting 100 birds in a day) in Boundary County

**Dates:** June 6-8

**Lodging:** Stay Friday and Saturday nights at Selkirk House (Beds for 7) plus a mattress and unlimited space for sleeping bags on a glassed sun porch

**Friday, June 6** - Travel to Bonners Ferry midafternoon. Dinner in town and then 15 minutes to Selkirk House

**Saturday, June 7** - Century Count: Predawn to dusk annual count - we will bird various places in Boundary County - Potluck dinner at the house - Games and libations

**Sunday, June 8** - Breakfast at the house and people can chose to lie about, go hiking or bird other routes on the way home.

**Please register** with Kris Buchler (664-4739).

There will be a charge for the house rental but it should be reasonable when divided among participants. Bed spaces are on a first come, first served basis. You may stay in your camper or tent if you desire.

**Itinerary:** Lisa Hardy and I will determine the itinerary sometime in May. You may want to go home Saturday but we are usually really tired and staying over means not driving 2 hours after a long day.

### Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival

**Date:** June 19-22, 2014

**Leader:** Valerie Zagar 819- 5115

Looking for a different kind of bird festival in 2014? Join me in Sisters, Oregon for the Dean Hale Wood-pecker Festival.

Check out the woodpeckers, fly fish in the Metolius River, "shop til you drop" in all the great gift shops, or take a hike among the beautiful scenery of Central Oregon.

**NEW MEMBER  
APPLICATION**

Become a member of the National Audubon Society, Join online at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) or use this form.

**INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP**

- Regular \$20.00  
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Send this application and your check payable to:

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 Membership Data Center  
 P.O. Box 422248  
 Palm Coast, Florida\ 32142-6718

**C9ZG060Z**

**CDA Audubon Chapter  
Officers**

**President:**  
 George Sayler (208) 664-2787  
**Vice President:**  
 Eula Hickam (208) 661-3228  
**Recording Secretary:**  
 Valerie Zagar (208) 819-5115  
**Treasurer:**  
 Jenny Taylor (208) 755-4216  
**Board Members: all officers +**  
 Peggy Albertson, Darlene  
 Carlton, Carrie Hugo, Rob  
 Kroese, Jan Severtson, Lynn  
 Sheridan

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Publicity:** Carrie Hugo  
**Field Trips:** Roland Craft (208) 457- 8894  
 Janet Callen (208) 664-1085  
**Education:** Valerie Zagar 819-5115  
**Conservation:** Volunteer needed  
**Membership:** Jan Severtson (208) 667-6209  
 Keith Sturts (208) 664-5318  
**Hospitality:** Carrie Hugo (208) 689 -9600  
**Newsletter:** Shirley Sturts (208) 664-5318  
**Mailing:** Peggy Albertson 664-1616  
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**Historian:** Carrie Hugo (209) 689-9600

**LOCAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

- Individual \$10.00*  
 *Family \$15.00*  
 *Individual \$25.00 - with  
hard copy of the newsletter*  
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copy of the newsletter*  
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**P.O. Box 361**  
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