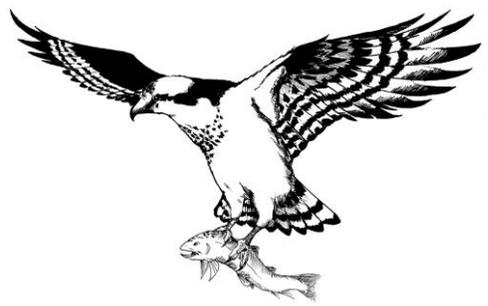


# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
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May 2015

Volume 24 Number 9

## MAY PROGRAM

**DATE:** May 12, Tuesday

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

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

**SPEAKER:** Idie Ulsh. Idie is well known for her bird and butterfly programs. She has now completed an intensive three-year study of bird nests. She is a past president of Seattle Audubon, founder of the Washington Butterfly Association, Seattle Audubon Master Birder, nature photographer and is also independent college counselor. Idie is a retired high school counselor

**PROGRAM:** "Feathered Architects".

From eagles to hummingbirds, Idie will explore with us how and where birds make nests and relate interesting facts about their construction. She has photographed the nests of more than 30 species and done intensive perusal of bird nest literature. In addition to her own photos she will include photos from many excellent local photographers, University of Puget Sound Slater Museum and Cornell Lab of Ornithology in this unique program.



Black-capped Chickadee  
Photo by Bill Lynn

## Yard List Challenge 2014

Compiled by  
Doug Ward

Apologies for such a tardy annual review of the yard

lists which were submitted for 2014 - all my fault for missing three deadlines in a row, despite Shirley threatening to take away my birding privileges.

Well, 2014 was another great year for the 12 yards for which I received reports. We collectively saw 120 different species in, around, over, and near our yards which is the highest total for which I have records (2009-14)!

Continued on page 2

## BOARD MEETING

**DATE:** May 5, Tuesday

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

**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.

See minutes on our Website:

<http://cdaudubon.org/board%20meetigs.html>

## Yard List --Continued from page 1



White-crowned Sparrow  
Photo by Bill Lynn

Interestingly, only 6 species were seen in all yards (one list seemed partial, so I counted all others) - Northern Flicker, Black-capped & Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, and Dark-eyed Junco.

As for the less abundant birds, which are always fun to find, 28 species were seen in only one yard, with another 16 seen in only 2 yards! Those with water on or near their properties turned in some of the most interesting sightings like the Krumpelmans' Hooded Merganser, or the plethora of good stuff out at the Hansons' place near Medimont, including American White Pelican, Northern Harrier, and Black Terns.

But the good stuff isn't restricted to "water yards" like Lisa Hardy's Tundra Swans and Vaux's Swift up in Kellogg, the two (2) Anna's Hummingbirds which showed up in our (the Wards') yard in October and stayed until February, Kris & Ed Buchler's Northern

Pygmy-Owl and Hammond's Flycatcher, the Moens' Red-eyed Vireo and Gray Jay, the Sturts' White-breasted Nuthatch, Jan Severtson's Pacific Wren, or Janet Callen's Brewer's Blackbird (a first for her yard I think). Blue Jays made a nice surprise for Lynn Sheridan, as well as for Janet and Shirley. We had a good sparrow year with Fox, White-throated, and Lincoln's showing up at our place, but White-crowned only popped up in 4 yards: J.Callen, L.Sheridan, D.Ward, and J.Waring.

The list totals are on our Website at:  
<http://cdaudubon.org/Projects/yardlist2014.html>

So to those who submitted your yard lists this year, thank you. For those thinking about it, go for it as it is a lot of fun. Here's to another good year in our yards!



## Audubon Litter Pick-up

Michael A. Zagar

Thanks to the ten folks who gathered at Mica Grange last Saturday for our spring litter pick-up event. What started as a not-so-good morning actually turned out to be quite pleasant.

We collected 15 bags of trash in 2-1/2 hours and helped improve the scenery along two miles of Highway 95 at the same time.

We repeat this task in the fall so we will again be looking for volunteers come I September. The exact date will be posted later this summer.

## First Reel-in and Recycle Bin Placed at Honeysuckle Beach

Peggy Albertson



Discarded monofilament lines can present serious environmental problems. These lines are difficult to spot when submerged in water. Fish, birds and other wildlife can easily become entangled causing ingestion, starvation, and death. (Please refer to: <http://www.boatus.org/monofilament/> for more information on this program.)

CDA Audubon has raised the money and volunteered the hours to build, place and maintain five Reel-in and Recycle bins at local fishing areas.

Thanks to the cooperation of the City of Hayden, our first box was installed April 21st! More recycle bins are slated to be

installed at the BLM boat launches at Killarney Lake, Mineral Ridge and Blue Creek Bay. Thanks to Carrie Hugo and George Saylor for moving this project forward!

Read more - article by Carrie Hugo on our home page [www.csaudubon.org](http://www.csaudubon.org)



If you look closely you can see fish line hanging out of the mouth of this Wood Duck. The photo was taken on Fernan Lake by Larry Krumpelman.



A dead Osprey entangled in fish line - The photo taken by Larry Krumpelman on Fernan Lake

## President's Report

Eula Hickam



Thanks to so many of you who always pitch in and help whenever you can! We'll be having a

new opportunity for fun, but also to raise funds for our programs. The first annual CDA BIRDATHON 2015 is happening June 6<sup>th</sup>. First, encourage your friends/relatives, etc. to pledge \$\$ for each bird species you can spot or hear from 12:00am to midnight June 6<sup>th</sup>. Then gather up the results and bring it to our Annual Picnic on June 12<sup>th</sup> (location to be announced). Prizes will be awarded.... You won't want to miss it! More information at the May meeting.

We just have one more program for this year. "Feathered Architects" will be featured at our May meeting - don't miss it! A lot of you gave me good ideas for this year, send me your ideas for next year! This is a great group! Thanks for all you have done for this program.

### CDA Audubon Chapter Insurance

Valerie Zagar

In October, 2014 the board discussed the pros and cons of purchasing a chapter insurance policy. I volunteered to research

insurance companies that specialized in non-profit organizations. I received quotes from two different companies and after comparing their coverage and associated costs, the board voted on purchasing a policy with R.V. Nuccio & Associates, Inc. The company is based in Toluca Lake, Ca. and is insured through Fireman's Fund, one of the nation's oldest and respected insurance companies.

The policy became effective November, 2014 at an annual cost of \$438.00, which includes general liability and accident/medical coverage.

At the last board meeting the board members decided to have the insurance company contact information and policy number placed on the back of CDA Audubon business cards. These cards are available to any driver/leader of a field trip. If you would like to have a card, contact the field trip coordinator, Janet Callen.

## Please Note

If any accident/mishap should occur in an automobile while on an Audubon trip, the driver is to report it to their **personal** insurance company **first**. The Audubon policy is a secondary source, only if needed. If you would like more information regarding coverage, (the complete policy is over 300 pages), contact me, Valerie Zagar at 208-819-5115.



Photo by Wayne Tree

## In Search Of Short-Eared Owls

Kris Buchler

Twenty-three Audubon birders ventured to Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge and Management Area on

March 27 to seek resident Short-eared Owls and hopefully observe their courtship displays.

Owl guru, Denver Holt, had previously described and demonstrated the behaviors, which consist of rising into the air above the normal soaring altitude, a wing clap either above or below the body or both, and various stoops or dives by the male around the female.

It took us awhile to locate the birds but we eventually found several in hunting mode as they slowly flew over the fields. As they rose higher into the air, the courtship began. These displays occur only at twilight but we were blessed with good weather and visibility. Everyone on the trip was able to watch the displays.

We observed many other birds including waterfowl on ponds, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk and an unexpected bonus, a Long-billed Curlew flying over. Lisa recognized its call before we saw it. This is a coveted bird we failed to find last May.

Our owl hunt ended a day where many of us spent some travel time at the National Bison Range following a picnic lunch. We were treated to an early pair of returning Mountain Bluebirds. Several raptors cruised overhead along the lower river road. The highlight turned out to be a Golden Eagle



Golden Eagle - Photo by  
Darlene Carlton

which obligingly circled right overhead, giving Darlene some great photo opportunities.

Saturday morning was rainy at 6:00 a.m. but cleared enough for many of us to head out on the gumbo roads to search for birds. We failed to find the owls out hunting but the Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks seemed to like the buffeting winds. After a special breakfast prepared for our group at the Ninepipes Lodge, people headed out to explore the refuge, Bison Range or head home.

Participants included: Ed and Kris Buchler, Midge-Marcy and Jim Brennan, Darlene Carlton, Roland Craft, Dick Cripe, Bill Gundlach, Lisa Hardy, Russ Hersrud, Sally Jones and Claudia, Vonnie and Ralph Kerr, Larry and Kazue Krumpelman, Cathy Mohns, Katie and George Sayler, Jan Severtson, Judy and Phil Waring and Valerie Zagar.

**Continued on page 6**

## In Search Of Short-Eared Owls

Continued from Page 5

The trip list kept by Lisa Hardy listed 52 species seen or heard by members of the group over the two days. Trumpeter Swans were seen in pairs or small groups, unlike the hordes of Tundra Swans we get here. Ninepipe NWR hosts several breeding pairs of the Trumpeters, while the Tundras migrate further north for nesting. Some Trumpeter Swans do overwinter in Yellowstone National Park.

## Rathdrum Prairie Raptor Run

Compiled by Doug Ward



Northern Harrier (male)  
Photo by Bill Linn

In the groove now, we completed our second full year of conducting raptor surveys (aka "Raptor Runs") out on the Rathdrum Prairie as part of a larger project being conducted by the East Cascades Audubon of Bend, Oregon. If you recall, we cover forty-three (43) miles of a predetermined route once a month during the winter to count raptors

using the area, and determine utilization density (measured in raptors/mile). This year, we had the following results:

	<u>15</u> <u>Nov.'14</u>	<u>13</u> <u>Dec.'14</u>	<u>17</u> <u>Jan.'15</u>	<u>14</u> <u>Feb.'15</u>
Northern Harrier	-	2	2	1
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	1
Bald Eagle	-	1	2	1
Red-tailed Hawk	26	29	23	40
- Harlan's race	-	5	1	-
Rough-legged Hawk	7	11	12	6
<i>Buteo</i> sp.	2	1	-	1
American Kestrel	2	7	3	6
Merlin - "Taiga ssp."	-	1	-	-
Total Individuals	37	57	43	56
Raptors/mile	0.86	1.32	0.99	1.29

Unfortunately, schedules conflicted enough that we were not able to get out there in March. However, from a data collection standpoint this isn't a problem as the survey is primarily interested in wintering populations which are settled in during December through February. November and March are optional survey months as numbers get "muddied" due to migration.

I was joined during the season this year by Janet Callen, Jan Severtson, Maurine Simpson, Shirley Sturts, Andrea Wilkey, Valerie Zagar, and Sally Jones.

This survey has become very popular, but unfortunately we can only accommodate one vehicle of observers for each trip due to the increasing traffic on the "Prairie". If you are interested in joining one of next winter's surveys (November 2015-March 2016), please contact Doug Ward ([dougward@frontier.com](mailto:dougward@frontier.com)) / (208) 699-9327 (cell). We will fill the vehicle on a first-come first-served basis.

## Walla Walla Bird and Wine

Valerie Zagar -Article on Website

To find the article and photos look under "Projects" and scroll to the bottom for the link.



## The Deadly Pesticides

Midge Marcy-Brennan, Conservation



According to "Discover Magazine", "Nature", and the Sierra Club, scientists have linked the declines of farmland birds to a class of pesticides called neonicotinoids.

Neonicotinoids have previously been linked to the sharp decline in honeybee populations, known as colony collapse disorder, prompting the European Union in 2013 to ban the use of the pesticides for at least 2 years.

A study of birds, published in "Nature" last July, showed that the area bird populations declined an average of 3.5% since farmers in the Netherlands started using the

chemical. It is theorized that the birds die from starvation and 9 of 15 bird species examined were affected. Other studies now suggest that neonicotinoids may pose a risk to birds directly, which can receive lethal doses if they eat seeds coated with the pesticide. Bats are also at risk, in areas where neonicotinoids are prevalent.

Systemic poisons enter the plant's system like water and spread through the foliage and flowers, remaining in soil and plant tissues for up to six years. And the recommended doses of pesticides for home use are up to 120 times the strength approved for agricultural application, according to a Sierra Club report.

We are now into spring and dreaming of flowers and vegetables and are heading to our local stores to buy seeds and plants. But what stores won't tell you is that half of their plants are treated with this chemical. Some of these poisoned plants are even labeled "bee friendly" because they attract pollinators, but the entire plant is carrying the pesticide.

Home Depot locally tags some of their plants stating they have been treated with an insecticide to keep it pest resistant. I haven't checked other "big box" stores on their status. On the face of it, that may sound like a good thing, but the plant is carrying a systemic poison.

Continued on Page 8

## Deadly Pesticides

Continued from page 7



So, how can you tell if plants you are buying have been treated? You can't unless it is labeled "organically grown" or simply "organic". Buying from local nurseries is safer; they should be able to tell you if their plants have been treated.

Neonicotinoids come under many trade names and in many forms, like granules, drenches and sprays. Some of the names are imidacloprid, acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, nithiazine, thiacloprid or thiamethoxam.

There is some good news: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided last year to phase out the use of neonicotinoids on National Wildlife Refuges by 2016. The cities of Spokane and Seattle have joined Eugene, Oregon in banning neonicotinoids use on public property.

To learn more, check out the People and Pollinators Action Network at <http://www.peopleandpollinators.org> or [http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/93/3a/3/4738/GardenersBewareReport\\_2014.pdf](http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/93/3a/3/4738/GardenersBewareReport_2014.pdf) to get more information about neonicotinoids studies, and see the report "Gardeners Beware 2014: Bee-Toxic Pesticides found in

"bee-friendly" plants sold at Garden Centers Across the U.S. and Canada".

[www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2015-2-march-april/feature/buzz-kill-74k-2015-04-19](http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2015-2-march-april/feature/buzz-kill-74k-2015-04-19)

Discover Magazine, January/February 2015, p 42.

## Coming Events



Hawk Owl Photo by Larry Krumpelman

### Migratory Bird Day Event

**Date:** May 9, Saturday

**Volunteers**

**needed:** See our home page

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

For information contact Carrie Hugo

Hugo

[chugo@blm.gov](mailto:chugo@blm.gov)

### Birds and Beans

#### Shade Grown Organic Coffee

George Saylor - 664-2787

Information about the coffee and ordering is on our Website: [www.cdaudubon.org](http://www.cdaudubon.org)

### June Picnic

**Date:** June 12, Tuesday

**Place:** To be announced

**Time:** To be announced

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

Continued on page 9

## Coming Events Continued from page 8

### CDA Audubon Birdathon

See our home page for entry form: [www.cdaudubon.org](http://www.cdaudubon.org) The first annual CDA Audubon Birdathon will take place during the 24-hour period from 12:00am to midnight on Saturday, June 6. Individuals will compete to identify wild bird species and to raise funds for important CDA Audubon projects such as the annual International Migratory Bird Day celebration, community programs, and other projects chosen with the input of our members. - sign up form on our Website

### Coming Field Trips



Participants should contact the trip leader at least 24 hours in advance of the field trip for any changes in the meeting place, time or destination.

Participants will share in mileage reimbursement for the driver.

Additional field trips will be added if we have someone to lead them. Please contact our field trip coordinators, Janet Callen 664-1085 and Roland Craft 457-8894, for suggestions or volunteer to lead a trip.

### Mica Bay Survey

**Date:** May 12 Tuesday

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Meet:** Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

**Leader:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318 and Janet Callen 664-1085

**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.

### City of Rocks National Reserve/Castle Rocks State Park.

**Dates:** May 14-18, 2015.

**Leaders:** Judy Waring 765-5378

Janet Callen 664-1085

**Activity:** We will travel to Boise on May 14th and spend the night there. On the 15<sup>th</sup> we travel to City/Castle via Bruneau Dunes State Park, Thousand Springs, and Hagerman Wildlife Refuge. Lodging has been secured at the Lodge in the Park (contact Judy) and at the Almo Creek Inn (contact Janet). We will bird the area with Wallace Keck who is a former CdA Audubon Member and now is the Park Superintendent. The morning of May 17 we will head north via Shoshone, Stanley, and stop for the night at Challis. We are planning lodging at Challis Hot Springs. The area has numerous bird sites. On the 18<sup>th</sup> we will head home on Highway 93 to I-90 at Missoula. Some travelers will camp along the way. Contact either Judy or Janet if you are interested in joining us.

### Century Count - Bonner County

**Date:** Saturday, June 6 (travel to Clark Fork, Friday afternoon, June 5)

**Lodging:** Clark Fork Lodge - Friday night

**Itinerary:** See under field trips on the Webpage: [www.cdaauubon.org](http://www.cdaauubon.org)

Call Kris 664-4739 or Lisa Hardy 783-1262

**LOCAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

- Individual \$10.00
- Family \$15.00
- Individual \$25.00 - with hard copy of the newsletter
- Family \$30.00 - with hard copy of the newsletter
- Additional donation \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail this form and your check payable to: **Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter c/o Membership P.O. Box 361 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816**

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**President:**  
Eula Hickam 661-3228

**Vice President:**  
George Saylor 664-2787

**Recording Secretary:**  
Valerie Zagar 819-5115

**Treasurer:**  
Janet Callen 664-1085

**Board Members: all officers +**  
Peggy Albertson, Midge Marcy-Brennan, Darlene Carlton, Carrie Hugo, Jim Lynn, Lynn Sheridan

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Publicity: open**  
Field Trips: Roland Craft 457- 8894  
Janet Callen 664-1085

**Education: Valerie Zagar 819-5115**

**Conservation: Midge Marcy-Brennan 772-5068**

**Membership: Peggy Albertson 664-1616**

**Hospitality: Darlene Carlton 691-6160**

**Newsletter: Shirley Sturts 664-5318**

**Mailing: Peggy Albertson 664-1616**

**Webmaster: Shirley Sturts 664-5318**

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