

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

May 2017

Volume 27 Number 9

## May Program

**Date:** May 9, Tuesday

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

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Speaker:** Rae Chartlon, from the Bonner County History Museum in Sandpoint

**Program:** Rae will present a talk about the arboretum that surrounds the museum grounds. The PowerPoint presentation will tell the history of the garden as well as native plants that are there.

## Audubon Summer Barbeque and Picnic

**Date:** June 13, Tuesday

**Place:** Picnic area at City Park in downtown CDA (across from the merry-go-round building)

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

Bring your own dishes and silverware and a dish to share. There will be a barbecue going as well. Coffee and soft drinks will be available.

This is a good time of fellowship and sharing. See you there! Some free parking can be found near the picnic area, or other parking is available close by.

Note: No alcoholic beverages are allowed. Sorry.



## President's Message

"Life is a hard battle anyway. If we laugh and sing a little as we fight the good fight of freedom, it makes it all go easier. I will not allow my life's light to be determined by the darkness around me." ~ Sojourner Truth

In this last newsletter of the "year", I am baffled what to say about the disturbing threats of destruction that are upon us. I look at the news and see more and more that grips my heart in fear for the birds, nature, earth and people that I love. We see financial slashes to the EPA, NOAA, and the National Park system. We see rejection of pesticide regulations, the downplay of detrimental effects of carbon emissions, and the rescinding of a moratorium of coal leases on federal lands. There are actions striking down the prohibition of use of lead ammunition on federal lands, permitting the construction of the Keysone XL pipeline, dismantling of the Clean Water Act, and denying climate change. etc., etc.

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## President's Message

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But Rick Johnson, Executive Director of the Idaho Conservation League, wrote that "if you fixate on the news, you only see the rocks....Focus on the water instead - look at the line of the flow" of the water and you can maneuver through the rapids safely. So, I looked at "the water". There are people daily fighting to save the leatherback turtle, black-footed ferrets, Greater Sage-Grouse, Phillipine Eagle, California Condor, the Great Coral Reef, the Amazon Rain Forest, mountain gorillas, wolves, woodland caribou, wolverines...the list goes on. This year's Backyard Bird Count was the biggest ever. People around the world are marching for science, climate change and women's rights. Outdated dams are coming down along rivers. There is the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, Western Environmental Law Center, Natural Resources Defense Council (plus you get Robert Redford), and many others. Locally we have the Kootenai Environmental Alliance, Idaho Nature Conservancy, Idaho Conservation League and Friends of Tubbs Hill (to name a few). Millions of people are standing up for something they wish to protect. Those millions of people are "the water", "the flow" moving around and against the rocks. And we have all seen the power of water. Water wears away and breaks rocks apart; it is one of the strongest forces in nature.

Be part of the WATER. Don't focus on the rocks, except as something you must come up against, and sometimes rage against, as you flow by.

I hope each of you have some great bird-seeking trips in your immediate future. Jim and I will be heading to Vancouver Island with binoculars-in-hand and raincoat-over-body. Perhaps a life-bird is waiting. See you in September.

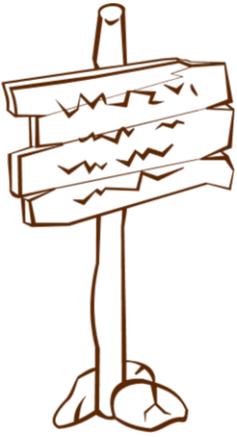
**Midge**



### Hospitality Chair - Ellie Emm

One reason SOME of us enjoy our monthly meetings so much are those wonderful treats that appear like magic! Thanks to Ellie for doing such a great job of always having a great variety of delicious home baked foods. A thank you also goes to those who have brought cookies to past meetings. It makes Ellie's job easier and is much appreciated.

Talk to Ellie (970) 744-0104 if you'd like to volunteer to bring your own favorite snack to a meeting. Thanks so much Ellie.



## Adopt a Wetland Sign

Several months ago, someone felt called to steal the large metal "Adopt a Wetland" sign at Mica Bay. The sign has been up for more than ten years. The post was intact, as was the smaller "Coeur d Alene Audubon" sign. Idaho Fish & Game had one sign left and they gave it to us as their "Adopt a Wetland" program is no longer. Jerry and Sharon Hanson have installed our replacement sign. Thank you, Hansons.



## Viewing Platform Maintenance Supervisor Needed

CDA Audubon has a viewing platform overlooking Mica Bay. We need someone to be the Maintenance Supervisor, ensuring that the platform is accessible, in good repair, the signs cleaned and the trail open. This has been done in the past with informal work parties of one or two or three. If being the Platform Maintenance Supervisor sounds like something you could do, please contact Midge Marcy-Brennan at 208-661-0206 or email [Midgemb@outlook.com](mailto:Midgemb@outlook.com).



## Audubon litter pick-up.

Thanks to the 13 volunteers who joined us on April 8th for the semi-annual Audubon litter pick-up.

We collected 15 bags of refuse and left the area a better place!

A special thanks to Antje Cripe for taking the lead on planting wildflowers along the roadside to help beautify it. IDOT furnished the seeds for pick-up groups to distribute on their routes.

Mike and Valerie Zagar



## E-Mail From Catherine Temple Our April Speaker

On Wed, Apr 12, 2017 at 12:25 PM, Catherine Temple <[ctemple99@gmail.com](mailto:ctemple99@gmail.com)> wrote:

I had the great honor Tuesday evening to meet and give a presentation about my art and birding experiences to the members of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society. They are the neatest bunch of people and were gracious enough to be my guinea pigs as this was my first ever presentation. Just wanted to say "thank you" for inviting me, making me feel welcome and giving me this opportunity to share my art and my adventures with you!

Catherine Temple

Pet Portrait and Wildlife Artist  
Clarkston, WA.

[www.catherinetemple.com](http://www.catherinetemple.com)

[www.flickr.com/photos/ctemple/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ctemple/)

## Field Trip to Turnbull National Wildlife Area - April 1, 2017

Judy Waring.



Trumpeter Swan

Photograph by Larry Krumpleman

Turnbull is a very popular place to visit in the spring for many reasons but the big hope for birders is to see the nesting Trumpeter Swans that return regularly to raise their young. With any luck you can see the adults fly over on their way to and from feeding ponds. We, unfortunately, were not among the lucky ones on this trip but we did make out a single Trumpeter on the distant pond where the nests are built.

Because of the heavy rains received in the Pacific Northwest this year some of the paths that we normally walk were under water. But it worked in our favor! Violet-green Swallow, Hairy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Western Bluebird, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, chickadees and more popped out along our route.

The Auto Tour section was where we piled on the species. Airborne: Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Turkey Vulture.

In the ponds: Mallard, American Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Redhead, Bufflehead, Barrow's Goldeneye, Wood Duck, plus others. The MVB (Most Valuable Birder) award has to go to Mike. That guy can pick out birds that are invisible to the rest of us. Youth.

I encourage you to take a drive out to Turnbull if you haven't been there yet. It is a nice place to hike and a great place to bird.

Our group: Darlene Carlton, Cathy Mohns, Suzanne Marshall, Mike Marvinny, Dave Moughmer, Janet Callen, Jan Severtson and Phil and Judy Waring.



## Heyburn State Park Field Trip March 25, 2017

Lisa Hardy

Our planned itinerary had to be modified due the flooding of area creeks and rivers. Both Highway 5 and Conklin Road were closed between Plummer and Heyburn State Park due to washouts, and so we traveled via I-90 and Highway 3 through the Chain Lakes.

The water levels were high everywhere. The road to Killarney Lake was underwater near the start but a pair of Osprey had already staked out a nest. A Wilson's Snipe flew by, and a few Hooded Merganser cruised the flooded field. Lane Marsh was brim full but empty of birds. Very few waterfowl were present except at Schlepp Ranch where we found a mixed raft of 600 American Coot and American Wigeon, and a lone Tundra Swan.

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## Heyburn State Park Field Trip

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Both Violet-green and Tree Swallows were present here. A pair of Wood Duck were the first of the year for us in a flooded ditch across the road from Schlepp.

We did a drive-by of the St. Maries sewage ponds, noting a handful of Northern Shovelers, before making our way through the town of St. Maries and arriving at Benewah Lake. We walked around the campground as a squall skirted the lake. The highlight here was a singing Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Highway 5 was closed just past the entrance to the park. We talked to the flaggers who said that the road would be opened on Wednesday. They mentioned that some people had been using the Benewah Creek Road to reach Highway 95.

There were no birds to be found on Chatcolet Lake, not even any swallows. We walked out to the Chatcolet Bridge and noted a few Common Goldeneye north of the bridge.

Leaving the park, we decided to try the Benewah Creek Road. This turned out to be an inspired choice, as the road followed a valley dotted with ranchettes providing prime bluebird habitat. And the bluebirds had arrived - both Western and Mountain Bluebirds. This was new territory for us, and we were charmed by the aspect of the little valley, even though spring had not yet sprung.

Leaving the valley, we crested a minor pass, and found a wide-open vista of the Palouse

on the far side. From this vantage, one could see traffic crawling along distant Highway 95, and we stopped several times to glass out various raptors: a kiting American Kestrel, a pair of soaring Red-tailed Hawks, and a single Rough-legged Hawk.

Trip participants: Janet Callen, Lisa Hardy, Dave Moughmer. Thank you for driving, Dave. It was an enjoyable day.

Total species: 43 (Kootenai County 31; Benewah County 25)



Earth Day 2017

Barbara Christofferson

Our Chapter's participation at this year's KEA sponsored Earth Day Celebration at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library was a great success! Lynn Sheridan made an eye catching and beautiful display of potted fresh pine branches with cutouts of a variety of birds hanging on the branches. Children were able to take which bird interested them, and with the names of the bird on the back of the cutout, it was a clever way to teach young ones about bird identification. **Continued on page 6**

## Earth Day 2017

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We had a video playing of blue birds hatching which engaged kids and adults alike. There were handouts about healthy pest control, ways to affect climate change, and seed and feeder guides. We also had a large poster of waterfowl and birds along with their nests and interesting facts. We handed out materials from Audubon Adventures, the wonderful in-school bird and environmental program that is distributed to local schools thanks to a very generous donation from the Reed Foundation! Parents and children alike really enjoyed reading those information and project filled pamphlets. For little ones, we had stickers and coloring pages of birds giving hints about caring for the environment, like the wise owl that said "turn out lights when not in use." Bird refrigerator magnets were a hit as well. Folks young and old asked lots of questions and shared their favorite bird stories. It was heartening to hear how many people are affected by the sight of a bald eagle, an osprey, a hummingbird, or even a robin. There was a scavenger hunt which brought kids to our table asking about the Idaho state bird. They thought it was pretty cool when Lynn shared that our state bird, the Mountain Bluebird, was actually chosen by school kids, just like them! I believe that every age walked away from our table with a bit more knowledge and something to read or a project to do about everything bird!

Thank you to Lynn Sheridan for organizing our Chapter's participation in this event, she has it down to a science!



## Global Big Day - May 13, 2017

Hi Friend, Want to be a part of birding's biggest day? All you have to do is go birding for at least a few minutes, and submit your sightings to eBird. If you need an excuse to go enjoy birds on a lovely weekend day in May, we've got you covered.

Last year's [Global Big Day](#) featured more than 60% of the world's bird species in a single day. Sightings came in from more than 17,000 eBirders spread across 154 countries. To be a part of Global Big Day, just go eBirding and enter your lists for 13 May like any other day.

Looking to get started preparing for Global Big Day? Here are three quick ways to have the most fun:

"Scout" your birding spots for May 13. Finding where the birds are ahead of time makes the big day birding more fun, and also gives you more chances to be out enjoying birds. Perfect. [Learn how to use eBird to find birds.](#)

Use eBird Mobile. This free data-entry app makes it so you don't have to enter your sightings at the end of the day, and tools like [Quick Entry](#) mean you have less time with your face in a notebook. [Get eBird Mobile here.](#)

Get a friend involved. Perhaps this is a good birding buddy or someone who has never been birding before. Make it a friendly competition, or join forces as a Global Big Day team, and put your marker on the [global participation map](#). Share on social media using #eBird\_GBD. Check out the [Facebook event](#).

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## Global Big Day

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No matter what you do—have a great time, enjoy the birds around you, and let us know what you find! We're excited to see what we can achieve together on Global Big Day.

Chris, Marshall, Brian, and Ian—for Team eBird



### Audubon Garage Sale

May 6, 2017 **Location:** Janet Callen's garage,  
- 1392 W Ocean Ave.

**Directions:** Dalton Ave. between Ramsey Road and Highway 95. South on Isabella.

**Deliver items:** Tues. May 2-Wed. May 3.

**Set up-price:** Thurs. May 4-Fri. May 5.

**Sale Time:** Sat., May 6, 8 a.m. to 3-4 p.m.

**Clothing:** Let's keep it to coats, jackets, and hooded sweatshirts, young children's clothing. Tables will be needed. Canopies or a vinyl open tent are needed in case of rain.

**Helpers needed,** even if for a few hours.

Questions: call me at 664-1085 or e-mail [goldfinch@roadrunner.com](mailto:goldfinch@roadrunner.com)

### International Migratory Bird Day

Date: May 20, Saturday

Leader: Carrie Hugo 661-9777

This year's theme is "Helping Birds Along the Way"-Stop Over Habitats.

For information see:

[http://cdaudubon.org/images/Migratory\\_bird\\_rdday.pdf](http://cdaudubon.org/images/Migratory_bird_rdday.pdf)

### Mica Bay Survey

**Date:** May 9th, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month -summer included)

**Time:** 8:00 a.m.(June, July, Aug. 7:00 a.m.)

**Meet:** Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

**Leader:** Janet Callen, 664-1085

### Boundary County Spring Birding

Dates: May 11-13 (filled) Call Kris Buchler 664-4739 to be on waiting list

### Southeast Idaho-Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge

**Dates:** May 30 to June 3,

2017.**Leaders:** Janet Callen 664-1085

Judy Waring 765-5378

Day One - Dillon, MT. Day Two - south on Highway 15 into Idaho and a visit to Camas Wildlife Refuge. Our revised plan now is for two overnight stays in Pocatello. We will explore Gray's Lake, Lava Hot Springs and Bear Lake from Pocatello. Day four will be a journey north to visit Craters of the Moon then Highway 93, passing Borah Peak, the tallest mountain in Idaho. We will overnight in Salmon, ID. [www.fws.gov/refuges](http://www.fws.gov/refuges) or in our Idaho Birding Trail Guide.

### Century Count - Shoshone County

Date: June 10, Saturday

Time - Meet: 4:00 a.m., Fernan Ranger Station or 4:30 a.m., Cataldo parking lot for Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes.

This is a pre-dawn to dusk challenge to find 100 species of birds. We'll visit a variety of habitats and altitudes all over Shoshone County. We need your eyes and ears. You do not need to know all the birds! Join us!

Bring food and water for all day and layers of clothing for any weather.

Sign up with Lisa, 783-1262,

[basalt@frontier.com](mailto:basalt@frontier.com) or Kris Buchler, 665-4739, [eagleroost@roadrunner.com](mailto:eagleroost@roadrunner.com).

**CDA Audubon Chapter  
Officers**

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Midge Marcy-Brennan, 661-0206  
**Vice President:**  
Dick Cripe, 665-0010  
**Recording Secretary:**  
Valerie Zagar, 819-5115  
**Treasurer:**  
Janet Callen 664-1085  
**Board Members:** all officers +  
Peggy Albertson, Barbara  
Christofferson, Darlene Carlton  
Cathy Cousins, Carrie Hugo,  
Jim Lynn, Lynn Sheridan

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Publicity:** open  
**Field Trips:** Janet Callen 664-1085  
George Saylor 664--2787  
**Education:** Barbara Christofferson 667-3931  
**Conservation:** Midge Marcy-Brennan  
**Membership:** Peggy Albertson 664-1616  
**Hospitality:** Elli Emm  
**Newsletter:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318  
**Programs:** Eula Hickam 661-3228  
**Mailing:** Peggy Albertson 664-1616  
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