

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

May 2018

Volume 28 Number 9

May-June Programs

Date: May 8, Tuesday - **Time:** 7:00 p.m.
Place: Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey, CDA
Speaker: Jeanne Dammarell, a member of the Spokane Audubon Society and a photographer
Program: "I am not an expert photographer, birder or bug enthusiast. I photograph birds and I have developed a keen love for photographing insects as they go about their business in the habitats we frequent. My favorite habitat in recent years has been the sagebrush landscapes of the arid scablands of eastern Washington. Much of photography of plant material, insects and birds that I use in the program will be citizens of these dry places. The principles we will look at apply to the wetter mountain habitats and our own yards as well. We will examine how we can improve the habitat in our own yards and make a real difference for butterflies, bees and birds. A few simple principles are all we need to improve habitat in our yards." See page 2 for more information about Jeanne and her program

Audubon Chapter Picnic

Date: June 12 **Time:** 5:00 p.m.
Where: City Park - covered pavilion
What to bring: Your own something to BBQ and to drink (no alcohol allowed in the park) and a salad, casserole, appetizer, or dessert for the potluck.
Program: Talk about our accomplishments this year and future goals

President's Message



Red-winged Blackbird photographed at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge by Jim Brennan

"Happiness depends upon ourselves" -- Aristotle.

Today was a GREAT day. Eight of us visited Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. There were not great numbers of birds, but there were dozens of different species, some expected, some surprises, all amazing.

Birding is such a cleansing activity. Walking in the wind and the occasional rain, feeling a part of that natural earthy space erases all thoughts of my life away from that moment. In that time of pure reality, I am an important piece of the circle of life, equal to each of the birds that allow me to view them in their daily activities. On the National Audubon website, I found an area of answers from individuals to the question "Why are birds important?" Some of those answers follow:

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President's Message

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"Birds make any place a chance for discovery, they make a garden seem wild, they are a little bit of wilderness coming into a city park, and for a bird watcher every walk is filled with anticipation. What feathered jewel might drop out of the sky next?" —*David Sibley, Author*

"Birds are important because they keep systems in balance: they pollinate plants, disperse seeds, scavenge carcasses, and recycle nutrients back into the earth. But they also feed our spirits, marking for us the passage of the seasons, moving us to create art and poetry, inspiring us to flight and reminding us that we are not only on, but of, this earth." —*Melanie Driscoll, Director of bird conservation for the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi Flyway*

"Conjuring a world without birds is a thing I don't dare imagine, like the death of a child. Their fate is our own." —*Joel Sartore, Photographer*

"Birds are wherever we are. They are our companions. Birds are mediators between heaven and earth." —*Terry Tempest Williams, Author, When Women Were Birds*

"To abuse, to waste, to overuse—that's immorality. For me, it's very much a question of doing the right thing. And I wake up every morning and listen to the birds and take their song to heart and go back and sing for them." —*Brian Rutledge, Vice President Rocky Mountain Region Audubon*

"Birds represent a link to both our natural environment and to the possibility of freedom to soar without boundaries." —*Rue Mapp, Founder*

Midge

"What's on the Menu?"

Jeanne Dammarell - May Program



"A favorite habitat"

Lake Creek coulee containing Coffeepot and Twin Lakes in Lincoln County, Washington.

Many of the species of birds that we bird lovers watch, chase and photograph, spend most of their year somewhere else. We spend our winters chasing down birds from the far north such as Rough-legged Hawks, Snow Buntings and Snowy Owls. We see them only when they come to us to avoid much harsher conditions in the Arctic winters. As winter weakens we begin to watch for our winter friends to begin their tough journey north and our sadness at losing them is softened by our expectations that others will soon arrive.



Western Tanager

We yearn for spring because we have learned to mark out our own internal calendars with the arrival of the birds that wintered in southern parts of the Americas but return each year to raise their young in our neighborhoods, mountains and sagebrush coulees.

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"What's on the Menu?"

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"First of the year Sage Sparrow"

For several years now in late February or early March, I have marked the beginning of spring migration with a trip to Moses Coulee to photograph my first of the year Sage Sparrow. Over the years the photos began to look a lot alike but I cannot resist the temptation to make my own little trip north to see some of the earliest arrivals and smile as I take redundant photographs. The sage sparrows have returned as expected and that reassures me that all the rest will follow.

What powerful reward brings so many species of birds to undertake a long, dangerous, uncertain journey to return to these same places every year? I asked myself that question a few years ago and concluded that the answer is really another question: What's on the menu?

The shorter answer is bugs. Winter creates a very narrow window for insect reproduction. Where winter puts the landscape to sleep, the insect population is forced to breed, live out their lives and lay down their eggs in a time frame that meets quite nicely with a bird parent's need to mate and raise chicks. Got a lot of mouths to feed? You need a lot of bugs.



Vanessa annabella, the West Coast Lady feeding on native Dogbane that grows in openings of Ponderosa/Douglas Fir habitat.

Understanding the relationship between birds and the habitat each chooses for breeding is critical to understanding their survival. Habitat is made up of soil, plants, insects, reptiles, amphibians, animals and people.



Bird Sightings

Snow Geese - April 14 - Highway 41 and Prairie - on route to Turnbull NWR Field Trip

Trumpeter Swan - March 26 - Wolf Lodge Bay, Bill Gundlach

Northern Shoveler - April 8 - Cataldo area- Bob Kemp

Hooded Merganser - 1 pair - April 9 - Fernan Lake - Shirley Sturts

Sandhill Crane - 2 Adults, 1 juvenile - April 15 Schlepp Ranch - Mike Schlepp

White Pelicans- arrived around April 10 - Schlepp Ranch - Mike Schlepp

Virginia Rail - 1 - April 14 - Canyon Road Marsh - Andrew Pratt

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Bird Sightings

Osprey - 1 - April 1- Spokane River at Blackwell Island - Terri Farr

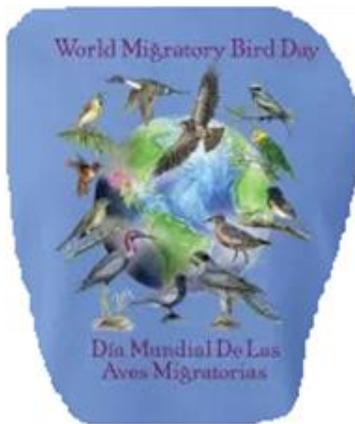
Wilson's Snipe - 1 - April 8 - Cataldo area - Bob Kemp

White-throated Swifts -several - April 15 - Post Falls Park - Andrew Pratt

Pileated Woodpecker - 1 - April 12 - Tubbs Hill - Keith and Shirley Sturts

Northern Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows - April 8 - Cataldo area - Bob Kemp

Western Bluebird - 2 - April 10 - Mica Bay - Mica Bay Survey - Janet Callen, Dick Cripe, Linda Wolovich, Vera Taggart



Migratory Bird Day At Blackwell Island!

Spring is here and many birds have flown more than a thousand miles to fill our

days with their songs and displays! Would you like to learn more about our local feathered friends? Come celebrate birds with the Coeur d'Alene Bureau of Land Management and the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society! Migratory Bird Day at Blackwell Island will be held on Saturday May 19th from 9:00am-2:00pm. All ages are welcome to this FREE, family- friendly, outdoor event!

Activity Stations will include Join the Flock Art Project, Bird Song DJ Station, Hummingbird and Pinecone Feeder Project Stations, Scavenger Hunt and Guided Bird Walk, Migration Obstacle Course, Nests and Eggs Display, Fill the Bill Station, and

Building Bird Habitat. We'll also have our Bird Friendly Coffee Stand, the "Sweet Tweet Café", where you can relax with a cup of bird-friendly gourmet coffee and a sweet treat! Don't forget to get "banded" at our bird Banding Station and enjoy a live Birds of Prey Presentation at 11:30am.

Knowledgeable Coeur d'Alene Audubon Volunteers and BLM staff will be there at every step helping you to learn about and Celebrate Birds! You'll learn: how birds communicate and which bird songs you are most likely to hear where you live, different bird habitats and how to create them, the wonders and perils of migration, the beauty of feathers, and how scientists learn about birds. Use your creative skills and your curiosity to earn prizes at each station. Make bird projects to take home!

Blackwell Island is located just west of Coeur d'Alene on the north side of the Lake. To get to the event: take Highway 95 south towards Moscow. Just after you cross the Spokane River turn right (north) into the Blackwell Island Recreation Area. Look for the sign! Check the weather before you come and plan accordingly. There are restrooms on site. For more information please contact Carrie Hugo (208)-769-5048.



Audubon spring litter pick-up

Saturday, April 7.

Many thanks to the sixteen individuals that braved a not-so-nice Saturday morning to collect roadside litter along US-95.

We gathered 22 bags of trash, a recent record, but folks are out there already trying their best to give us another challenge at a record for this fall.

Stay tuned - we shall return!" Michael A. Zagar

In Memory of Roland Craft



During the Mica Bay Survey on April 8th Janet Callen, Dick Cripe, Linda Wolovich and Vera Taggart put

up the commemorative Blue Bird box that was built to honor Roland Craft. One of the many Audubon Chapter activities Roland was involved in was checking the Blue Bird Trail boxes including cleaning and repairing them before and after the nesting season.



Eliminating Threats to Birds

Copied from Inside Bird Conservation - November 2016 - Special Edition on Eliminating Threats to Birds - This is continued from the January newsletter

Mosquitoes and Avian Disease in Hawai'i

Hawai'i is the bird extinction capital of the world, and avian malaria and pox were one of the major factors in the wave of extinctions that occurred around the start of the 20th century. There is a strong negative association between Hawaiian passerines, which are mostly confined

to the cooler, higher elevations, and the disease-vector system, which is limited to the warmer, lower elevations. As global climate change increases temperatures and alters rainfall patterns, the mosquito-disease zone will expand upward in elevation, thereby increasing the transmission risk to the remaining bird species and causing another wave of extinctions.

Recent advances in biotechnology hold exciting promise for potentially resolving this decades-long conservation crisis. There are now multiple techniques for modifying, suppressing, or even eliminating mosquito populations to prevent the transfer of avian diseases. Most of these techniques have been limited to small field tests or confined to the laboratory, but within the next few years there is the potential for these techniques to be tested and applied at a larger, landscape scale. Some have already been used in other parts of the world to control mosquitoes to reduce the spread of dengue fever and other human diseases, or to control agricultural pests.

ABC has been actively involved in these discussions, and developing an overall strategy that includes extensive public engagement before any decisions are made or management actions taken. There were two sessions ([12437](#) and [10599](#)) focused on this issue at IUCN's World Conservation Congress in Honolulu, followed by a [two-day workshop](#) on eliminating the non-native mosquitoes throughout the state.

Longline Fisheries

The incidental capture of seabirds is a major threat to Albatross and other seabirds. ABC's efforts to bring attention to the issue of albatross bycatch in North Pacific longline fisheries began in 2007, with a report on the status of this threat and highlighting effective mitigation actions.

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Longline Fisheries

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This work in part led to NOAA Fisheries making regulatory changes to increase use of bird-saving mitigation, including Streamer lines and night setting and increased observer effort. As a result, albatross mortality in the North Pacific has dropped significantly.

ABC continues to ask Congress to approve the [Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels \(ACAP\)](#), which would bring international mitigation for seabirds up to par with those already being employed by US fishermen. ABC is also providing information on bird-friendly and sustainable fisheries through providing tools, such as the [Seabird Maps and Information for Fisheries Tool](#) and guidance for seafood certification bodies in a new guide, [Seabird Bycatch Solutions](#).



Project: Establish a Nature Trail

On May 5, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. members of Coeur d' Alene Audubon are going to explore the trails of the Fernan Lake Natural Open Space. We will meet at Fernan Ranger Station and carpool to the trail as the parking area is rather small. Our purpose: to explore the area as we look for an environmental and educational way to honor Kris Buchler. The chapter has received \$4500 in donations, and a grant for this purpose. This is a beginning. At the present time we have a rather loose committee and would like to invite anyone interested in participating in the project to join us. This need not be the only idea, so please offer others. Contact me or President Midge if you would like to participate.

Janet Callen

208 664-1085

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuges Field Trip

Dick Cripe



Photos by Jim Brennan

We had a fine spring day to explore the bird life at Turnbull Wildlife Refuge - a little rain, a little wind, a little sun - quite pleasant. We began the day observing a field of snow geese on the Rathdrum Prairie (Hiway 41 and Hayden) that were discovered by Jim and Midge Marcy-Brennan. We identified 40 species in total (list on our Website at: <http://cdaudubon.org/Projects/Turnbull%20Wildlife%20Refuge%20List%20April%202018.pdf>), plus two moose and an otter.

Attending were Jim and Midge Marcy-Brennan, Valerie Zagar, Jenny Taylor, Darlene Carlton, Judy Waring, Linda Wolovich, and Dick Cripe. Some of the party ended the day in a Cheney Mexican restaurant.

Field Trips



Our field trips are also posted on our Website <http://cdaudubon.org/fieldtrips.html>

Please contact Dick Cripe 208-665-0010 to volunteer to lead a trip or make suggestions

Fernan Lake Nature Trail

Date: May 5, Saturday

Time: 9:00 am

Place: Forest Service Office Parking Lot, Sherman Avenue beyond the freeway.

Activity: Walk the nature trail recently established by CdA Parks and Rec. This will be a short hike of about one hour. We may combine it with a hike at Nature Conservancy's Cougar Bay area to dedicate the bird houses honoring Kris Buchler and Pat Bearman.

Leader: Janet Callen (208-664-1085); Dick Cripe (208-665-0010)

Mica Bay Survey

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

Time: 8:00 a.m. June-August 7:00 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Leader: Janet Callen

Activity: We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome.

Hardy Loop Road near Cataldo, and Old River Loop Road near Enaville.

Date: May 12, Saturday

Time: 8:00

Place: Forest Service Office Parking Lot, Sherman Avenue beyond the freeway.

Activity: travel by car and bird these two Idaho Birding Trail areas. 2/3 day trip. Lunch at the Snake Pit, or on own.

Leader: Dick Cripe (208-665-0010).

Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes

Bike Ride

Date: June 2

Time: 8:00

Place: Fernan Forest Service Office, Sherman beyond the freeway.

Activity: travel a stretch of the bike trail by bike looking for passerines and wading birds.

Area to be traveled will be determined by participants. Bikes can be rented in CdA or in Harrison. Maybe lunch in Harrison, or at least an ice cream cone.

Leader: George Saylor (208-755-3815); Dick Cripe (208-665-0010).

Century Count

To be announced - a leader is needed

J Bar L Ranch Trip in Montana

Date: June 14 - 17 Thursday-Saturday

Leader: If you are interested, email Midge at Midgemb@outlook.com or call 208-661-0206

Details: J Bar L Ranch in the high plateaus of Montana. Three nights at the Ranch, 14-16 and the 17th will be somewhere on the way home between Dillon and CDA. Reservations have been made on the Ranch for three cabins, with bathrooms, electricity and showers. All utensils, BBQ and linens are provided. We will spend two days birding the Red Rocks Wildlife Refuge and Ranch. We need to take our own food. Breakfast and lunches and snacks will be the responsibility of the individual, but we will community-style the supper meal.

Cost: At this point it looks like \$280 per person - would decrease a bit if more people sign up. We have room for a few more.



CDA Audubon Chapter
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President:
Midge Marcy-Brennan 208 661-0206
Vice President:
Dick Cripe 208 665-0010
Recording Secretary:
Valerie Zagar 208 819-5115
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Janet Callen 208 664-1085
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Cousins, Darlene Carlton, Eula
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3931
Conservation: Midge Marcy-Brennan
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Programs: Eula Hickam 208 661-3228
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Historian: Open

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 _____*

Total \$ _____

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