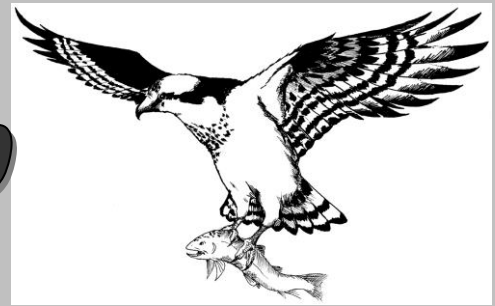


THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society



November 2002

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 3

COMING EVENTS

BOARD MEETING

DATE: November 12, Tuesday
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Mountain West Bank
125 Ironwood Dr.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

DATE: November 18, Monday
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: First Presbyterian Church,
521 Lakeside
PROGRAM: "Eagles-Monarchs of the
Sky". Beth Paragamian, Wildlife
Education Specialist, a position
funded by Idaho Panhandle District-
US Forest Service; BLM; Idaho Dept.
of Fish and Game.

Visit our website:
www.cdaudubon.org

COFFEE - SUN-VS-SHADE

Reprinted from: The Birder Conservationist
an electronic ABA newsletter - Volume 1, No.2 - October 2002



It's October, and that means that most of the northern Neotropics coffee localities will be ending their fertilizing cycle and beginning the harvest.

Coffee prices remain in the basement at about \$.64 cents per pound recently, (it's been as low as \$.40 per pound in the last month). These rock-bottom prices have persisted for over a year or more. (For comparison,

fair-traded coffee - aimed at giving small farmers a minimum subsistence level - is held at \$1.26 per pound for washed coffee-beans.) With a surplus of coffee in the global market, this situation will continue with us for awhile, especially with the entry of Vietnam as a significant coffee producer, flooding the market with cheap, low-quality Robusta coffee beans.

As we know, this situation serves as a destructive background, accentuating the sun-vs-shade issue in coffee agriculture. When coffee growing is no longer a viable

endeavor for small shade-coffee producers, they must sell their land or find a different livelihood. Some of these farmers sell their land to large-scale coffee growers who quickly convert it to "sun" coffee methods, cutting down the forest canopy, using pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Other farmers may decide to convert or sell their land for cattle pastures, also resulting in the cutting of the forest, ecosystem decline, and habitat loss for birds

October also means that many of "our" migrant birds are winging their way south, seeking the food and shelter of the Latin American and the Caribbean locations where they will remain until they start winging their way back up come April. Traditional coffee farms in the shade will be among the sites that these birds will seek. How many shade-sanctuaries will remain - after the recent cycle of boom, bust, and technification - is hard to say.

If North American consumers were more aware of where their coffee comes from and how it is produced, they would be able to make better-informed choices. (Fully 54% of Americans drink coffee everyday and 25% of Americans drink coffee occasionally. In Canada, the numbers are proportionally similar. More on these numbers next month.) Clearly a mass consumer coffee base means that there is the potential to appeal to millions of North Americans to ask questions about where their coffee comes from and the social and environmental consequences of that regular cup.

Continued on page 6

BIRD TRACKS



Audubon Members make a difference

Mica Bay Viewing Platform

A big thank you goes out to Del Cameron for seeing to it that our viewing platform in Mica Bay is maintained. In September Del did some repair work on the platform and then with the help of Dick Cripe and Shirley Sturts, cleaned and prepared the wood for a wood stain. Two days later, Del and Corinne applied the stain. It not only preserves the wood but also makes it bright and spiffy looking. Thank you Del for making it happen.

Idaho Audubon Council Meeting

Susan Weller, Council President, is commended for organizing an interesting day of events and speakers in Coeur d'Alene on October 20th. Members from five Idaho Audubon Chapters met to discuss their mutual interests, programs and problems. Speakers covered such topics as Ponderosa Pine Forest Habitat, Fire Ecology and White-headed Woodpecker Research. Dr. Chuck Trost, retired ISU biology professor, ended the session with his slide show "A Journey to Antarctica". Thank you Susan and to those who helped out with food and organization: Dick Cripe, Janet Callen, Kris Buchler, Theresa Potts, Lynn Sheridan, Jan Severtson and Shirley Sturts.

"Audubon Adventures"

"Audubon Adventures" is a national education program enriching the school science

curriculum. It includes student newspaper/worksheets, an educational video and a conservation project resource manual. Kris Buchler and Janet Callen are contacting local schools about participating in the program. This has been an ongoing project of our Educational Committee for the past 11 years. Scott Reed funds this program through the Margaret W. Reed Foundation. Thank you Scott for your support and to Kris and Janet for making the phone calls and filling out the forms that are necessary to provide this program to local 3rd and 5th graders.

The Big Sit!

Coeur d'Alene Audubon's "Big Sit!" at Mica Bay, Coeur d'Alene Lake on Oct. 13th turned up 27 species. (See our website: www.cdaaudubon.org for the list of birds that were seen) Thank you participants for taking part in this fun event: Kris Buchler, Del and Corrine Cameron, Roland Craft, Janet Callen, Lisa Hardy, Gary Nilson Herb and Jan Severtson, Lynn Sheridan and Jenny Taylor.

Check The New Haven Bird Club website for Nationwide results. Give them time to get the results compiled.

<http://members.aol.com/nhbirdclub/bigsit/htm>

(Shirley Sturts - team captain)



"If I were to make a study of the tracks of animals and represent them by plates, I should conclude with the tracks of man"

Henry David Thoreau

CITIZEN SCIENCE

You too can participate!

Thanksgiving Bird Count

Dr. Earnest Edwards and the Lynchburg Bird Club in Virginia started the Thanksgiving Bird Count in 1966. Dr. John G. Hewston from Humboldt State University, Arcata, California, started the Western State Count in 1992.

It is easy to participate. Choose a circle 15 feet in diameter, the location of which is determined by the participant. Count circles are usually located around feeders, baths, cover, etc. Most participants select a count area visible from a comfortable spot near a window. The same circle should be used each year. Count the birds in your circle for one hour on Thanksgiving Day, fill out the form provided and mail it in. Forms will be available at our November meeting or call Shirley at 664-5318 and she will mail you one.

"Project Feeder Watch"

"Project Feeder Watch", a continent-wide survey of winter birds starts on November 9th. There are 10 count periods between Nov. 9th and April 4th. Several of our members participate and find it worthwhile and a lot of fun to do.

This is just one of several Citizen Science projects sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

For information on how to participate in this and other citizen science projects, go to www.birds.cornell.edu or call 1 800 843 -BIRD (2473)

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

1. Please register with the leader ahead of time.
 - a. It helps the leader plan the trip.
 - b. You will be informed if the trip time or location is changed or if the trip is canceled.
2. Fees: (to paid to the driver of the car) \$5.00 - all day trips \$3.00 - 1/2 day trips.
3. We sometimes use radios to communicate between cars. If the radios are used we are asking participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries.

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES/TIME: November 11 and 25, Mondays

TIME: 9:00 a.m. (November 11) 1:00 p.m.(November 25) (NOTE CHANGE IN TIMES)

MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

LEADERS: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318

ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours twice a month counting birds in the Mica Bay area. Beginner birders are encouraged and welcome to join us.

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE/TIME: November 12, Tuesday, 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

MEET: 609 N. 16th Street

LEADER: Lynn Sheridan (leave messages for Lynn with Kris Buchler 664-4739)

ACTIVITY: We will walk from my house to the Ponderosa Golf Course and back. There are often ducks in the golf course pond and wintering birds in the bushes between the road and the 9th fairway.

BIRD THE SUPERFUND

DATE: November 10, Sunday

TIME: 7:30 a.m.

MEET: carpool @ Cove Bowl, meet leader at 8:05 AM at Pinehurst exit (#45) espresso stand

LEADER: Lisa Hardy, 682-4808 or basalt@earthlink.net

ACTIVITY: On this half-day trip, we will explore the birding potential of the Bunker Hill Superfund site near Kellogg. Wear shoes suitable for light hiking around the fields next to the Smeltonville airport, and bring water, and a snack if you so wish. We will scope out the Page Ponds, Shoshone County's premier waterbird spot.

TURNBULL NWR

DATE: November 30, Saturday

TIME: 7:30 a.m.

MEET: carpool @ K-mart parking lot, behind Fast Burger

LEADER: Lisa Hardy, 682-4808 or basalt@earthlink.net

ACTIVITY: We will hike and bird from cars at Turnbull NWR near Cheney, WA. Turnbull offers a variety of habitats including ponds. Wear shoes suitable for light hiking. This will be a full day trip, so bring lunch and water.

WINTER TRIP SCHEDULE

December 14 – Hayden Lake – half day (this may change depending on CBC date)

December 14 - Jan. 5 Christmas Bird Counts (Coeur d'Alene, Indian Mountain, Spirit Lake) Exact dates for these three counts will be set at the board meeting on November 12.

January 26 – Gull identification, Coeur d'Alene area

February 8 – Sandpoint – full day

To volunteer to lead a trip or to suggest places to go, call or email Lisa Hardy 682-4808 or basalt@earthlink.net

Editors note: Del Cameron submitted a Rare Bird Report to the Idaho Rare Bird Committee for a possible Tufted Duck he saw at Mica Bay on August 19, 2002. Chuck Trost, head of the rare bird committee, told me this past week that he has 27 rare bird reports to be voted on. He plans to activate the committee in the near future.



Del Cameron with the Sibley Guide to Birds

Dear Shirley,

Presumably the alleged Tufted duck had flown in from the coast, and, after dabbling and gorging awhile on Mica Bay, flew back again--vanished, fate unknown.

Also unknown is the fate of the rare bird report, by which I hoped to document the appearance of that duck,. Unknown because, betwixt the sighting and the reporting, confirmation in this case, is lacking. And that's just part of the story.

I imagine other Audubon members might find something instructive in what I've been learning of the process that classifies and makes the sighting of a rare bird part of the record. It could happen to anyone, after all, and undoubtedly **has** many times, being in a particular spot at the

right time, as I was that day, and identifying an accidental or rare bird, only to be confronted with the question, "Should I report it?" But, of course, it's forgone, if the birder makes the sighting as part of a group--the larger and more knowledgeable the better. But, lacking that support, as was my case, one is faced with certain realities.

David Sibley, in his Guide to Birds, doesn't discuss reporting the rarity, but does advise that other birders be notified, so that they can see the bird. If confirmation is needed, obviously other birders must be notified. And the subject has to be more cooperative than mine was. It has to stick around.

To document a rare bird sighting, be prepared with a photograph, a sketch made on the spot showing exact markings, a sound recording or other credible witnesses (easy to say, eh what?) Good binoculars and strict attention to markings, anatomy, habitat and behavior--as alluded to in the best field guides--are essential in the identification of rare birds.

But with all of that and more, confirmation is still necessary. Without it, the best a novice, at least, should expect in reporting an accidental, is a "hypothetical" classification; but even that has some value. Any kind of record can help reveal shifting range patterns over a period of time.

Audubon's Susan Weller points out that the bulk of birding records consist of observations and sightings made by novice birders. I, for one, might take that as an indirect compliment. But the novice in whatever field has limited credibility, the reason being obvious, though repeatedly overlooked. Anyway, beginners aren't alone by any means, in attracting skeptics.

Birders at every level have stories of sighting and identifying some feathered vagrant, well out of its range, and then for lack of a witness, unable to make a convincing case of it. It can be frustrating for anyone. But the custom is to err on the side of caution when a rarity is reported. Two or more experienced birders, in fact, must weigh in before a report of an accidental is considered for approval by the Idaho Rare Bird Committee or the state editor of American Birds.

Nature can command our full attention when we're very young, and it's in the way she does it that can seal our fate. Some of us end up with a lifelong fascination for all things avian, sparked by childhood experiences. I remember, for instance, a confrontation with a Red-tailed hawk, waking to the song of the meadowlark and craning to see flickers flash their colors as they hammered up in the cottonwood trees. It may be necessary to recall those memories now and then, because peripheral aspects of birding can be a distraction. Caught up in lists and guides and rules, etc., the danger is in our becoming a little jaded, no longer able to look at birds with the same keen, selfless interest. The need to be recognized for a particular sighting may be a personal issue but pertinent to this subject. It can be a huge distraction.

The duck I saw may have been just another plain-Jane *Aythya* with a crest, but she gave no cause for complaint, swimming along the verge of swamp grass in perfect dignity, fanning ripples that spread behind way out of proportion to her size. So, there is no complaint here, actually. The process set up for rare bird

documentation is as good, I think, as possible, with the one suggestion that it needs to be better understood, needs, in other words, to be explained.

Or, on the other hand, maybe now it has been; and if adequately so, I'm compensated for what I didn't understand before. I offer this, then, as a pothole filler.

May the road to good birding rise up to meet you and be always free of potholes.

Del Cameron

Dear Del,

I recently read an article "Bird Records Committees: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: " by David B. Freeland, American Birds, October 2002. David talked to more than 125 birders, bird record committee members and regional editors of North American Birds.

David writes: "Many average and even skilled birders agree that documentation, the critical ingredient in record acceptance or rejection, is a painful process. Who hasn't had a submittal rejected? 'We've even rejected reports from David Sibley,' one respondent told me. (they were admittedly, first state records, single observer, with no photos or other documentation)".

There is room for improvement in the total process of rare bird reporting. In his survey David came up with these significant elements of success in the procedure: "encouraging wider observer participation, quality of documentation, speed of processing reports, and openness of communication.

Shirley Sturtz

BIRDING WITH A BROWN BAG

Lynn Sheridan

September 10

I arrived by noon at the 10th Street entrance to Tubbs Hill and waited awhile, then went on the walk by myself. It was very peaceful, but not so quiet, as the trees were full of twitters and chirps of many little birds flitting from branch to branch. I was able to identify Black-capped Chickadee, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet by sound and sight. I could hear a Northern Flicker and the "cheep cheep" of the Osprey on its nest. As I turned the corner to look at the Osprey, a second one flew overhead towards the lake. On the way home I saw the usual American Crow, two of which were making beak clacking and gurgling noises

October 8

Roland Craft met me a few blocks away from the lake and together we drove to the west end of Fernan Lake (at the boat and fishing dock). George and Helen Neuner, Janice Abel and Jann and Earl Kendle joined us. The resident flock of Mallard and hybrids gathered hopefully. We inspected the large twiggy nests of the heron rookery but searched in vain for other avians. All was peaceful and TOO quiet. After awhile we drove down to the eastern end of the lake, stopping to locate the Bald Eagle nest, which seemed empty now. Among the reeds and lily ponds were only a few more Mallard. A couple of gull species flew overhead. George and Helen brought their lunch and took an afternoon paddle in the lake.

COUGAR BAY

Judy Waring

On September 21st a hopeful group of Audubon birders set off to try their luck. Trip leader Judy Waring had her hands full attempting to keep husband Phil, Ronn Rich, Khris and Ed Buchler, and Lynn Sheridan in line. It was a beautiful fall morning.

The first stop was the Hanson property of 150 acres. An extensive search of the property, which required a delightful stroll around the perimeter, revealed an amazing number of birds. These included at least one member of the following species; Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Flicker, American Robin, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Canada Goose (heard flying overhead.) This portion of the outing was enhanced by the numerous scat findings, which our eminent expert, Ed, was able to locate and identify. To the bewilderment of his companions, Ed was able to find and identify materials that no one but an expert could identify as scat.

The second stop was at Dave and Roberta Larson's home on Lake Coeur d'Alene. In these attractive surroundings we located Red-necked Grebe, Gull species (The group's integrity would not allow them to be called Ring-billed.), Belted Kingfisher, Double-crested Cormorant, Pygmy Nuthatch, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, and American Crow.

The last stop was Cougar Bay. A lengthy search produced no new species. Lynn did find some berries, being careful to leave the unreachable ones for the creatures of the wild. All enjoyed the fall weather and scenic outing.

BOOK REVIEW

Fay Wright

Hope is the Thing with Feathers: A Personal Chronicle of Vanished Birds

By Christopher Cokinos



The Great Auk, last known specimens, a breeding pair killed in Iceland in 1844.

Bill McKibben says it well when he writes of this book, "This story—of the ghost species still haunting this the continent—is full of power and mystery" for indeed it is. As Cokinos writes of the history of six extinct birds (The Carolina Parakeet, the

Ivory-billed Woodpecker, the Heath Hen, the Passenger Pigeon, the Labrador Duck, and the Great Auk), I found myself spellbound by the documented history of each and then heartbroken over their rapid destruction. Strangely though, the author does not leave one with a sense of despair, but rather a renewed sense of the beauty and preciousness of the natural world. He does this not only through careful research but also through consummate writing. He chooses his details carefully and builds each chapter, bird by bird, in such a way that the reader has a sense of being absolutely present. For example, when writing of the Carolina Parakeet he quotes from a pioneer diary referring to this beautiful bird: "[they] once colored the sky 'like an atmosphere of gems.'" *An atmosphere of gems*—it's hard to beat a good simile. I recommend this chronicle if you like to learn and be surprised by such things as (1.) No one in recorded

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history has ever seen a Carolina Parakeet's nest. OR (2.) 17th century naturalist, Alexander Wilson, observed a flock of Passenger Pigeon he estimated at 2,230,272,000 that "spanned a mile wide and extended for some 240 miles" And I am heartened when I read Cokinos' words, "we can restore—we can restore—these vanished birds to our consciousness. That can be an important act of recovery of the human spirit in the non-human world. Curiosity began my journey, which led to regret, which brings me always to wonder and dedication." Yes!

CRANBERRY BOG FIELD TRIP

Lisa Hardy

The second annual excursion to the cranberry bogs near Killarney Lake went off with no casualties. On Saturday, October 5, we headed up the Coeur d'Alene River from Medimont, and after 2 short portages and some paddling through vegetation-choked channels, we reached the north side of the bog. The cranberries were so thick that we were unable to avoid crushing them as we gingerly transferred from the canoes and kayak to the unsteady, floating mat of vegetation. We picked our fill of berries, and headed home. We noted a few birds while picking and paddling, such as Wood Duck, Bald Eagle, and Red-tailed Hawk. And, to our surprise, Jan and Herb's new puppy had not chewed the seats in their truck during our 6-hour expedition.

Trip participants: Lisa Hardy, Van Scott, Jan & Herb Severtson, Lynn Sheridan, Jim Taylor.

COFFEE

SUN-VS-SHADE

Continued from page 1

[P.S. Meanwhile, in northern California, motorists will soon notice an aroma of french fries on their local highways. It won't be coming from a roadside fast food chain, but, from Thanksgiving Coffee Company's delivery trucks. The fleet will be running on biodiesel, an alternative fuel made from vegetable oil that greatly reduces harmful emissions. The Thanksgiving Coffee Company, producers of ABA's own Song Bird coffee, is a socially and environmentally responsible coffee roaster that has taken another big step in further reducing the impacts its operations have on the planet.]



Editors Note: Try out the coffee at The local Wild Birds Unlimited store at

296 W. Sunset Ave., Coeur d'Alene. They carry a brand called "Good Migration" which is certified organic, shade-grown and Fair Trade. It is distributed by: Montana Coffee Traders, Whitefish, MT

Or

Order Song Bird Coffee from the American Birding Association by visiting their website at:

www.americanbirding.org/aba_sales/salecatal.htm

Or call Toll-free Ordering at 1 800 634-7736

OBSERVATION POST

OSERVERS: Kris Buchler (KBUC), Corrine and Cliff Cameron (CCAM,CLCAM), Terry and Christine Gray (TGRA,CGRA, Bill Gundlach (BGUN), Lisa Hardy (LHAR), Don Johnson (DJOH), Earl and Jann Kendle (EKEN,JKEN), Steve Lindsay (SLIN), Nancy Mertz (NMER), Bill O'Connell (BOCO), Theresa and Vickie Potts (TPOT, POT), Terry Prichard (TPRI), Doug Schonewald (DSHO), Jan Severtson (JSEV), Shirley Sturts (SSTU), Doug Ward (DWAR), Susan Weller (SWEL)
Mica Bay Survey October 14 Corinne Cameron, Kris Buchler,, Theresa Potts, Roland Craft, Rochelle Fairfield

Common Loon 1 Fernan Lake Oct. 24 (SSTU), 45+ Pend Oreille Lake Oct. 10 (KBUC)

Double-crested Cormorant 100 + Morton Slough (near Pend Oreille River September 23 (TGRA, GRA), 5 Pend Oreille Lake Clark Fork area Oct. 4 (LHAR), 3 from NIC Beach - on pilings Oct. 20 (SSTU,JSEV with Audubon Council Members from out-of- town),

Great Egret (rare in N. Idaho) 1 Cataldo area (Hardy Loop Road) September 15 (SLIN), 1 Mann Lake, Lewiston Oct. 7 (CCAM,CLCAM)

Cattle Egret (rare in N. Idaho) 3-4 Harrison area along the new bike trail September 15 (Moscow Biker/birder)

Surf Scoter 1 Page Ponds (a first for Shoshone County) Oct. 12 (LHAR)

Ruddy Duck 4 Mica Bay Survey September 23

Osprey 1 (last seen fall) North Fork CDA River near Eniville Oct. 22 (BGUN)

Merlin 1 Coeur d'Alene (along Gov't Way) Oct. 18 (SWEL)

Killdeer 3 and 75+ Rathdrum Prairie September 20 and 27 (CCAM)

Pectoral Sandpiper 3 Hardy Loop Road Oct. 6 (SLIN)

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Bonaparte's Gull 1 Page Ponds (a first for Shoshone County) Oct. 12 (LHAR), 10+ Anderson Lake Oct. 26 (LHAR and others on Audubon Field Trip)

Northern Pygmy-Owl 1 Armstrong Hill Sept.18 (KBUC)

Black-backed Woodpecker 2 male near Gotham Bay, CDA Lake August 11 (JKEN)

White-headed Woodpecker (rare for our area) 1 near 4th of July Pass Oct. 20 (DSHO)

Blue/Steller's Jay hybrid 1 coming to feeder everyday Pine Ave. Coeur d'Alene Sept 26-24 (NMER,TPRI)

Blue Jay 1 Coeur d'Alene Oct 8-11 (TPOT,VPOT), 1 heard Coeur d'Alene (near s.7th Oct. 15 (DWAR), 1 Coeur d'Alene (Young and 11th) Oct. 21 (GSAY)

Horned Lark several Rathdrum Prairie September 20 (CCAM)

White-breasted Nuthatch 4-6 Heyburn State Park September 12 (DJOH)

Bewick's Wren 1 Mica Bay Survey Oct. 14

American Pipit 15+ Rathdrum Prairie September 20 (CCAM)

Lazuli Bunting 1 near Gotham Bay, CDA Lake August 11 (EKEN)

White-throated Sparrow (rare in N. Idaho) 1 with the White-crowned Arrowhead Road, CDA September 28 (TPOT)

White-crowned Sparrow several Armstrong Hill, CDA September 18 (KBUC) and Arrowhead Road September 28 (TPOT), 25 and 1 Mica Bay Survey September 23, Oct. 14

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch - 2 Coeur d'Alene Mt. Oct. 15 (BOCO)

Snow Bunting 1 NIC Beach (SSTU,JSEV and Audubon Council Members from out-of-town)

CHECK IT OUT

CAPITALIZATION OF