

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society

November 2005

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 3

## BOARD MEETING

DATE: November 21, Monday

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mt. West Bank-125  
Ironwood Dr.

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM

DATE: November 21, Monday

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Idaho Fish and Game Office,  
2750 W. Kathleen

PROGRAM: "Status of Northwest  
Lynx" a review the newest scientific  
knowledge of this unique cat's history,  
distribution, and ecology.

SPEAKER: Bryon Holt, USFWS

## THANKSGIVING BIRD COUNT

November 24, Thursday

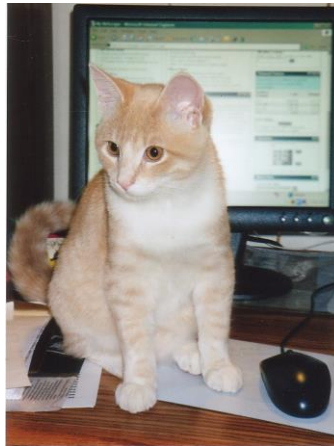
see attached form for details

Visit our website:

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

## CATBIRD

Janet Callen



It wasn't a dark and stormy night, it was about 7:00 p.m. on the spring evening of May 31, 2005, the day of the Century Count. Birders, who had begun the day at 4:30 a.m. on the top of Schweitzer Mountain, were wending their way home through the Hoodoo Valley. We added Marsh Wren, House Wren and Sora at the marshy areas. And we were treated

to the "oonk-a-lunk" (*National Geographic*) call of an American Bittern. Sibley describes the call as a deep, gulping, pounding Bloonk Adoonk repeated. Unforgettable and the highlight of the day.

As we proceeded to Granite Lake, Kris and Stephen decided to try to call up a Rock Wren. We stopped at the boat launch at the west end of the lake. Kris and Stephen

proceeded about 200 ft. north of the road to a stand of trees at the base of a cliff. I waited at the car.

After a few minutes they returned and Kris had a tiny blond striped kitten tucked in her coat. It had one eye stuck shut and was small enough to hold in one hand. It was trembling all over and complaining loudly. I was told that as they played the Rock Wren call they kept getting an answer that sounded like a Catbird. Then this little kitten came from behind a rock, straight toward them, meowing all the time. I ended up with it (him) because I have two older cats, and cat food. My passenger, Jan Severtson, wrapped him a towel that was in the car and eventually he quit shaking and went to sleep. We discussed a name, Bluebird, Rocky, Catbird?

Because he was so small I had visions of middle of the night feedings from a little bottle, but when I got home I gave him a little warm milk in a dish. He didn't know about lapping, so he stuck his chin in, drank and then slept the night inside a cat carrier. The next morning I tried a little canned food and he chewed and swallowed with his baby teeth till his tummy was round. A trip to the vet confirmed he was in good physical shape, was about 4 weeks old, weighed less than a pound, and didn't need a bottle as long as he could eat solid food.

He was litter-box trained in five days, learned to eat from a dish without standing in it, discovered the soft and sunny places to sleep and terrorized my adult cats.

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## NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS

### FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

1. **PLEASE REGISTER:** Dates and trips could change.
2. **COST:** Participants will share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver at a rate of \$0.25/mile, with the trip leader responsible for collection and distribution of the compensation
3. **RADIOS:** We will ask participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries as needed.
4. **UNSCHEDULED TRIPS :** Sign up to be on the group email list for unscheduled trips with Shirley Sturts: [s.sturts@verizon.net](mailto:s.sturts@verizon.net), or get on a call list by calling Shirley at 664-5318.

### **MICA BAY SURVEY**

**DATES:** November 8, Tuesday

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**MEET:** Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

**LEADERS:** Shirley Sturts, 664-5318 - Kris Buchler, 664-4739

**ACTIVITY:** We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds in the Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome.

### **BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP**

**DATE:** November 22, Tuesday (note the date change from original set date)

**TIME:** 12:00 noon - 1:00 P.M.

**MEET:** Independence Point, east end of CDA City Beach

**LEADER:** Lynn Sheridan, 765-2603

**ACTIVITY:** Take an hour out of your busy day to enjoy the out-of-doors, see how many different species of birds one can find in an hour and get to know people that share your interest in nature. Beginner bird watchers are welcome

### **BOREAL OWL TRIP**

**DATE:** Saturday and Sunday, November 12 and 13

**TIME:** 12:30 P.M. (Saturday)

**MEET:** To be determined

**LEADER:** Roland Craft and Kris Buchler 664-4739

**"Call for more details and register immediately for this trip."**

**ACTIVITY:** Search for Boreal Owls - Eat lunch before leaving - Bring breakfast and lunch for Sunday - Plan to return home on Sunday around 1:00 P.M. - Dinner and lodging will be at the Schweitzer Mountain Ski Resort.

### **COMING IN DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**

Three Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) are conducted in the Coeur d'Alene area each winter, part of a larger Audubon program extending across the Western Hemisphere. No matter what your skill level, beginner or expert, you can be a part of this century-old tradition. Join an Audubon team for the day or half of the day, or count birds at your feeder if you live within one of the count circles.

For more information about the CBC, go to [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) and click on "Science". For specific information about our local CBCs, or to sign up, contact Shirley Sturts [s.sturts@verizon.net](mailto:s.sturts@verizon.net) 664-5318

**Cost:** \$5.00 per CBC plus gas money for the driver

**Coeur d'Alene CBC: Thursday, December 15, 2005**

**Indian Mountain CBC: Monday January 2, 2006**

**Spirit Lake CBC: Thursday, January 5, 2006**

## BIRD TRACKS



Continued

### FOR COFFEE LOVERS

Continued from page 2

#### Where can one buy organic shade grown coffee in the Coeur d'Alene area?

There are several locations in Coeur d'Alene where organic shade grown coffee is available. The following are ones that I have found. I am not a big shopper, so please email me [s.sturts@verizon.net](mailto:s.sturts@verizon.net) for ones you know about and I will put them in the December newsletter. Some of the following are certified while others just say organic.

#### Stores

1) Fred Meyer, in their health food section, offer two brands: (a) "Bird Friendly Javatopia" (Certified Organic Shade Grown Coffee) and (b) Green Mountain (some blends are organic but not certified shade grown).

2) Pilgrim's Health Foods Market carries (a) Equal Exchange (mentioned above) and (b) Doma (organic but not certified shade grown)

#### Coffee Houses

1) Belle Rose Bakery Café, 213 Sherman Ave, offers Batdorf Bronson (Certified Fair Trade, Shade Grown and Organic)

2) Café Doma, 501 E. Sherman, (some blends are organic)

3) Starbucks has at least 1 blend of shade grown coffee from Mexico; however, it is not always available and they don't promote it. I was told that you can request a cup of coffee from any of their blends and they will make you a cup. Next time you visit a Starbucks, you might ask for a cup of their shade grown coffee. I plan to do just that.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Field Trip Leaders** - We are always looking for more field trip leaders, a good knowledge of the area is all that is required. You do not need to be an expert in bird identification. Contact Dick Cripe 665-0010 or email [racripe@adelphia.net](mailto:racripe@adelphia.net) or Roland Craft 457-8894 or email [rolcra@adelphia.net](mailto:rolcra@adelphia.net)

#### **Conservation Committee**

We need new members with fresh ideas and solutions to the many problems concerning birds and other wildlife. The Conservation Committee will meet on the second Tuesday of the month at Little Seattle Coffeehouse. All interested persons are welcome. Contact Roland Craft, 457-8894 or email [rolcra@adelphia.net](mailto:rolcra@adelphia.net)

#### **Education Committee**

Give or help with educational programs for children and/or adult groups. Help at special events such as the Farmer's Market, Earth Day, International Migratory Bird Day etc.. Contact Janet Callen, 664-1085, or email [jgoldfinch@adelphia.net](mailto:jgoldfinch@adelphia.net)

#### **Attend Board Meetings**

Board meetings are open to all members. Come and share your ideas - we are always looking for input from members.

Positions open:

Vice President

Hospitality chair

Board Member

Contact Lisa Hardy, 682-4808 or email [basalt@earthlink.net](mailto:basalt@earthlink.net)

#### **Eagle Watch - Wolf Lodge Bay**

December 26-January 1

Helpers are needed at viewing stations set up by the BLM. Contact Scott Robinson, 769-5048

## THE RESORT GOLF COURSE PLAN

Lynn Sheridan

On October 7 five of us went to the Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course to pick up a hodge-podge of nest boxes they had stored there. We took them to Roger Young for repair and advice on how to mount them. With the assistance of Kevin Hicks, the golf course maintenance chief, we will be putting the boxes up around the golf course at the end of October. Thank you Roland Craft, Roger Young, and Wendy and Clark Sheridan (from California).

## BOARD MEETING

Lisa Hardy

October 17. We discussed mileage compensation to drivers on field trips, and settled on a rate of \$0.25/mile, with the trip leader responsible for collection and distribution of the compensation.

We also reviewed the perennial problem of a location for our general meetings. Our usual location has started to charge us \$40 per meeting, and while the IDFG building is free, it is only available in the fall and there is no place to store the library. We will continue to look for a location that costs less, and would allow us to store the library. It was also suggested that the library be stored somewhere where it would be available between meetings.

## BIRD TRACKS



"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"

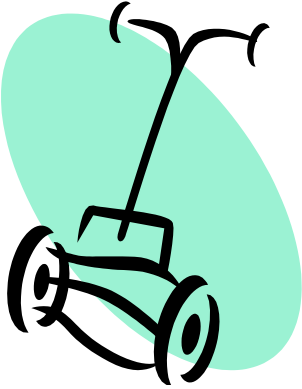
*Henry David Thoreau*

3RD IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES  
ABOUT LAWN CARE

## THE BEAUTIFUL LAWN

Judy Waring, Janet Callen

with assistance from Lisa Hardy



Is there a difference between chemical (inorganic) fertilizers and organic fertilizers? Chemical fertilizers are highly concentrated and provide instant results immediately to the plants. However, they add no nutrients to the soil, they destroy beneficial organisms that create the soil's natural nutrients and when used exclusively will build up in the soil and actually hinder plant growth.

Organic or natural fertilizers are recommended. They don't directly feed the plants. Instead they add essential nutrients to the soil for plants to use. Hence, results will be slower to show. In addition, they encourage beneficial microorganisms and promote soil health. The downside is they are usually more costly. In organic fertilizers the nitrogen (N) is provided by cottonseed meal, alfalfa meal or fish emulsion, the phosphorus (P) by poultry manure, rock phosphate or bone meal and the potassium (K) by granite meal, kelp meal or dairy manure.

Combination fertilizer-weed killer products are never recommended. (2) The harmful chemicals in these products will be discussed in another segment.

Dethatching is generally not necessary for an Idaho lawn and is often too hard on the turf. One should consider dethatching if the thatch layer is thicker than  $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Thatch problems can start with the overuse of synthetic chemical fertilizers. If one truly has a thatch problem, power (or hand) raking in early spring is advised, but not every year.

Core aeration is recommended, particularly for heavy soils. It opens up avenues for water and fertilizer to reach the root zone, promoting root growth. Lawns that have never been aerated, or those that get heavy foot traffic may benefit by aerating twice a year. This may need to be done for one to two more years, with aeration once a year. Leave the plugs on the lawn, they'll decompose naturally. An application of no more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of compost after spring aeration is beneficial for all lawns.

In addition to organic fertilizers such as steer manure, chicken manure, peat moss, bone meal and fish meal, we located two formulated organic fertilizers in our area: 1) Ringer All Natural Lawn Restore sold at Home Depot and 2) Worry Free Lilly-Miller Spring and Summer Lawn Food sold at Lowe's. These products may be available at other locations.

An interesting product named Nitro Cal is manufactured at Greenacres Plant Food Center, 4301 W. Seltice Way, Post Falls, ID. It is advertised as an early fall fertilizer and is made from Gypsum (an organic

product) and Urea (considered non-organic.) This combination provides Nitrogen, Calcium and Sulfur. Note, no phosphorus. The company states this product will not change the pH of the soil.

Another product found at Lowe's is Revive Granules, designated as a soil treatment that increases water penetration, breaks up hard soils and contains organic material. Gypsum is also a soil amendment that improves the soil structure and provides calcium and sulfur and is recommended for alkaline soils. Dolomitic limestone is a soil amendment for acid soils and some Idaho soils are acidic enough to require the application of lime. If soil pH is less than 5.1, apply lime.. If soil pH is greater than 7, apply Gypsum. Soil amendments are best applied in the fall. Soil pH can be tested, and the University of Idaho Extension Bulletin 704 has information on collecting and processing a soil sample, if one is so inclined.

Next month, the dysfunctional lawn (i.e. weeds, bugs and fungus).

(2) "Audubon at Home" [www.Audubon.org](http://www.Audubon.org) [www.grassrootsinfo.org](http://www.grassrootsinfo.org) and University of Idaho Extension

### BIRD QUOTE CORNER



"Few forms of life are so engaging as birds"

- Ellen Glasgow, *Letters of Ellen Glasgow* -



## CATBIRD

Continued from  
page 1

I planned to keep him a short while and then find a good home for him. No one needs three cats. Friend Judy found him a good home, but I felt he was too young to leave, maybe when he was a little older. He now weighs eight pounds and is still here. Both his eyes work well; the other night he watched a backyard bird identification video with rapt attention, until he realized they weren't coming out of the TV. At the moment he is outside on a leash and a long rope. He does quite well, although he almost hung himself a couple of times. He has no fear of the vacuum, rides on my shoulder in the car, likes people and attention, hissed at a 60 pound dog when he was two months old, and walks quite well on a leash. He is still a kitten cute and lovable most of the time. However, sometimes he acts as though he was born in the wild. I named him Catbird and he is my back-up cat.

## DR. REMBER'S

### FOSSIL TRIP

September 17<sup>th</sup>

Roland Craft

The archeological dig for fossils at Dr. Rember's property near Clarkia was a very interesting field trip. The fossils in this area occurred during the Miocene Epoch (that's what the dictionary called it) and dated

about 14 million years ago. Dr. Rember said it is rare to find insects, fish or animals on his property, but many plants were found. What is amazing is that many of the plants survive as closely related species of today. A few of the tree fossils we found are Dawn Redwood, Port Orford Cedar, Red Cedar, Bald Cypress, a fir species, Tuliptree, Sycamore, Sweet Gum, Maple, Oak in the Red Oak family, Poplar, Magnolia, Poplar that looked like our aspen, and Birch. These fossils occur in a clay-like rock that has many thin layers and often different plants can be found in a layer one-eighth inch away from another. All in all it was a fine trip.

The members attending were Janet Callen, Judy Waring and Roland Craft.

## BROWN BAG BIRDING

Lynn Sheridan

I was met at the 11th Street entrance to Tubbs Hill, by Rochelle Fairfield and Sue Gibson. Both are alpaca breeders and live by Mica Flats. This was their first walk on the hill.

At first the birds were quiet as the noise of dump trucks on the maintenance road drowned out all. Very high above were a few gulls--flying on thermals? Gradually we began to hear twitters, took a few false paths, but found the suspension bridge. Best sightings were a pair of Downy Woodpecker going from tree to tree, quite close, and a flock of Black-capped Chickadees. Two chipmunks were visibly squabbling.

Heard were Pygmy and Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Northern Flicker and a few tantalizing voices that I couldn't ID. Autumn colors, balmy weather and a

variety of passing dogs pleased us all. Thank you Rochelle and Sue for joining me.

## OBSERVATION POST

Shirley Sturts

**2005 Kootenai County Big Year - 196 species as of October we have Shoshone has 152 as of October 25. Check out our website to see county lists.**

### OTHER SIGHTINGS

**Common Loon** 23 Bell Bay, Coeur d'Alene Lake, Oct. 18, Jan and Herb Severtson: 4 Coeur d'Alene River Delta (Harrison), Oct. 23, Lisa Hardy

**Horned Grebe** 5+ Coeur d'Alene River Delta (Harrison), Oct. 23, Lisa Hardy

**Tundra Swan** 2 Coeur d'Alene River Delta (Harrison), Oct. 23, Lisa Hardy

**Hooded Merganser** 10-20 Coeur d'Alene River Delta (Harrison), Oct. 23, Lisa Hardy

**Ruddy Duck** 1 Cave Lake, Oct. 23, Lisa Hardy  
Dowitchers Lane Marsh, Oct. 23, Lisa Hardy

**Bonaparte's Gull** 8 Sandpoint City Beach, Sept. 20, Charles Swift and Sept. 30 Kris Buchler: 7+ Coeur d'Alene River Delta (Harrison), Oct. 23, Lisa Hardy

**Rough-legged Hawk** 1 Harrison Flats, Oct. 23, Lisa Hardy

**Steller's Jay** 1 outside my window eating peanuts that I just now put out, Oct. 28, Fernan Lake home, Shirley Sturts

**White-throated Sparrow:** 1 adult with several White-crowned Sparrow (mostly juveniles), North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, September 25, Lisa Hardy

**American Pipit:** 4 Coeur d'Alene River, September 25, Lisa Hardy



