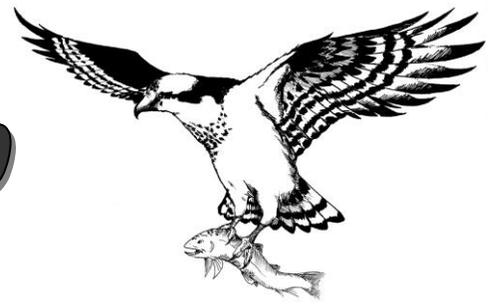


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

November 2007

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 3

BOARD MEETING

DATE: November 19, Monday
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Mt. West Bank
125 Ironwood Dr.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

DATE: November 19, Monday
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: First Presbyterian Church,
521 E. Lakeside, Coeur d'Alene
SPEAKER: James Hansen, USFWS
PROGRAM: "Determining Lead
Exposure in Waterfowl Utilizing
Coeur d'Alene Lake"

EVENTS

Thanksgiving Day Count
November 22
See page 2 for the Count Form

Wings Over Wolf Lodge Cruise
December 2

Visit our Website:
www.cdaudubon.org



Photograph by Bill Linn

"WOW" WINGS OVER WOLF LODGE CRUISE

Presented by
Birds of Prey Northwest
a (501)c3 non-profit organization

Sunday, Dec. 2, 2007
Boarding starts 12:20 p.m.; presentation begins promptly at 12:45 p.m.
Cruise departs from The Coeur d'Alene Resort Cruise dock
Tickets: \$15 adult \$9 child (6 to 16)

This exciting "WOW" tour features an eagle viewing cruise, highlighted by a live presentation with Liberty, the *Birds of Prey Northwest's* living Bald Eagle ambassador. Participants will be aboard the fabled Mish-An-Nock for an educational cruise to see these majestic birds as they feed in their natural habitat along Coeur d'Alene's famous Wolf Lodge Bay.

This fund-raising event will support much needed raptor rehabilitation, education and conservation right here in our community. **Birds of Prey Northwest** receives no monetary compensation from any federal or state agency.

Our Audubon Chapter is one of the sponsors of this Eagle Watching Cruise. For our support, we received 4 tickets worth \$15.00 each. We will raffle these tickets at our November meeting for \$2.00 each.



To Purchase tickets:

Tickets may be purchased at the Coeur d'Alene Wild Birds Unlimited 296 W. Sunset Avenue

To order tickets:

Call Kris Buchler, 208-664-4739. Checks may be mailed to:
Birds of Prey Northwest
P.O. Box 3507
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

Last minute reservations will be taken only if there is room.

Or, go to www.birdsofpreynorthwest.org for a link to pay by credit card using PayPal.
Tickets are adult \$16 and child \$10 online.

JOIN PROJECT FEEDER WATCH

from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Website



Pygmy Nuthatch
Photo by Wayne Tree

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the highest numbers of each species they see at their feeders from November through early April. FeederWatch helps scientists track broadscale

movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada.

Anyone can participate that has an interest in birds! FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs.

This season's *Project Feeder Watch* starts November 10 and runs for 21 weeks. One can join anytime during the season up to February 28th. For more information and to sign up go to: http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/Overview/over_index.html

Top 25 feeder watch bird lists

New charts showing the Top 25 species seen during the 2006-2007 season have been added to the Explore Data section of the FeederWatch Website. See the birds most frequently reported in your area:

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/PFW/DataRetrieval/Top25/2006-2007/Top25.htm>

The Martha Stewart Show

FeederWatch was on *The Martha Stewart Show* last week. You can now see the show online. Go to <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw> to see videos of Project Leader David Bonter's two segments on the show

SUMMARY OF BOARD MEETING: OCTOBER 15, 2007

Lynn Sheridan

1) Idaho has a *National Audubon* Collaborative Fund of \$952 for which chapters can apply. Last year we were awarded \$200 for Idaho Bird Trail signs, but had to return it as we couldn't get a plan going for a state-wide design. This year, our request, written up by Carrie Hugo and Ed Buchler, is to fund Raptor Rehabilitation.

2) *National Audubon* informed us that our annual dues sharing amount will be \$850.00. We have 307 members in our chapter.

3) We donated \$250.00 to *Birds of Prey Northwest* to help sponsor an Eagle Watching Cruise on December 2, 2007. The boat has been donated. For our sponsorship, we received 4 tickets worth \$15.00 each. We will raffle these tickets at our November meeting for \$2.00 each.

4) We voted to continue funding the Susan Weller Memorial Fund of \$500.00, but not through NIC. The money will go to *Birds of Prey Northwest*. When the center is built, a plaque or sign will commemorate Susan's memory. Her love of all creatures will be honored.

NOON TIME BIRDING

October 16, 2007



Lynn Sheridan

(This popular one hour event led by Lynn Sheridan is a good way to get to know what our chapter is all about.

It was dry and sunny after a night of rain, but no one was able to join me at the 10th St. entrance to Tubbs Hill. Walking up the path, I heard Pygmy and Red-breasted Nuthatch, but couldn't spot them until I left the trail, retreated into the woods and sat quietly for awhile. California Quail and chickadees were more elusive. Overhead gulls and crows flew, and I spotted a large nest in a tall snag, probably Osprey. Nearby, McKuen Field has 4 nesting platforms, one of which is used every year by an Osprey pair, and one year I saw Canada Geese using one. Down at the parking lot I saw an American Robin and several House Finch.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A DEAD BIRD?

Notice from Idaho Fish and Game

State and federal wildlife biologists and public health officials are asking for help to watch for sick or dead ducks, geese, swans and shorebirds. In late 2003, the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus re-emerged in Asia. It has infected birds in more than 55 countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa and is now endemic in parts of Southeast Asia. It is present in migratory birds and is unlikely to be eradicated in the short term. In 2006, U.S. federal and state agencies sampled about 150,000 water birds nationwide and did not detect highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus. Despite this, scientists believe that it is possible for this virus to be carried to North America by migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Although these birds are affected by many diseases, it is important that biologists investigate reports of dead waterfowl and shorebirds. If highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza is introduced to the United States, this approach gives us the best chance of early detection.

Wildlife biologists with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) are asking for your help observing and reporting sick or dead water birds. Use the following guidelines to decide when it is necessary to contact IDFG about a dead bird. To report sick or dead ducks, geese, swans or other water birds, call the Idaho Dead Bird Reporting Line (toll free) 1-877-550-BIRD

Please call the Dead Bird Reporting Line when:

- You find several ducks, geese or other water birds that are sick or dead. We are especially interested in investigating dead water birds that appear to have died in the last 48 hours.

- If you find any dead swans.

Do not call the Dead Bird Reporting Line if:

- The dead birds are not water birds. Collect these birds using a glove or an inverted plastic bag and bury them or deposit them in your trash.

ADVICE FROM BIRDS OF PREY NORTHWEST

If you find an injured or starving raptor, there is local help available from *Birds of Prey Northwest*.

The following advice is from their website:

www.birdsofpreynorthwest.org

Safe Capture

Birds of prey often literally collide with our modern world when they are struck by vehicles, collide with power lines, shot, or fly into glass windows. And starvation can be a problem when inexperienced juveniles are unable to successfully catch prey. Human intervention is often required to get grounded birds the needed medical attention.

What should I do if I find an injured raptor?

1. Place a shirt or a jacket over the bird's head. This calms it.
2. Be careful to avoid the powerful feet of the raptor. Use of leather gloves is advised, when possible.
3. Gather the raptor up, controlling the legs at all times.
4. Place the bird into a cardboard box, preferably with a piece of carpet on the floor. This gives the bird a non-slippery surface to stand on.
5. Never feed a raptor-especially young that are prematurely grounded. Feeding can lead to an irreversible condition of human imprinting.
6. Call a Fish and Game Officer, a local veterinarian, or preferably a wildlife rehabilitator who has expertise and housing for these specialized avian patients. Special federal permits are required of those who care for and medically manage these aerial predators.

We are available at 208-245-1367 at *Birds of Prey Northwest* or through the *Idaho Department of Fish and Game* office at 208-769-1414.

COUNTY BIG YEARS

Shirley Sturts

Dr. Stephen Lindsay, DVM, did a Kootenai County Big Year in 2001. He attempted to see 200 bird species in Kootenai County during the year 2001. He tallied up only 199 and on January 1, 2002 he found a Snowy Owl out on Rathdrum Prairie which would have made 200 if he had seen it the day before.

Inspired by Dr. Lindsay, I started a Kootenai County Big Year in 2002, asking all those interested to join in a combined effort to reach the magic number of 200 bird species. With the effort of some twenty-five local birders plus observations of birders from Eastern Washington, Moscow and a visitor from Virginia, we came up with a total of 197 species on December 31, 2002; three short of our goal. The Kootenai County Big Year is now an annual event. Our lowest count was 192 in 2003 and our highest 207 in 2004.

As of November 1, we have 198 bird species reported for our 2007 list. Help us reach 200. Go to www.cdaudubon.net to see what species are still needed. Some recent additions are as follows:

* Review List bird = a rare bird report is requested by the Idaho Bird Records Committee - visit their website at: <http://www.idahobirds.net/ibrc/ibrc.html>

- 182 *Rose-breasted Grosbeak - July 7 - Fairmont Loop Road - Jan Severston
- 183 *Short-billed Dowitcher - August 11 - Cataldo area - Lisa Hardy
- 184 Common Tern (3) - September 8 - mouth of the CDA River - Dan Audet
- 185 Red-necked Phalarope - August 21 - Cataldo area - Lisa Hardy
- 186 Black-necked Stilt - August 20 - Cataldo area - Lisa Hardy
- 187 Greater Yellowlegs - August 20 - Cataldo area - Lisa Hardy
- 188 Semipalmated Sandpiper - August 18 - Lane Marsh - Lisa Hardy
- 189 Stilt Sandpiper - August 18 - Lane Marsh - Lisa Hardy
- 190 Sandhill Crane - July 21 - Cataldo area - Lisa Hardy, but seen earlier by other observers

- 191 Baird's Sandpiper - August 27 - Cataldo area - Lisa Hardy
- 192 *Red Phalarope - September 15 - CDA River near the Cataldo Mission - Jonathan Brennecke
- 193 Lincoln Sparrow - September 30 - Loch Haven, Hayden Lake - Doug Ward
- 194 Common Nighthawk - late July or early August - south 10th CDA - Judy and Phil Waring
- 195 - 196 - 197 Long-eared, Barred, and Northern Saw-whet Owl - October - found in poor condition (injured and/or starving) - brought in for rehab *Birds of Prey Northwest*
- 198 Northern Waterthrush - June sometime - Springston, near Harrison - Lisa Hardy

Other County Big Year Lists

I was reporting the observations for Kootenai County on the two Idaho birding listserves: Inland-nw-birders and IBLE. In 2005, someone from Southern Idaho, I don't remember who, picked up on the idea and challenged other counties to follow Kootenai County's lead. Today 35 of the 44 Idaho Counties are doing Big Years. County Compilers report observations to Lew Ulrey, who manages a spread sheet for all the counties. You can view the list on the Idaho Birding Website. Go to: <http://www.idahobirds.net/reports/reports.html>

As of November 1, 2007, 319 species have been reported throughout Idaho. Ada County is ahead with 215 species, Kootenai County is 2nd with 198 and Twin Falls and Jefferson County are tied for 3rd with 193. The only species reported in all 35 counties is the American Kestrel. Red-tailed Hawk, Black-billed Magpie and European starling have all been reported in 97% of the counties and the Red-winged Blackbird and American Robin in 94 % of the counties.

How are other Northern Counties doing?

Boundary 159 (Mike Haldeman and Lisa Hardy)
Bonner 189 and Shoshone 142 (Lisa Hardy)
Benewah 115 (Shirley Sturts)

Check our website for dates, observers and locations. Let the compilers know if you can add to the list or have earlier dates that are currently listed.

This county listing is catching on. Washington State has started doing "County Big Years".

GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER SIGNS HISTORIC CONDOR PROTECTION BILL

From BirdWire News Bulletin: American Bird Conservancy



Photographed by Wayne Tree

On Saturday October 13, California Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, signed a bill banning lead bullets for hunting in eight California counties. American Bird Conservancy had campaigned with other national and state groups to have the ban enacted to protect the state's free-flying population of the endangered California Condor.

In 1987, the last remaining wild condors were taken into captivity due to fears of the species' imminent extinction. A captive breeding program was started, and reintroduction of captive-bred birds began in 1996. Now, 127 of these enigmatic birds once more fly free in the wild, 70 of them in California, the remainder in Arizona.

However, since the reintroductions began, there have been hundreds of cases of lead poisoning in condors, accounting for more deaths than any other single cause. Lead bullet fragments are inadvertently eaten by condors scavenging on unclaimed deer and pig carcasses or gut piles left behind by hunters. The lead enters the condor's bloodstream with frequently fatal consequences. Many hunters had already voluntarily switched to copper ammunition, which does not fragment on impact and so is less likely to be consumed by the birds. However, without 100% compliance by hunters, the rate of condor poisoning has remained high.

"Despite the Governor's pro gun-rights stance, and tremendous pressure from the gun lobby to veto this bill, Schwarzenegger understood that this was clearly a condor protection act, not anti-gun legislation, and would not infringe on the rights of hunters," said ABC's Dr. Michael Fry, who testified recently at a hearing in California in favor of the ban. "Non-toxic lead ammunition is widely available to

hunters, is effective, and will not poison condors. This is a victory for conservation and for the condors."

The bill will become effective on January 1, 2008 on all "center fired" rifles and pistols for hunting game in eight California counties.

MINERAL RIDGE AND LOST LAKE HIKES

October 27, 2007

Janet Callen

The best laid plans sometimes go astray, especially when they don't take into consideration a forest service road being closed. Judy and I really thought we'd done our homework for this trip, but we never imagined a road closure that would prevent driving to the starting point for the Mineral Ridge trail. However, ten hiker/birders showed their resourcefulness as we headed to Gamlin Lake instead and walked the trails around and above that lake. After noon, some of the group headed home, but five traveled south to Round Lake, where we hiked that very nice trail.

We didn't see many birds as the hunters on Gamlin Lake had cleared that body of water of everything but one American Coot and a couple of Pied-billed Grebes. At Round Lake we saw some Mallards and what (from a distance) appeared to be Common Mergansers. We talked a lot as we walked, which could have something to do with not hearing many birds.

Judy Waring

Our Audubon chapter is renowned for flexibility and it was yet again demonstrated on this field trip. Since the birding was clearly not going to amount to much, we instead had a tree identification day. Roland Craft, our in-house tree expert, taught us many ways to identify the trees that we commonly see in North Idaho. As in beginning birding, this is not an easy process. All bark looks the same, the leaves are similar, shapes alike. But Roland showed great patience and we had a lot of fun when, at last, we could point to one and name it. Our reward came when we came down to the lake level and found an enormous Western Red Cedar that had miraculously escaped the loggers. Roland estimated that it was several hundred years old. It took five of us gathering around the trunk, holding hands, to give it a big hug. I hope that he will continue classes next spring, moving on to Tree Identification II.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER FIELD TRIPS

PLEASE REGISTER: Watch the website for updates to our field trip schedule. Participants should contact the trip leader at least 24 hours in advance of the field trip to find out if the meeting place/time or destination have been changed.

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.

RADIOS: We will ask participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries as needed.

MICA BAY SURVEY

*(2nd Tuesday of each month - 8:00 a.m. September - November and April; 9:00 a.m.
December- March: 7:00 a.m. May-August)*

DATE: November 13, 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.

NOON TIME BIRDING TRIP

(3rd Tuesday of each month - 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.)

DATE: November 20, Tuesday

TIME: 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

MEET: Independence Point and 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 who share your interest in nature.

Beginner bird watchers are welcome.

LITTLE SPOKANE RIVER - RIVERSIDE STATE PARK

DATE: November 10, Saturday

TIME: 8:30 a.m

MEET: . KMart parking lot, behind the Mexican Restaurant

LEADER: Jan Severtson, 667-6209

ACTIVITY: Wear layered clothing, bring lunch, water, and be prepared to see birds, deer, maybe moose, and Indian petroglyphs. Riverside State Park does not allow dogs on the trail system.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Coeur d'Alene - December 15, Saturday

Compiler: Shirley Sturts 664-5318 s.sturts@verizon.net

Bonnors Ferry - To be announced

Compiler: Lisa Hardy 783-1262 basalt@earthlink.net

Spirit Lake - January 3, Thursday

Compiler: Shirley Sturts 664-5318 s.sturts@verizon.net

Indian Mountain - January 5, Saturday

Compiler: Don Heikkila 659-3389 donhei@imbis.net

