

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society
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THE BLUEBIRD TRAIL BUNCH

Shirley Sturts



Mountain Bluebird

Photographed by Darlene Carlton

This year we tried something new in bluebird trail monitoring. It all started when Roland kept insisting that we get some help with weekly checking the houses on the three bluebird trails that the chapter has been taking care of since we adopted them in 1998. Carrie took up the reins and scheduled a workshop, including a trail presentation by Kris and input from Theresa, who has been monitoring the Hoodoo Trail since 1998. Shirley, another 1998 monitor, was reluctantly dragged into the project but she soon became enthusiastic as the project progressed. After the workshop, a work party cleaned and repaired the boxes along the trail, and volunteers signed up on the schedule that Kris developed for weekly monitoring.

Monitoring the trail as a team effort worked out very well. However, April, May and June weather did not cooperate with us. While enjoying our summer-like September, you may have forgotten that spring didn't happen and summer didn't start until July ☺. This, I think, was probably the cause of low fledgling success, especially for bluebirds. Only 22 Western Bluebirds fledged from the three trails. Of the 13 that

fledged from the Hoodoo Trail, 8 came from a pair that nested twice in box 18. The other pair to be successful was from box 31, with 5 fledged young. There were 8 boxes that were used by Western Bluebird pairs and 10 nest attempts.

A highlight this year was two Mountain Blue Bird nests; box 24 fledging 4 or 5 young and box 37 had an uncertain outcome. In this box, there were 5 young close to fledging on June 10th. However, on June 18th only remnants of a nest remained. If the young fledged, the nest should have been intact.

Mica Flats had 2 boxes with successful pairs of Western Bluebirds, box 1B with 3 fledged young and box 8A with 6. Mica Bay's one Western Bluebird box contained 4 young on June 1st. However, on June 8th, it looked like a rodent may have eaten the young as only feathers were found in the nest. A swallow pair then gave it a try, only to have its two eggs found broken on June 29th. Jerry and Sharon Hanson, residents of Mica Bay, had better luck, with one of their bird houses hosting a successful pair of Western Bluebirds.,

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NOVEMBER PROGRAM

DATE: November 8, Tuesday

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

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

SPEAKER:

PROGRAM:

BOARD MEETING

DATE: October 11, Tuesday

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

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

SHOREBIRD MIGRATORY THREATS

Bird Studies of Canada, 16 September 2011 –



Whimbrel - Mann Lake, Lewiston - May 22, 2007
Photograph by Keith Carlson

Scientists at the Center for Conservation Biology conducting a shorebird migration study were disheartened to learn that on September 12, 2011 a Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) they had been satellite tracking for two years had been shot by a hunting party on the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe (French West Indies). Only a few days later, it was discovered that a second satellite-tracked Whimbrel had also been shot. Both (“Goshen” and “Machi”) likely stopped on the island after encountering Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Maria. During the previous two fall migrations, Machi flew directly from Virginia to Suriname, bypassing the Lesser Antilles entirely. Until the shooting, Machi had been tracked for over 44,000 kilometres, back and forth between breeding grounds in the Hudson Bay Lowlands of Canada to wintering grounds on the coast of Brazil. The two Whimbrels, the first during the four-year tracking study to stop on Guadeloupe, were killed within hours of each other.

Shorebird hunting within these areas continues to be unregulated. Conservation organizations are working toward reducing hunting pressures along migratory pathways used by shorebirds such as the Whimbrel, which has declined by 50% at locations along the Atlantic coast since the 1990s. This is one of the many challenges of conservation – to find a balance between educating communities about the importance of conservation while maintaining a sustainable cultural hunting heritage. For example, in June 2009, Bird Studies Canada and BirdLife Caribbean funded the management of the 10-acre Packers Conservation Wetland, near Christ Church, Barbados. Two former hunters paid the first year’s

lease and financed the wetland’s initial restoration; the area was abandoned as a shooting swamp when maintenance ceased in October 2004. The mixed swamp-forest is home to a heron/egret roost and is a shorebird stopover site.

The Whimbrel tracking project is a collaborative effort between The Center for Conservation Biology, The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, and Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences. To view tracking maps of Whimbrels, including Machi and Goshen, [select this link](#).

Editors note: The Whimbrel is on the Idaho Bird Committee’s “Review List”, which means a rare bird report is requested for any sighting in Idaho. There are 24 sightings, 8 of them are documented. Go to: <http://www.idahobirds.net/ibrc/reviewspecies/shorebirds.html#whimbrel>

Of the 24 sightings 6 of them are from North Idaho.

29 May 1977 - Mann Lake, Nez Perce County, - Hickman, Ed McVicker (fidde) - AB31(5):1026

9 June 1990 - Sandpoint Area, Bonner County - Paul Sieracki – report from Earl Chapin to Shirley Sturts

10 May 2001 - Boundary Creek WMA, Boundary County - Pat Cole (Idaho Fish and Game ecologist) - report from Pat Cole to Shirley Sturts

16 May 2001 - Mann Lake, Nez Perce County - - Rick Welle, Bird Notes June 2001

May 2002 (late May, stayed about 2 weeks) - Boundary Creek WMA, Boundary County,- Pat Cole - report from Pat Cole to Shirley Sturts and AB56(3):330

23 May 2007 - Mann Lake, Nez Perce County, Latilong 4 - Keith Carlson - **Rare Bird Report #:54-B-07 Accepted**



Sighting of the month

GREAT GRAY OWL

This large owl was first recorded in Idaho by Lewis and Clark. One was collected by Clark on the Clearwater River near Kamiah.

Thomas Burleigh, in *Birds of Idaho*, 1972, lists the following collected specimens:

December 1910 - St. Anthony, Fremont Co. (Bent 1941)

December 4, 1914 – Mica Bay, Kootenai Co. (Rust 1915)

Fall 1924, 1925 – Santa



Gene DeNolf on December 1, 2009 about 6 miles southeast of Grangeville. Randi

ADOPT-A HIGHWAY FALL CLEANUP

Michael Zagar



On October 1st, eleven Audubon members and friends gathered refuse along U.S. Highway 95 near the Mica Grange area (roadway miles 421 to 423), as part of a volunteer clean-up effort coordinated by the Idaho Transportation Department.

CDA Audubon is one of 182 groups in the five northern counties of Idaho that participate in this annual program. In 2009, the latest year for which data is available, these groups cleaned 329 miles of

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roadway, devoted over 4000 hours of volunteer time and collected in excess of 60 tons of litter! Great news! Unfortunately, more litter will await us in the spring of 2012, our next scheduled clean-up outing. Look for the date and time in this newsletter and consider joining us.

PROJECT FEEDER WATCH

25TH SEASON

The 2011-12 season goes from Saturday, November 12, 2011 to Friday, April 6, 2012. For information go to: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>

FIELD TRIPS 2011-2012

PLEASE REGISTER: Watch the website or newsletter 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 has been changed. Participants will share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver.

MICA BAY SURVEY

Date: November 8, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)

Time: 9:00 a.m. **Note time change**

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Leader: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

Activity: We spend about 2-3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome. We will help you with identification skills.

MINERAL RIDGE DAY HIKE

Date: November 5, 2011 Saturday

Leader: Janet Callen, 664-1085

Meet: Fernan Ranger Station

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Hike the trail, and look for waterfowl in Wolf Lodge and Beauty Bay. This will be a half-day trip.

WATERVILLE PLATEAU

Date: November 19, 2011, Saturday

Leader: Kim Thorburn

Meet: To be determined

Time: To be determined.

Important: Contact Janet Callen at 664-1085 before November 12, 2011 if you plan on going. We will join Spokane Audubon for this trip. It will be a long day, as we will be traveling up to 300 miles. The Waterville Plateau is a challenging but huge quality

destination for rarities during the late fall and winter months. We will work the rolling steppe of the Plateau in search of the rare raptors, owls, and Passerines. We will then head down toward the Columbia River in search of rare Arctic Gulls and Saltwater waterfowl, such as scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Pacific Loon.

Target Birds: Loons and grebes; scoters and rare wintering waterfowl; wintering raptors; Glaucous, Thayers, and Glaucous-winged Gulls; Snowy Owl; Northern Shrike; Snow Bunting; Lapland Longspur; Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. We will hunt for elusive rarities, including Gyrfalcon and Northern Hawk Owl.

This will, obviously, be a full day trip. Bring a lunch and snacks and be prepared for cold weather.

KOOTENIA ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE (KEA) CALENDAR