

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
[www.cdaudubon.org](http://www.cdaudubon.org)

November 2015

Volume 26 Number 3

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM

DATE: November 10, Tuesday  
PLACE: Lutheran Church of the Master,  
4800 N. Ramsey, CDA  
TIME: 7:00 p.m.  
PROGRAM: "The Hayden Lake Project"  
SPEAKER: Andrienne Cronebaugh,  
Executive Director of Kootenai  
Environmental Alliance

Hayden Lake, a favorite cold water fishery that is nestled into the Coeur d'Alene national forest, has begun to show the effects of abuse to its watershed. This year, the northern end of Hayden Lake sustained a blue-green algae bloom for the majority of the summer. The algae species present produces potentially dangerous toxins. Since 2011 Kootenai Environmental Alliance has been piloting a biomimicry technology, floating treatment wetlands, on Hayden Lake in an effort to improve water quality and create wildlife habitat. Come and learn about what's happened so far!

## President's Report

We've had some great programs this year, haven't we? October's program with L. Schwitters presenting "Vaux's Happening", a program about the migration of swifts was very enlightening and fun to watch. November's program will be an update on the progress of remediating Hayden Lake. You won't want to miss it!

Did you know that 2016 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society? We will want to celebrate this milestone! If you have ideas, send them to me or someone else on the board.

In December and January, we will be helping with the Christmas Bird Counts - always a good time for all birders! The CDA CBC will be held Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, followed by a potluck dinner and compiling team results at the home of Theresa Potts.

Another item - we do not use Pay Pal for dues payment. You can use a check or cash.

Happy Birding! Eula Hickam

## National Membership Questions?

Peggy Albertson



There have been questions from our membership regarding the financial relationship between

National Audubon Society and the local chapter. Below are the questions and answers from Audubon Chapter Services in Missoula, MT.

### *Question:*

Does National give money to local chapters based on chapter membership numbers?

### *Answer:*

National Audubon Society provides an annual payment to chapters to support activities and programs provided by our shared membership. Chapters receive one baseline funding payment each year, generally between September and January, in the month after the Chapter Annual Report has been received and the Chapter has been recertified by the State Office or Chapter Services Office. The amount per chapter has been the same since 2003, and is not tied to the current number of members nor the amount of membership funding received from those members. Baseline Funding replaced the former "dues share."

**Note: Our CDA Chapter receives approximately \$900 each year from National.**

### *Question:*

Do membership dues paid to National EVER trickle down to our local chapter?

### *Answer:*

Yes, there are a number of funding options that National Audubon Society provides to chapters. In addition to the annual payment referenced above, National provides a number of grant opportunities for conservation programs as well as a membership incentive program in which all funds paid the first year for a chapter-recruited member are returned to the chapter. (This also includes any members who are lapsed in excess of two months from National Audubon). Therefore, it is critical that any membership form sent to National be coded properly and mailed to the appropriate address to ensure that it will be processed correctly.

**Note: Our 8 digit code for this fiscal year is C5ZG06OZ and the address is National Audubon Society, 225 Varick Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10014 Attn: Chance Muehleck.**

**Membership Incentive will also be acknowledged by payment on line at [https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation2?df\\_id=8080&8080.donation=form1](https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation2?df_id=8080&8080.donation=form1)**

For further information contact Peggy Albertson at [fourseasonscards@yahoo.com](mailto:fourseasonscards@yahoo.com)

# Reel-In & Recycle

Peggy Albertson

The Reel-in and Recycle program was created by the U.S Boating Association to address the threat of monofilament line in our nation's waters. Berkley Fishing is a major sponsor of the program and



they recycle the monofilament sent in by volunteers. Our local chapter has built five bins and developed signage for those bins. Sean Hoisington with the city of Hayden was contacted in spring of 2015 and readily expedited the approval and installation of a bin (see photo) at Honeysuckle Beach boat ramp. Monitoring of the bins began in April and it has been checked twice per month throughout the summer. Monofilament line will be collected year around and will be sent to Berkley Recycling in Iowa.

BLM has approved installation of Reel-in and Recycle bins and signage at Killarney Lake, Mineral Ridge and Blue Creek boat ramps. Crews will become available to install these three bins this fall as the summer and the fire season subside.

The owner of Albert's Place on the North Fork of the CDA River has also agreed to placement of a bin and signage. Again, the dry weather, fires and road closures have delayed the installation of this bin but placement is expected this fall.

Once all bins are in place we will be looking for volunteers to do routine monitoring at each bin. Peggy Albertson will mail all of the collected monofilament line to Berkeley for recycling.



**Where You Can  
Get Help For  
Injured Birds  
And Other  
Wildlife**

## Contact:

\* **Birds of Prey Northwest** (for eagle, hawk, falcon and owl)

<http://www.birdsofpreynorthwest.org/>

208-245-1367 or 208-582-0797

Kootenai Animal Hospital will check birds of prey for injuries and health status 773-6000

\***Ponti Veterinary Hospital** in Otis Orchards (for all wild birds and other animals)

(They are a State and Federally Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator)

25007 E Wellesley Avenue, Otis Orchards 509-922-7465

<http://www.pontivet.com/>



## Book review



***Subirdia*, by John Marzluff, with  
illustrations by Jack Delap.**

**Reviewed by George Saylor**

What is a person to do, especially when that person is a scientist, when he realizes he's seen more bird species in New York's Central Park than he did in Yellowstone Park? The answer is to investigate the phenomenon, and that is what Marzluff and his teams did. The result of these studies is *Subirdia*, a book that examines the impact of urbanization on birds and other wildlife. His work reached some surprising conclusions and offers some hopeful thoughts as well as some caution regarding the future of birds in urban and suburban environments.

Marzluff is the James W. Ridgeway Professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Washington. He is the author or coauthor of more than 130 scientific papers and five books. His post-doctoral research focused on the social behavior and organization of birds, and he tries to bring this behavioral approach to conservation issues and urban ecology.

*Subirdia* provides a great deal of information on how specific species adapt to, or are hindered by life within human

communities, and richly details the impact of our modern lifestyle on the health and welfare of birds and other mammals. Urban habitat, though not usually seen as wildlife habitat, nonetheless provides food, water and shelter for a rich diversity of birds and other wildlife. How these new urban habitats impact birds, other than providing their basic needs, is a main theme of the book. Marzluff adopted the classification of urban birds into three categories: avoiders, adapters, and exploiters. Avoiders are those species of birds that are extinguished or decline sharply as urbanization intensifies. Adapters are mainly native species that adapt well to the new urban environment, and exploiters are species that thrive there. Much of the book is devoted to explaining why some species do well, others just get by, and others decline. It makes for interesting reading, and leaves you with a sense of hope for our urban birds.

Not all is well though, and Marzluff expresses concern that urban development must occur in a thoughtful manner. One of his concerns is that there is too much homogenous development, and that a diverse landscape must be maintained for a variety of species to be supported. He shares a number of other concerns as well, and offers antidotes in his 10 Principles of Conservation. He wrote: "To persist, animals must be able to live, move, and breed among the habitats we provide."

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## Subirdia

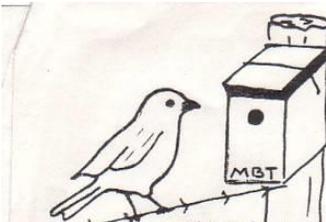
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He then explains his 10 principles, beginning with "Do not covet your neighbor's lawn and keep your cat indoors!"

His passion for the natural world is revealed in his 10<sup>th</sup> commandment, which is: "Enjoy and bond with nature where you live. work and play." He expressed it as a golden rule: "Do unto the land, and the natural web of life it sustains, as you would have the land do unto you", or more simply, love thy wild neighbor!

For anyone concerned about or interested in the fate of birds and other wildlife in our urban world, or who wants to know more about the specific ways birds adapt to urbanization, *Subirdia* is a worthwhile read.



### Bluebird Trails

#### Report

Summer 2015

Shirley Sturts

I have completed entering the nest data we have collected from our three bluebird trails into the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Nest Watch program See: <http://nestwatch.org>

The bluebirds and swallows seemed to have thrived during our unusually hot, dry summer with record breaking temperatures .

Western Bluebird nesting broke records. I have a chart on our Website showing nest attempts, number of eggs, number of nestlings, number of fledglings and the success rate of our three trails for the years 2000-2015. They broke all the records but the success rate. There was a total of 37 nest attempts, 191 eggs and 109 fledglings. The previous record was 27 nest attempts (2006), 132 eggs (2006) and 80 fledglings (2007). These are all approximat numbers as many times it was difficult to count the tiny young birds all crowded together.

Tree Swallows did well but were not breaking any records. This may be due to the fact that there were more boxes being used by the Western Bluebirds. Still the 54 nest attempts , 292 eggs and 159 fledglings put it near the top when you compare it with other years .

#### Link to the Chart 2000-2015:

<http://cdaudubon.org/Projects/CHART%202000-2011.pdf>

Here are the results of this year's effort:

#### Western Bluebird:

Hoo Doo - 29 attempts with 21 having at least 1 young that had fledged - 147 eggs produced 88 nestlings of which 88 fledged - a 72.41 % rate of success.

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## Bluebird Trails

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Mica Bay - 1 attempt with 1 having at least 1 young that fledged - 5 eggs which produced 4 nestling of which all 4 fledged - a 100% rate of success.

Mica Flats - 7 attempts with 5 having at least 1 young that fledged -39 eggs produced 20 nestlings of which 17 fledged - a 71.43% success rate.

### Tree Swallow:

Hoo Doo - 37 attempts with 28 having at least 1 young that had fledged - 207 eggs produced 130 nestlings of which 121 fledged - a 76.68% rate of success.

Mica Bay - 8 attempts with 7 having at least 1 young that fledged - 43 eggs produced 29 nestlings of which 29 fledged - a 87.5% success rate.

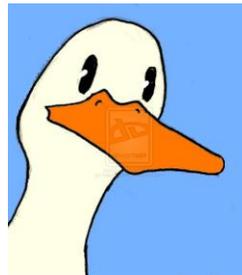
Mica Flats - 9 attempts with 6 having at least 1 young that fledged - 42 eggs produced 27 nestlings of which 19 fledged - a 66.76% success rate.

House Wren: Hoo Doo: 2 nests fledged young - as usual we could not see into the nest to count eggs or nestlings.

Mountain Chickadee : Hoo Doo: 1 nest with 6 eggs that didn't hatch

I want to thank this year's bluebird team for checking and recording the nest boxes.

Team Members this year were: Peggy Albertson, Kris Buchler, Darlene Carlton, Linda Chalcraft, Roland Craft, Carrie Hugo, Rob and Nancy Kroese, Ronn Rich, Marilyn Robinson, Vera Taggart, Linda Wolovich. A special thanks to Roland, Darlene, Rob and Nancy who not only took turns doing Hoo Doo but took charge of doing Mica Bay and Mica Flats.

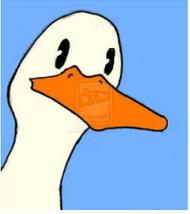


### Gamlin Lake and Bird Aviation Museum and Invention Center September 19, 2015

Roland Craft

We had a very interesting and educational day on this field trip. We first hiked along the southeastern side of Gamlin Lake, mainly looking for waterfowl. Spotted were Pied-billed Grebe, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Canada Goose, Wood Duck and Gadwall. Other birds seen were Ruffed Grouse, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Townsend's Solitaire, Warbling Vireo, Northern Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Also on the trip we saw 30+ Wild Turkey, Common Raven and a Northern Harrier.

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## Gamlin Lake . . .

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Our next stop was the Bird Museum. Dr. Bird was a pilot during World War 2, then went to several universities to become a mechanical engineer and a medical doctor. He invented the first mass-produced medical respirator and newer respirators, ventilators and cardiopulmonary devices, many in use today. Another room was full of pictures of different inventors with the actual item they invented. There were numerous airplanes, one of which was a Boeing Stearman, the main trainer during the second world war. It was notorious for being difficult to fly and caused many fatalities. Also on display was an iron lung, models of military airplanes, service men and women, vehicles, life-sized manikins of real military heroes. I can't begin to list all the items at the museum. It is free and worth the visit.

Participants were Janet Callen, Valerie Zagar, Adela Sussman and Roland Craft.

## Heyburn State Park Field Trip

October 3, 2015

Roland Craft

We had an unusual field trip to Heyburn State Park- it was opening day for the youth waterfowl hunting program!! Boats

were moving everywhere on Chatcolet Lake so there was almost no waterfowl to be found. We walked on the boardwalk at



American Coot and American Widgeon  
Photo by Wayne Tree

Plummer's Point but had no luck. Then we tried the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes up to the bridge, but only saw a few birds.

Now the good part! We went back to Highway 5 and drove towards St. Maries. Even there viewing was quite slow until we reached the southeastern end of Benewah Lake. Every duck and goose from the entire area settled down at this spot. There were thousands upon thousands of waterfowl, probably because there were no hunters to be seen. Most numerous were American Widgeon but we also spotted Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, and American Coot.

We studied for a long time five shore birds and decided on Long-billed Dowitcher, but that is still questionable. On the far side of the lake there were numerous White Pelican. There were Double-crested Cormorant, a Bald Eagle and Great Blue Heron, plus gulls, Steller's Jay and Northern Flicker.

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## Heyburn State Park

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We then decided to back-track to Plummer and up to the sewage ponds at the Coeur d'Alene Casino. All we saw were a few Canada Geese and Ring-necked Ducks.

The weather was fine and we all had a good time. Participants were Roland Craft, Janet Callen, Karen Williams, Linda Wolovich, Maurine Simpson and Skyler, a young and enthusiastic beginning birder

## Bluebird Trail Comes to Life!

Peggy Albertson

On March 24, 1998, five bluebird boxes



were donated to Audubon by Christina Parker, Meegan Corcoran and Pam Gomes. The three assisted Shirley Sturts and Kris Buchler in selecting sites and establishing new

homes on posts on and near the property of Larry and Sherry Mundt off Old Hwy 95.

This bluebird trail has been monitored since that time by several members of our Audubon Chapter. Rob and Nancy Kroese and Roland Craft have taken over the caring for and monitoring the boxes most recently.

We recently received a letter called "Spring Creek Bird House Project: A Letter to My Niece" written in May 2013 by Sherry Mundt. This letter provides a nostalgic look at how generous property owners view their contribution and Audubon itself.

The letter begins:

*"My Dear Shellan,*

*Do you remember the Spring Creek camping trip bluebird house project Uncle Jimmy put together for all you kids back in the eighties? Jim gave each of you a kit with the cut out parts, hardware and little hammers. The old VHS video he made for us shows all of you working on them, the only sound the 'tap tap tap' of your little hammers assembling your projects.....*

Please go

to: <http://cdaudubon.org/Projects/Spring%20Creek%20Bird%20House%20Project.htm>

to read this heartfelt letter in its entirety.

## Birds and Beans

George Saylor



**Coffee Lovers!!** The first order is on its way to those of us who ordered coffee. George will be sending in orders periodically throughout the year. If you missed this first order or are planning ahead so you don't run out of coffee, contact George and get in on the next order. 664-2787 - [gsaylercda@aol.com](mailto:gsaylercda@aol.com)

Birds and Beans shade grown, organic, fair-trade certified coffee. We do it as a fundraiser and to help protect bird habitat in Central America. Go to our website for prices and varieties available. Help save the rain forests by choosing to drink shade grown coffee:

<http://cdaudubon.org/Birds%20and%20Beans.pdf>

## FIELD TRIPS

### Mica Bay Survey

**Date:** November 10, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Meet:** Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

**Leader:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318 and Janet Callen 664-1085

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

### Mineral Ridge Hike: Fernan Lake, Wolf Lodge, Beauty Bay and Blue Creek Bay

**Date:** November 14, Saturday 2015

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Meet:** Fernan Ranger Station

**Leader:** Janet Callen 664-1085

This will be a three-quarter day trip. Bring a lunch, or snacks and water. Dress for the weather. We'll hike Mineral Ridge and search for waterfowl, targeting loons.

### Rathdrum Prairie Hawk Survey

Surveys will take place once a month from November through March. Doug Ward is the leader. This two hour, fast-paced journey across the prairie is a learning experience that is a lot of fun. Details will follow.



### Christmas Bird Counts

Monday December 14 - Coeur d' Alene CBC

There will be a potluck dinner after the count to celebrate and compile the team lists. Theresa Potts has graciously offered to host the potluck at her home again this year. Thank you Theresa.

The Indian Mountain and Spirit Lake CBCs will be done between January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

See the December newsletter for additional information about dates, time and meeting locations.

### Malheur Wildlife Refuge

#### Plan ahead for this one

**Date:** April 28, Thursday through May 1<sup>st</sup>. Sunday 2016

**Time and Meet:** To be determined

**Leader:** George Saylor 664-2787

George is making reservations at the Frenchglen Hotel. **He would like to know right away if you are interested in going on this trip.** Contact him for more information.

Target Birds: Migrating waterfowl and songbirds. The refuge has recorded 320

bird species and 58 mammal species. More

**NEW MEMBER APPLICATION**

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Send this application and your check payable to:

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Attn: Chance Mueleck  
225 Varick Street  
New York, NY 10014

**C9ZG060Z**

**CDA Audubon Chapter Officers**

**President:**  
Eula Hickam 661-3228

**Vice President:**  
George Saylor 664-2787

**Recording Secretary:**  
Valerie Zagar 819-5115

**Treasurer:**  
Janet Callen 664-1085

**Board Members: all officers +**  
Peggy Albertson, Midge-Marcy Brennan, Darlene Carlton, Carrie Hugo, Jim Lynn, Lynn Sheridan

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Publicity: Open**

**Field Trips: Roland Craft 457- 8894**  
Janet Callen 664-1085

**Education: Barbara Christofferson 667-3931**

**Conservation: Midge Marcy-Brennan**

**Membership: Peggy Albertson 664-1616**

**Hospitality: Darlene Carlton 691-6160**

**Newsletter: Shirley Sturts 664-5318**

**Mailing: Peggy Albertson 664-1616**

**Webmaster: Shirley Sturts 664-5318**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail this form and your check payable to: **Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter c/o Membership P.O. Box 361 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816**



**National Audubon Coeur d'Alene Chapter**  
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