

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

November 2017

Volume 28 Number 3

November Program

Date: November 14, Tuesday
Place: Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800
N. Ramsey, CDA
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Speaker: Ron Force
Program: Madagascar



Madagascar is an island off the coast of southern Africa, separated from the continent over 88 million years ago. Since then it has gone its own evolutionary way, with 90% of the plant and animal species found nowhere else on earth. Unlike the Galapagos, it is heavily populated with people who have a strong and unique culture. In June of 2015, Ron Force traveled there on a tour looking for birds and wildlife, which he found. What else he found challenged his ideas about conservation and national development and raised questions which will become more common in a world of climate change and human population growth. Don't miss this great program.

President's Message

Happy Autumn
and Happy
Halloween!!!!



I love Halloween and autumn: the colors, the fall air, the leaves, and wind, and fog, and harvest, sunflowers and cornstalks, and spiders tucking themselves into warm crevices. And MAGIC!!! I see the flit of feathers into the blue spruce and recognize the white of the junco's tail; and under the white pines I see the brilliant flashes of iridescent red, purple and green of the male ring-necked pheasant glinting in the morning sun. It is MAGIC, the magic of the colors of birds.

Initially, bird colors are the first thing you see when you look at a bird. No, maybe the second thing. The first is probably what it is doing, especially if it is a pigeon sitting above your newly washed car. Birds are among the most colorful of all creatures. These colors in the bird feathers are formed like MAGIC in, usually, one of two different ways, either from pigments, or from the refraction of light caused by the structure of those feathers. And in some birds, like parrots, the green we see is a combination of both -- yellow pigments overlying the blue-reflecting characteristic of the feathers.

Continued on page 2



President's Message -
Continued from page 1



The primary pigments found in birds are of three types: carotenoids, melanins, and porphyrins. Carotenoids produce intense reds and yellows, as in the red of the



Northern Cardinal and the yellow of the Yellow Warbler. They are derived exclusively from the birds' diet of seeds, grains or other vegetables. They are seen in back and breast plumage, rarely in flight feathers.

Melanins, the most common pigments, are found in both the skin and feathers of birds. The tiny granules produce color in direct proportion to the number of them present in the feather; the more there are, the darker the color. They produce the darkest black to reddish browns and dull yellows. Melanin occurs in all types of feathers, but the flight feathers benefit the most because feathers that contain melanin are stronger and more resistant to wear than those without. Notice that most birds that are mostly white will have black feathers on their wingtips providing extra strength.

Porphyrins are produced by the breakdown of hemoglobin by the liver. Most commonly porphyrins produce brown pigments as seen in pigeons, owls and gallinaceous species, but they can also produce the brilliant greens and reds of turacos.

In the structural color category, magical colors are produced as light is refracted by the proteins (keratin) in the feather. Maybe the best known example is the gorget (throat feathers) of the hummingbirds. These colors are resulting from the refraction of light caused by the complex layering of cell walls or melanin granules in the barbules of feathers. The refraction splits the light into rich color; which colors the viewer sees depends on their angle of

view. But not all structural colors are iridescent. The blue of the Steller's Jay is produced by tiny air pockets in the barbs of feathers that scatter the incoming light. (If you back-light a feather from a Steller's Jay Sit will look brown. The blues are lost because no light is being reflected back to you and the brown shows up due to the melanin in the feather!)

Every time I see a bird, I think "It's MAGIC!!!" definitely magic. Well, okay, it's SCIENCE, but then, isn't science magical?

Midge



In Memory of Kris Buchler

Continued from the October 2017 Newsletter



I first met Kris in 1995. I was looking for something to augment my appreciation of the natural world, and learning how to identify birds seemed like it would be fun and a very good fit for my wilderness canoeing, fly fishing, and hiking. I found out about the local Audubon club, and started going out on the Mica Bay counts, which at that time were every two weeks. Kris and Shirley were regulars at that time, and was I ever snowed by all there was to learn about all the different birds. But with their help, and lots of studying on my part, I slowly picked it up.

Kris was special in her instruction and I always enjoyed being around her when on field trips. I feel privileged and honored to have had her as one of my special instructors all these years.

Thank you Kris, I will miss you. **Bill Gundlach**

Project FeederWatch



(Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada.)

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. Feeder-Watchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November

through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. FeederWatch data help scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

Anyone interested in birds can participate. 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. You can count birds as often as every week, or as infrequently as you like: the schedule is completely flexible. All you need is a bird feeder, bird bath, or plantings that attract birds.

New participants are sent a [Research Kit](#) with complete instructions for participating, as well as a bird identification poster and more. You provide the feeder(s) and seed. Then each fall participants receive our 16-page, year-end report, [Winter Bird Highlights](#). Participants also receive access to the digital version of *Living Bird*, the Cornell Lab's award-winning, quarterly magazine.

There is an \$18 annual participation fee for U.S. residents (\$15 for Cornell Lab members). The participation fee covers materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and the year-end report (*Winter Bird Highlights*). Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by participation fees. Without the support of our participants, this project wouldn't be possible. [Join today!](#)



Heyburn State Park Field Trip

Saturday, October 14

Judy Waring

The plan was to spend the day at Heyburn State Park, focusing on the annual resting area for migratory waterfowl. We knew this wasn't going to go well when we opened the car doors at the visitor center and heard gunshots from every direction! It was opening day for duck hunting season! Plan "A" was quickly abandoned and instead we drove on towards St. Maries, stopping at fields and ponds along the way. The numbers began to look respectable in short order as we passed by marshy areas along back roads.



Northern Shoveler
Photo by Wayne Tree

We took a quick break in St. Maries for coffee and fritters, then onto the predictably productive sewage treatment ponds.

We were not disappointed. We found Common Goldeneye, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Ruddy Duck, Lesser Scaup and more. We added a few more on the drive back to Coeur d'Alene, totaling 27 species for the day.

Birders: Janet Callen, Bill Gundlach, Dick Cripe, Valerie Zagar and Judy Waring.



Highway Cleanup

Date: October 7,
Saturday

Thanks to those who participated in this season's litter pick-up along Highway 95. We had 16 volunteers that collected 24 bags of trash as well as several smaller bags of recyclable bottles and cans.

Consider joining us for the spring collection in April!



Chain of Lakes Field Trip

October 28

Theresa Potts and Mike Blackbird



Photograph by Jan Severtson

Our merry band took off on a very foggy and very cold Saturday morning. Our group headed for our first stop, Bull Run Lake. There wasn't much happening here; a Gadwall and immature Bald Eagle were among the most interesting feathered creatures. We then continued on to Killarney Lake.

We saw several Wild Turkey on our way to the Killarney boat launch where we saw two Common Loon, a gull species, Wood Duck, Great Blue Heron and Pied-billed Grebe.

We could see Canada Geese and Coots out in the wetlands along the highway on our way to Lane Wetlands. We stopped at one of the trailheads along the way and were able to hear a Bewick's Wren. Lane Wetlands turned out to be our most productive viewing site. Among the birds we saw were Bufflehead, American Coot, Hooded Merganser, Northern Harrier, and Belted Kingfisher. Probably the most exciting bird was a Clark's Nutcracker who spent a lot of time talking to us.

From Lane Wetlands we journeyed to Black Lake and Cave Lake. Here we saw Ring-necked duck and several Western Grebe plus American Coot and gull species. We stopped for lunch at the Medimont Trailhead for lunch where we watched a female moose feed in the lake the whole time we were there. We saw a Downy Woodpecker, Belted Kingfisher and a Great Blue Heron.

We then visited Mike's sister's farm where we saw a number of Eurasian Collared Dove, a House Finch and a Steller's Jay.



How Does Christmas Bird Count Work

from: <http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>



There is a specific methodology to the CBC, and all participants must make arrangements to participate in advance with the circle compiler within an established circle, but anyone can participate.

Each count takes place in an established 15-mile wide diameter circle, and is organized by a count compiler. Count volunteers follow specified routes through a designated 15-mile diameter circle, counting every bird they see or

Continued on page 5

How Does Christmas Bird Count Work

Continued from page 4

hear all day. It's not just a species tally—all birds are counted all day, giving an indication of the total number of birds in the circle that day.

If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher.

If your home is within the boundaries of a CBC circle, then you can stay at home and report the birds that visit your feeder on count day as long as you have made prior arrangement with the count compiler.



Christmas Bird Counts in this area:

Coeur d'Alene CBC -
December 16 Saturday
Contact: Shirley Sturts -
208 664-5318 -
shirley.sturts@gmail.com

Indian Mountain CBC - Time not set yet -
usually between January 2-5 Contact: Lisa Hardy
- 208 783-1262 - 99basalt@gmail.com

Spirit Lake CBC - Needs organizer/compiler -
for information and to volunteer, contact: Shirley
Sturts - 208 664-5318 - shirley.sturts@gmail.com

Bonnars Ferry CBC - December 28, Thursday
Contact: Kathy - 208 267-8295

Sandpoint CBC - will post on our Website when
the date and contact are available

Spokane CBC - December 30 Saturday
contact: Alan McCoy (509-448-3123 or
ahm2352@gmail.com)

Moscow-Pullman CBC - December 16, Saturday -
Contact: Kas Dumroes - dumroese@moscow.com

Lewiston-Clarkston CBC - may be December 17,
Sunday - will post on our Website when date and
contact are available



Field Trips

Our field trips are also posted
on our Website

<http://cdaadubon.org/fieldtrips.html>

Please contact Dick Cripe 208-
665-0010 to volunteer to lead
a trip or to suggest places to
go.

Rathdrum Prairie Hawk Survey

Will take place once a month from November
Through March. Doug Ward is the leader. This
two-hour fast-paced, one-vehicle journey
across the prairie is a learning experience that
is a lot of fun. We travel in one car for safety.
To reserve a spot call Doug 762-7107 or 699-
9327

Fernan Lake, Wolf Lodge Bay, Beauty Bay and Mineral Ridge

Date: November 11, Saturday

Meet: Fernan Ranger Station

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Janet Callen 208 664-1085

Target Birds: Loons

We'll check out Fernan Lake for waterfowl, then
on to Wolf Lodge Bay and Beauty Bay in search
of Loons, and other waterfowl. Weather
permitting we'll hike the trail on Mineral Ridge.

Mica Bay Survey

Date: November 14, Tuesday (held 2nd
Tuesday of each month - times vary depending
on month)

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

Leader: Janet Callen 664-1085

Activity: We spend about 3 hours once a month
counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are
welcome to come and learn bird
snacks and lunch.

New Member Application

Join Online

Become a member of the National Audubon Society, Join

Online at:

https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation2?df_id=8080&8080.donation=form1

Pick Chapter Code G06

From the dropdown list

Join by Phone

You may also call National Audubon at **1-844-428-3826**

And remember to reference our

Chapter Code G06

CDA Audubon Chapter Officers

President:
Midge Marcy-Brennan 208 661-0206
Vice President:
Dick Cripe 208 665-0010
Recording Secretary:
Valerie Zagar 208 819-5115
Treasurer:
Janet Callen 208 664-1085
Board Members: all officers +
Barbara Christofferson, Kathy Cousins, Darlene Carlton, Eula Hickam, Ralph Kerr

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Publicity: open
Field Trips: Dick Cripe 208 665-0010
George Saylor 208 664-2787
Education: Barbara Christofferson 208 667-3931
Conservation: Midge Marcy-Brennan
Membership: Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616
Hospitality: Elli Emm
Newsletter: Shirley Sturts 208 664-5318
Programs: Eula Hickam 208 661-3228
Mailing: Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616
Webmaster: Shirley Sturts 208 664-5318
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 _____*

Total \$ _____

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

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**

