

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

November 2021

Volume 31 Number 3

## November Program



**November 9 , Tuesday**

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Due to the increase in the number of COVID cases, this will be a zoom meeting. Shirley will send out information on our membership email list when it is available. It will also be posted on our Website.

**Program:** "Birds of the Deserts of the Pacific Northwest," Narrated by Mike Denny and filmed by Daniel Biggs.

### **Board Meeting**

**Date:** November 9, Tuesday

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Place:** Zoom meeting

Anyone interested in joining our team on the board call Ralph at 208-660-3220

## President's Message

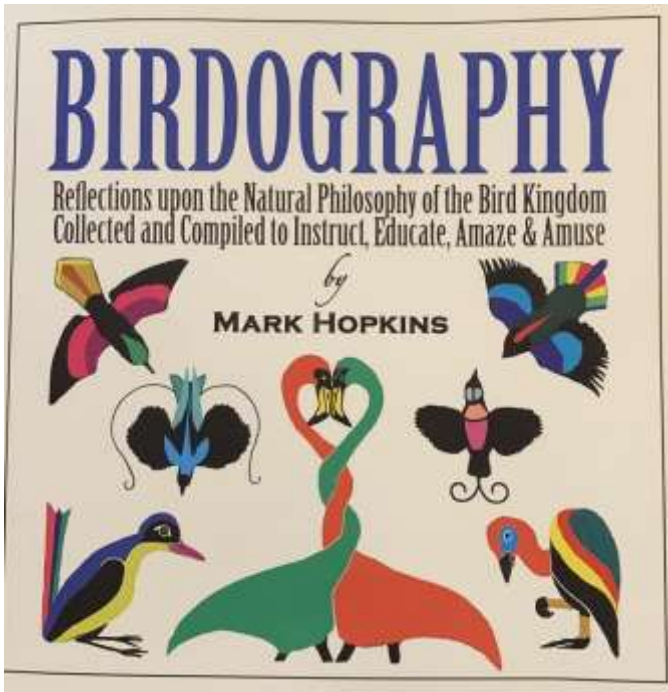


Isn't it amazing how time flies? Here we are approaching the month of November. Maybe it is my age but 2021 is speeding on. Most of the leaves have changed and many have fallen. However, as I write this there is still plenty of color out there to enjoy. I am awaiting the brilliant color of the Western Larch in the mountains. They present a tapestry of gold against the evergreen background.

I recently returned from several days in Yellowstone National Park. It was refreshing to listen to the elk bugle and enjoy the fall colors. One of my goals for this trip was to see and photograph a Golden Eagle. Unfortunately, someone must have warned the Golden Eagles because I did not see one. However, to me the fun is in the hunt.

Continued on page 2

## Book Review



### ***Birdography: Reflections upon the Natural Philosophy of the Bird Kingdom Collected and Compiled to Instruct, Educate, Amaze & Amuse***

**By Mark Hopkins**

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for a birdwatcher? A new bird book has just been published that is like no other that I have seen. Mark's talent as an illustrator, his love and knowledge of birds, and his sense of humor shines through on every page. The book consists of humorous cartoons depicting the vast variety of birds doing what birds do.

One of my favorites is the illustration of a stilt (a shorebird with very long legs, thus the name) trying to figure out what do with her legs when she sits on her nest of eggs. Another is a duck that sat on the wrong nest of eggs. I won't tell you what happened when an egg hatched. You will have to get the book.

Peter Alden, National Audubon Society Field Guide series author and world-renowned birder, said in his review of the book "The book captures the minds and actions of our cherished bird populations in a witty, lighthearted, and enjoyable way"

The book is on Amazon but you may want to support our local bookstore, The Well Read Moose, by ordering it there. His revenue from the book will be donated to non-profit groups working in a conservation and climate change.

*Shirley Sturts*



## President's Message

Continued from page 1

Birds, other than Ravens, were naturally scarce because most have migrated to warmer climates for the winter.

So much for my activities. How have you been enjoying birds in this changing season? I hope you are still taking time to "enjoy the hunt" for birds that migrate late or stay for the winter. I invite you to share your experiences with the membership. Shirley recently mentioned our Big Year Bird Count is only a few species short of our 200-bird goal. She may be including more information on that elsewhere in this newsletter.

A photographer friend recently posted a photo of a Rough Legged Hawk, a winter visitor to our area. You may see them scanning from a power pole or other elevated perch. Keep an eye out.

Continued on page 3

## President's Message

Continued from page 2



Another anticipated bird is the Bald Eagles that typically begin arriving at

Lake Coeur d'Alene (and other areas) around mid-November.

Please keep watching the newsletter and be alert for emails about our upcoming program(s). We are having to make changes to some of our anticipated programs because a program may not lend itself to Zoom presentation. I appreciate your patience as we continue to navigate through our present meeting circumstances.

Having said that, I want to let you know that the November 9 program is confirmed. The program is "Birds of the Deserts of the Pacific Northwest," Narrated by Mike Denny and filmed by Daniel Biggs. You may remember a program "Secret Life of the Forest: The Northern Blue Mountains" these men presented to our club in the past. Mr. Denny says the photography in the new program is better than the Forest program. If you want to get a preview of the quality of this new Desert program, the Secret Life of the Forest program is available on YouTube.

Your board continues to give attention to education and other issues important to Audubon. One of those projects is working with the Coeur d'Alene Library to provide birding backpacks to be checked out by

beginning birders. The backpacks are intended to be appropriate for children as well as adults. Binoculars are a necessary component of these backpacks. If you should happen to have a pair of Binoculars you would like to pass on to a beginning birder, please let me or another board member know, and we thank you in advance.

Enjoy this changing season, and good birding.

**Ralph Kerr, President**



## Kootenai County Big Year Additions

See:

<http://cdaudubon.org/Projects/kootenaico2021.html>

**Our goal is 200 - we are at 186**

**Surf Scoter - 6 (female/immature type) -**  
October 18 - Cougar Bay- Dog Ward

**Gray Partridge - October 18 - Fightin'**  
Creek area - David Yake

**Eared Grebe - October 13 -**  
Cougar Bay - Doug Ward (rarely seen in our area)- with the more common Pied-billed, Red-necked and Horned Grebe

**Canyon Wren - October 16 - Bayview - Doug**  
Ward (rare - 9 sightings past 20 years)

**Lesser Goldfinch - 4 - September 19 - Canyon**  
Road Marsh - Ryan Bart - this is a new species for Kootenai County

## Other Bird Sightings

**Common Loon** - October 13 - Bennett Bay - Doug Ward

**Pygmy Owl** - October 22 -one hit her picture window and ended up on her deck - it recovered and flew into the pines - Blue Creek Bay - JoAnn Schaller

**Anna's Hummingbird** - 1 female/immature - October 9- at feeder on the deck of his Bayview cabin - Doug Ward

**Pileated Woodpecker** - October 9 in his yard Loch Haven, Hayden - Doug Ward

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** - 3 - October 9 - in his yard, Loch Haven, Hayden - Doug Ward

**Townsend's Solitaire** - 1 - September 21-26 around their house and barn (1/4 mile apart) Del Blackburn

**White-crowned Sparrow** - daily in October in his yard, Loch Haven, Hayden - Doug Ward and CDA Corinne and Del Cameron

**White-throated Sparrow** - October 15 - in their yard CDA Corinne and Del Cameron and October 13 - Loch Haven, Hayden -Doug Ward - (a different one from the one he had in September)

**Wilson's Warbler** - October 9 - in his yard, Loch Haven, Hayden - Doug Ward

**MacGillivray' Warbler** - October 5 - in his yard, Loch Haven, Hayden - Doug Ward

## Gulls

Gulls are very challenging to identify because of their different plumages. There are 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and for some 3<sup>rd</sup> winter plumage. Adult gulls have a winter plumage and breeding plumage. Some field marks you can look for are size, leg and eye color, beak markings, mantle color, and wing markings.

By far the majority of our year around gulls are Ring-billed Gulls. The adults have yellow legs and eyes, black wing tips, and a black ring around their bill, thus the name Ring-billed.

During migration and in the winter is a good time to look for other gull species that wander into to North Idaho. Doug Ward found some of these wanderers in Sandpoint on October 12<sup>th</sup>: one 1<sup>st</sup> year Short-billed Gull (Mew Gull-recent name change), one adult Bonaparte's Gull, one adult California Gull, six adult Herring Gull.

Some other gulls to look for in our area are: Lesser Black-backed Gull, Thayer's Gull, Glaucous Gull, and Glaucous-winged Gull.

The Herring Gull is one of my favorites and the adult is easy to pick out among a group of Ring-billed Gulls. It is slightly larger, has pink legs, yellow eyes, and yellow bill with a red dot. There are often several together.

Lesser Black-backed Gull looks something like a Herring but easily picked out by a very dark mantle and wings.

Are you up for the challenge? City Beach and the dike road are good places to test your skill at gull identification.

*Shirley Sturts*

## Mica Bay Survey

Observers: Janet Callen (leader), Sally Jones, Vera Taggart, Darlene Carlton  
9 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Northern Flicker 4  
Black-capped Chickadee 8  
Red-breasted Nuthatch 1  
Robin-11  
Song Sparrow-2  
Red-wing Blackbird-2  
Ring-billed gull -1  
+ 25 unidentified gulls  
Pine Siskins -7  
Canada Geese -160  
Belted Kingfisher-2  
Bald Eagle-2  
Western Grebe-6  
Red-necked Grebe-2  
American Wigeon-50  
Mallard-100+  
Redhead-2  
Northern Harrier-1  
Killdeer-5  
Great Blue Heron-1  
American Goldfinch-1  
Common Raven-3



## CDA Christmas Bird Count

**Date:** December 18, Saturday

**Leader:** Doug Ward - call or email Doug to participate 208 699-9327 or [dougward@frontier.com](mailto:dougward@frontier.com)

Let him know how you want to participate: count at your feeder, go half or full day, by yourself or with others, the area you would like to do. Because of Covid we no longer make up teams but you can make up your own team with those you feel comfortable being with

## Winter Wings Festival

**Dates:** Friday, February 18, 2022 through Sunday, February 20, 2022

Host site: Oregon Institute of Technology (Oregon Tech), 3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls, Oregon, 97601

Website: [www.WinterWingsFest.org](http://www.WinterWingsFest.org)

Registration opens in mid-Dec. on date TBA  
For information call 877-541-BIRD (2473) or email to [info@winterwingsfest.org](mailto:info@winterwingsfest.org)

## Field Trips and Activities

### Mica Bay Survey

**Date:** November 9, Tuesday

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

**Meet:** Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

**Leader:** Janet Callen

**Activity:** We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay Beginner birders are welcome.

Get ready for a 2022 Winter Wings Festival like no other! Winter Wings brings together birders and photographers to learn and explore with top notch professionals and enthusiastic local guides. The Klamath Basin is renowned for its massive wintering population of Bald Eagles, but is prime habitat for many other raptors including owls, as well as a diversity of waterfowl.

**CDA Audubon Chapter**  
**Officer**

President: Ralph Kerr 208 660-3220

Vice President: open

Recording Secretary: Pamela  
Gomes

Treasurer:

Janet Callen 208 664-1085

Board Members:

all officers and  
Ted Smith, Patty Beyer

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Publicity

Field Trips - Ted Smith

Education: Barbara Christofferson 208 667-  
3931

Conservation:

Membership: Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616

Hospitality: Elli Emm\

Newsletter - : Shirley Sturts

Mailing: Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616

Webmaster: Shirley Sturts

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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