

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society

OCTOBER 2006

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 2

## BOARD MEETING

**DATE:** October 16, Monday  
**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Mt. West Bank  
125 Ironwood Dr.

## OCTOBER PROGRAM

**DATE:** October 16, Monday  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** First Presbyterian  
Church, 521 E. Lakeside, Coeur  
d'Alene

**SPEAKER:** Beth Paragamian,  
Watchable Wildlife Specialist  
**PROGRAM:** " Wildlife Educational  
Sampler " Using volunteers, Beth  
will demonstrate fish painting,  
examining owl pellets, using  
plaster casts and other educational  
activities she uses in her wildlife  
programs.  
There will be handouts of materials  
available for check out from  
Watchable Wildlife.

## HAWK WATCH - OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

Lisa Hardy



**Northern Harrier**  
Photo by Bill Linn

Hawk watch sites have been located throughout North America to tally migrating raptors in order to monitor population changes. The sites are typically chosen where winds meet the mountains, and the migrating birds exploit the resultant updrafts. Examples of hawk watch sites in the west are the Goshute Mountains,

Nevada; the Wellsville Mountains, Utah; and the Bridger Mountains, Montana, where our chapter will visit for an October field trip.

Data from these sites over the period 1985 to 2001 suggest that until the late 1990s when possibly drought-related downturns began, Intermountain-Rocky Mountain populations of Turkey Vultures, Ospreys, Broad-winged Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Merlins, and Peregrine Falcons were increasing for diverse reasons. In contrast, the migration data and other sources indicate concern over the status of western Golden Eagles and Ferruginous Hawks, and uncertainty about the status of western Northern Goshawks and American Kestrels.

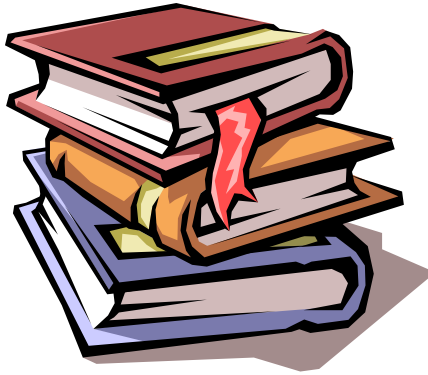
The Bridger site tallies the highest number of Golden Eagles, with the greatest concentration passing by in the first two weeks of October.

Hawk watch protocol typically consists of two observers working together for an 8-hour shift starting at 8 AM to identify all passing raptors as to species, sex, age, and color morph, as far as is possible. The observers use 7x to 10x binoculars to detect raptors, and may use a spotting scope to identify already detected raptors. Resident raptors are identified by their behavior and excluded from the tally.

Join the October field trip when our chapter journeys to Bozeman to observe the raptor migration as well as the observers who count them.

*The information in this article comes from "Population trends of migratory raptors in western North America, 1977-2001", Condor 105:397-419. See also [www.hawkwatch.org](http://www.hawkwatch.org).*

## AUDUBON ART FIELD TRIP



Pat Anderson is the niece of Robert Anderson, and she provided this history of the 8 volume Audubon set of "Birds of America" and the 3 volume "Quadrupeds of North America" that now belong to the Wallace Library. The set is the focus of our field trip to Wallace on October 24.

"The Audubon set was purchased by Leonard Hanson, a physician who moved to Wallace in the early 1900s where he practiced medicine in the hospital at the corner of First and Cedar. The hospital is no longer there. Leonard married Florence Anderson who moved to Wallace in 1887 at the age of 1. At that time, Wallace itself was only three years old. Florence assumed ownership of these books, along with many others, when her husband died in 1925. She then passed them at her death to Robert L. Anderson, her nephew, who took great pride in them. Bob was a mining engineer who worked at the Sunshine Mine for most of his adult life. He was Chief Engineer for several years preceding his retirement. At his death at the age of 87 in 2003, Bob gave the Wallace Carnegie Public Library "first right of refusal" for all the books in the Anderson library. The library

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trustees chose the Audubon books as well as a large number of other books of natural history, American, turn of the century world-wide exploration, and literary value. A sizeable number of similar books remain in the Anderson home, including some very fine birding books. There are 8 volumes in this beautifully bound set. Volume I bears the inscription of Ulysses S Grant who apparently gave the set as a gift. At the time I first encountered them in 1983, I doubt if many of the volumes had ever been opened or read. In addition, for most of their life, the books were housed in the home library behind glass doors and therefore are in excellent condition. The pride of ownership now belongs with the City of Wallace and its custodian of the books, The Wallace Carnegie Public Library."

The Wallace Audubon set appears to be a later royal octavo edition. Audubon's work was first published as a set of 4 large folios, "elephant folios" between 1827 and 1833. From 1840 to 1844, a smaller format set known as the royal octavo first edition was published as a seven volume set. This smaller set was less expensive, making it accessible to the upper middle class. From 1856 to 1871, the multiple later editions of the royal octavo set were published. Sets published before 1865 were of seven volumes; after 1865, the sets were in eight volumes. The octavo sets were printed from stone lithographs, and then hand-colored, causing the fine details of the prints to be variable. The date on the Wallace set is 1856, but that is probably the copyright date, as the eight volumes, rather than seven, indicates a publication between 1865 and 1871.

On our field trip, we will examine both the "Birds" and the "Quadrupeds" sets at the Wallace Library. We will also look at some 20th century field guides to see how styles have changed over time.

For an overview of 19th century Audubon prints, see <http://www.audubon.org/nas/art.html>

## FARMER'S MARKET, IN AUGUST

Janet Callen



Our local chapter was well-represented at the Farmer's Market this year. Lynn Sheridan, Jan Kendle, Judy Edwards and I all took turns visiting with the many individuals who stopped to ask about our organization and talk about birds. The Idaho Birding Trail guides generated a lot of interest and we sold a number of them. Lynn's beautiful hand-made cards always appeal to the market visitors. As always, this is the event where we sell our organization and brag a little. A lot of people were interested in our various events and requested a September copy of the newsletter.

Again we thank the Farmer's Market for generously giving us a space free of charge. It is a good place to hang out on a nice Saturday morning.

## 2006-2007 FIELD TRIPS

### FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

1. **PLEASE REGISTER:** Dates and trips could change - check future newsletters or our website - or call the trip leader ahead of time
2. **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.
3. **RADIOS:** We will ask participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries as needed.
4. **UNSCHEDULED TRIPS :** Sign up to be on the group email list for unscheduled trips with Shirley Sturts: [s.sturts@verizon.net](mailto:s.sturts@verizon.net). Those without email may get on a call list by calling Shirley at 664-5318.

### RATHDRUM PRAIRIE SEARCH

**DATES:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month - **TIME:** Call for time - it will vary

**MEET:** 8732 North Meyer Road (One road east of Highway 41 and between Prairie and Hayden Ave.) home of Stephen Johnson.

**LEADER:** Stephen Johnson - 765-6516

**ACTIVITY:** Come help Stephen with his Rathdrum Prairie bird study. He will be reporting from time to time what he finds out on the Prairie. He is asking for our help! It should be fun. Please call Stephen ahead of time and let him know if you are coming. He can then let you know if he needs to change the day or time of the trip.

### MICA BAY SURVEY

**DATES:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month - **TIME:** 8:00 A.M. September - November and April; 9:00 a.m. December- March: 7:00 a.m. May-August

**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.

### BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

**DATE:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month - **TIME:** 12:00 noon - 1:00 P.M.

**MEET:** October 17th Tubbs Hill - 11<sup>th</sup> Street entrance

**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 that share your interest in nature. Beginner bird watchers are welcome.

### MONTANA HAWK WATCH

**DATE:** October 9 to 11, Monday to Wednesday - **TIME:** We will leave Monday morning; contact the trip leader to arrange for car pooling and meeting place.

**LEADER:** Lisa Hardy 682-4808 or [basalt@earthlink.net](mailto:basalt@earthlink.net)

**ACTIVITY:** Hawk watch to Bozeman, Montana. We will drive over on Monday, visit the hawk watch station on Tuesday and drive home on Wednesday. The Bridger Hawk Watch site outside Bozeman tallies the highest number of migrating Golden Eagles and their peak migration is the first two weeks in October.

### JOHN JAMES AUDUBON PRINTS

**DATE:** October 24, Tuesday - **TIME:** 1:00 PM

**MEET:** Fernan Ranger Station (Alternate times and locations - 2:00 PM at the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes trailhead in Wallace. Or meet at the Wallace Library at 6:00 PM for just the book viewing part of the trip.)

**LEADER:** Lisa Hardy 682-4808 or [basalt@earthlink.net](mailto:basalt@earthlink.net)

**ACTIVITY:** We will hike the trail from Wallace, then have supper in Wallace before viewing a later edition of Audubon's Birds of America at the Wallace Library starting at 6:00 PM. This eight-volume set published between 1865 and 1871 was recently donated to the library. There will be additional early naturalist publications on view.

## GREEN TIP

**Green tip is a monthly feature in our newsletter. It is designed to give you ideas for taking personal conservation action to improve the environmental health and habitat quality of our yards and neighborhoods. (Members are encouraged to send tips to the editor for inclusion in future**

## IT'S FALL MIGRATION TIME!

### *Audubon Urges People Coast to Coast to Help Birds Make it Safely to Their Wintering Grounds*

**New York, NY, September 13, 2006** – Each year from August to November, 5 billion birds in North America – including songbirds, hummingbirds, raptors and others – make their way from their summer breeding grounds in northern areas to their winter homes in the south. Their migration is wrought with perils, such as storms, limited food supplies, and exhaustion. Compounding these natural threats are the ones created by humans, including the bright lights and tall structures of cities, prowling domestic pets and toxic lawns.

People can provide a safer journey for migrating birds, especially when the birds stop in their yards and communities for rest and food. The Audubon At Home program urges people to take the following steps to help ensure a successful fall migration for our feathered friends:

- **Turn off lights at night:** Birds become disoriented by artificial light, which often results in fatal collisions with buildings, homes, and other structures. To prevent this, turn off exterior and interior lights during the peak migration

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hours of midnight to dawn. Outfit exterior lights with top and side shields to direct the light downward, where it is needed. If you work in a high-rise, advocate for “lights out” during migration season.

- **Prevent window collisions:** Many birds strike windows after being startled off a feeder, seeing escape routes mirrored in reflective glass. To avoid this, reduce reflectivity with light-colored shades, blinds, or drapes; place netting or a screen in front of the window; or stick decals closely spaced to the outside of windows. Place bird feeders either within 3 feet or more than 30 feet of windows – at 3 feet birds do not have an adequate distance to reach a high speed and are less likely to get injured. At more than 30 feet birds are more likely to recognize the window.

- **Keep cats indoors:** Cats – domestic, stray, or feral – kill an estimated hundreds of millions of birds each year. Ground feeding birds, such as cardinals and quail, as well as young, immature birds, are the most vulnerable. Keeping cats indoors helps keep the birds outdoors safe, and it also reduces risks to cats, especially from injuries and disease.

- **Eliminate pesticides:** U.S. households use 102 million pounds of pesticides in their homes and gardens annually, which kill several million birds each year when the birds ingest tainted insects, seeds and other food sources. Use the least toxic alternatives for combating pests.

- **Keep feeders stocked and clean:** Birds will need places to rest and refuel, so make sure that your yard includes native plants and your bird-feeders are

well-stocked. Along with feeders and native plants, provide a source of fresh water for the thirsty travelers. Reduce the risk of spreading disease at feeders by regularly cleaning them with a nine-to-one water-bleach solution, or a dilute vinegar solution (three-to-one) or non-fragranced biodegradable soap.

For more information on how to keep birds safe, visit the Audubon At Home website at [www.audubonathome.org](http://www.audubonathome.org) (go to the “Keeping Wildlife Safe” link on the left-hand side of the page).

**News Release from the National Audubon Webpage**

## (REVETT LAKE HIKE) SHOREBIRD FIELD TRIP

Roland Craft

The Revett Lake hike scheduled for September 10th was cancelled because of a wildfire in the area. Instead, it was decided to look for shorebirds and other interesting birds in the area of Lane Marsh, Medimont, Medicine Lake and Hardy Loop. Before we even left Fernan, we spotted a fawn whitetail deer, California Quail and Wild Turkey. This must have been a good sign because we identified 36 species of birds. Among the shorebirds were Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Wilson Snipe, Sora, and American Pipit. Waterfowl included Hooded Merganser, Western and Pied-billed Grebe, Mallard American Widgeon, Green-winged Teal and American Coot. While not listing all of the other species of birds, we also saw Great Blue Heron, American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, Catbird, Marsh and

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Bewick's Wren, Spotted Towhee, Northern Harrier, Cedar Waxwing and several different sparrows. All in all, it was a productive and fun day. Participants were Kris Buchler, Shirley Sturts, Janet Callen, Judy Roehr and Roland Craft.



## OBSERVATION POST

Red-tailed  
Hawk  
Photo by  
Wavne Tree

### FROM THE JOURNAL OF KRIS BUCHLER TALES OF MISIDENTIFICATION

**August 25, 2006**

Ed and I had volunteered to help at the Idaho Fish and Game's Wildlife Building during the Kootenai County Fair. At about 6:00 P.M. Bob Baker, the Director at Lutherhaven, appeared carrying a pillowcase with something in it. He said it was a hawk that had been at the camp all day, staying on the ground. He decided things weren't normal and he should capture it, which he easily did.

Ed and I participated in an International Wildlife Rehabilitation Workshop some years ago along with Shirley Sturts and a few past Audubon members. Some of our skills were rusty as we had not been doing any rehab for years. Last August we spent a Saturday with Jane Cantwell, training to be her triage team for immediate medical care for raptors, enabling her to take a much deserved trip to Alaska. We were getting ready for a trip ourselves to the east coast and

never really thought we would get "the call."

Ed took the hastily identified Red-tailed Hawk home while I fulfilled my committed hours at the fair. The bird was placed in a large box with numerous ventilation holes where it could rest undisturbed and with little outside stimulation. The next morning we did a physical assessment which didn't show any obvious broken bones or injuries. The keel was sharp, however, indicating starvation. The bird appeared to be a juvenile Red-tailed Hawk, yet small even for that. A quick book review of local raptors eliminated any other birds of prey common to this area. However, I did not carefully analyze every field mark as our goal was to rehab the bird with as little stress to it as possible.

#### Our routine was as follows:

The bird is injected (subcutaneously) with 20cc of saline to rehydrate it. Starving birds are usually dehydrated. Next, the bird receives one intramuscular shot of vitamins. Lastly, the bird is tube fed a slurry made of Gerbers turkey or chicken, a dab of a high protein additive, and enough PediaLyte to make it into the consistency of gravy. This is sucked into a large syringe and then injected through a naso-gastric tube.

Tube feeding is tricky. It takes a lot of faith. Faith that Ed is holding the bird securely and will not let go of the talons. Faith that when I open the beak and stick my thumb into the joint of the upper and lower mandibles, the bird will not take my thumb off. Faith that I will not kill the bird by drowning it with food if I have not properly inserted the tube several inches down the right side of its throat into the

crop. Faith that this whole procedure does not stress the bird more than it helps it.

We repeated this three times a day for three days. Each time I handled the bird, I remarked that it seemed small for a Red-tailed Hawk. We then sent the bird down to Jane's where volunteers hoped it could feed itself. Each day we cared for it, the bird grew stronger and seemed much better than when we got it. Unfortunately, many birds seem to rally before they succumb to their conditions.

When we returned from Maryland and New York, we hesitantly put in a call to Jane to see how the bird had fared. We welcomed her good news that it was doing well and getting stronger each day. However, she had other news! The bird was not a juvenile Red-tailed but a juvenile Broad-winged Hawk, rare for our area. After checking with Shirley Sturts, there is only one other report of a sighting of this hawk in North Idaho. However, after studying the field marks, it is possible that we just have not been vigilant enough in identifying some of our hawks in flight. These birds look very similar with subtle differences that may not be apparent in bad light.

The bird requires a Rare Bird Report which we will do soon. We will plan on releasing it as soon as possible so it can complete its migration south where it may join other Broad-winged Hawks along the coast of California. Sibley's Guide shows the birds do summer across part of Alberta and this young bird just didn't get on a migration route to the Midwest where the species is fairly common.

**Kris Buchler**

