

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

October 2014

Volume 24 Number 2

OCTOBER PROGRAM

DATE: October 14, Tuesday
PLACE: Lutheran Church of the Master,
4800 N. Ramsey, CDA
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PROGRAM: "What's Happening to the
Birds?" As you drive around our beautiful
area, have you noticed that a strange
thing is happening among bird
populations? I certainly have - more of
some, less of others, new species
arriving, other common ones
disappearing....? You're right! Things are
changing in the bird world and not
necessarily for the best!

Field Trip Volunteers Needed

The field trip committee is looking for volunteers to suggest (and preferably lead) a field trip in the latter part of October and also one in the latter part of November. The trip does not necessarily have to be a full day trip. Without volunteers there will be fewer trips. Don't be shy about leading a trip. Birding expertise is not required to be a leader.

We will certainly appreciate your help.
Contact Roland Craft 457-8894 or Janet Callen 664-1085

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President's Message

Thanks to everyone who passed on ideas to me about programs for our monthly meetings! I'm working on them now to fill out the agenda for the year. It's great to be involved in such a helpful and knowledgeable group.

I also want to thank the board members for their support and ideas. I've served on many boards in my life - this is one of the best! We can all look forward to a good season of learning about our area and enjoying each other at the same time. I'll see you at the meetings and in the field.

Eula Hickam

Mica Bay Viewing Platform

Many thanks to the Audubon members who mopped the viewing platform at Mica Bay. A big thank you to Roland Craft, Darlene Carlton and Rob and Nancy Kroese for waterproofing the platform. Also a special thank you to Roland for taking the initiative in organizing the waterproofing project.



In Pursuit Of The Mountain Quail

Riggins, Idaho April 21, 22
and 23, 2014

Judy Waring

After gathering all of the information about Mountain Quail sightings in the Riggins area from birders familiar with the region, six of our Coeur d'Alene Audubon members drew out a plan to visit the most likely spots to see this elusive bird and headed south.

The first stop was at Skookumchuck rest stop, not far north of Riggins, and while the variety of species we picked up there was interesting, the search for our target bird was not over. We next visited the Slate Creek Ranger Station to check on possible recent sightings. No new reports had come in regarding the Mountain Quail but we decided to take a drive along Slate Creek road, birding along the way through both forested and agricultural land, adding more species to the list.

Our third destination was the Denny Creek Road, a hairpin climb that netted us one or two more birds. The next afternoon we headed for the final area that we had been told to check out, Rapid River Road, ending at the Rapid River Hatchery. A conversation with a hatchery employee sent us on one last search in an old pasture nearby with blackberry thickets growing on the far hillside. Perseverance paid off! Two Mountain Quail flushed from the blackberry thickets, one posing on a rock for about 10 seconds for two of our party, and the rest of us saw them in flight. We were as excited as 9 year-olds! It was a life bird for all of

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us. In on the fun: Bill Gundlach, Marilyn Robinson, Roland Craft, Janet Callen, and Phil and Judy Waring.



HIGH-ELEVATION HIKE

September 10,
Dick Cripe

On September 10 (The original September 3rd was rained out.) five stalwart Auduboners endured the 10 miles of Forest Service road towards Striped Peak for the advantage of beginning the hike at 5500 ft. elevation. The hike to the peak was shorter, but steeper, than expected. It was under two miles and 800' gain to the summit. The footing was of concern traversing the talus slope on a narrow trail. The view from the top of Striped Peak was grand - a clear fall day, partially overcast, but visibility for miles in all directions. Several raptors, probably Red-tail Hawks, were seen circling far overhead. We wondered if this was a mini-flyway for raptors migrating south. Part of the party proceeded down the south side of the peak and over to the St. Joe Ridge before circling back to join the others descending the same trail.

Birds found included: Red-tailed Hawk 2, Sharp-shinned Hawk 2, American Kestrel 1, Dark-eyed Junco 1, grouse (species) at 5000 feet, Pine Siskin 1, Northern Flicker 1, Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, Mountain Chickadee 2, American Robin 1, White-crowned Sparrow 2

Participants were: Judy Waring, Lisa Hardy, Cheryl Harris, Roland Craft, and Dick Cripe

Birding Turnbull

September 16, Tuesday

George Saylor



As the cool morning gradually gave way to higher temperatures reaching the high 80s by mid-afternoon, six intrepid CDA Audubon members stuck with it and tallied 30 species on their trip to Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. The count would be 31 if the birds wandering one of the mudflats on the far shore of Blackhorse Lake were indeed juvenile Horned Larks as we thought they might be. Two or three others simply were put into the "we can't say" category, but there were enough good sightings to satisfy our group.

We had a similar moment of doubt about the two swans seen in the far distance at the very end of Pine Lake, but after eating lunch at the park headquarters we conferred with one of the park rangers and are confident that we had indeed seen the Trumpeter Swans resident there. While on that same walk we had a much closer look at a Hairy

Woodpecker at work, and followed tracks clearly made by a cow and calf moose.



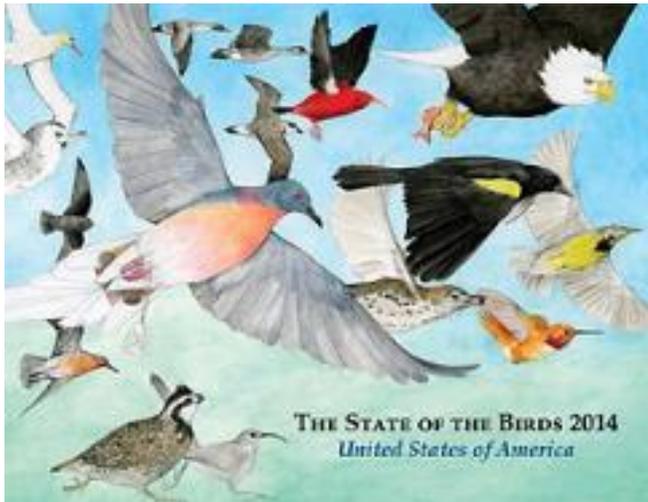
American White Pelican
Photograph by Wayne Tree

Early morning activity was heavy and before we had even reached the refuge a half-dozen species, including a flock of White Pelicans, had been spotted. Numerous songbirds were flitting about, most notably Yellow-rumped Warblers and several small flocks of Western Bluebirds and Chipping Sparrows. The highlight of the day for the three or four of us who saw it was a Sora which had emerged from the shoreline vegetation long enough for a good but brief look.

Waterfowl were there in decent numbers but not overwhelmingly so. Nine species of ducks were seen, the last one identified was a solitary female Pintail, and just prior to that a few scaup were seen, and after much deliberation we thought it was a Lesser but conceded it could be a Greater. So much for certainty!

The six participants included Roland Craft, Karen Williams, Darlene Carlton, Jan Severtson, Ronn Rich, and George Saylor

State of the Birds 2014 Finds Aridland Habitats Rapidly Degrading



From American Bird Conservancy

Bird science and conservation groups, and federal agencies have come together to publish *State of the Birds 2014*—the most comprehensive review of long-term trend data for U.S. birds ever conducted. The full report can be found at:

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

State of the Birds assessed population trends in seven key habitats and finds bird populations declining in arid lands (deserts and sagebrush), grasslands, eastern and western forests. Birds in fragile aridland habitats show the steepest population declines in the nation with a 46 percent loss in the population of these birds since 1968. Habitat loss and fragmentation, energy development, hydrological alteration, overgrazing and conversion to agriculture are the largest threats.

These are also significant threats in the nation's grasslands, where the report notes a decline in breeding birds, like the Eastern Meadowlark and the Bobolink, of nearly 40 percent since 1968. That decline, however, appears to have leveled off since 1990—a result, the authors say, of the significant investments made in grassland bird conservation.

There are some encouraging signs for many species in grasslands, wetlands and several other key habitats that have benefited from targeted conservation efforts. In general, development is squeezing shorebirds and their habitat along the coasts. However, among the 49 coastal species examined, there has been a steady rise in populations of 28 percent since 1968. This may be a reflection of the establishment of 160 national coastal wildlife refuges and nearly 600,000 acres of national seashore in ten states.

Common Birds in Decline

What's happening to birds we know and love?

Audubon's unprecedented analysis of 40 years of [citizen-science](#) bird population data from our own [Christmas Bird Count](#) plus the Breeding Bird Survey reveals alarming declines for many of our most common and beloved birds.

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Common Birds in Decline

Continued from page 4

Since 1967 the average population of the common birds in steepest decline has fallen by 68 percent; some individual species nose-dived as much as 80 percent. All 20 birds on the national [Common Birds in Decline](#) list lost at least half their populations in just four decades.

The findings point to growing impact from the many environmental challenges our birds face, from habitat loss from development, deforestation, and conversion of land to agriculture, to climate change. Only citizen action can make a difference for the birds and the state of our future

FIELD TRIPS 2014

PLEASE REGISTER: Watch the website or newsletter for updates to our field trip schedule. **Additional field trips will be added if we have volunteers to lead them**

Please contact our field trip coordinators Janet Callen 664-1085 and Roland Craft 457-8894 to suggest or volunteer to lead a trip. 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

Heyburn State Park

Date: October 11, Saturday

Meet: Kmart parking lot, 7:30 AM

Leader: Lisa Hardy 783-1262

We will hike the bike trail or one of the trails, depending on weather, and then check out Chatcolet Lake from a few viewpoints. This will be a three-quarter day trip, so bring lunch and water. Wear sturdy shoes and dress appropriately for our unpredictable north Idaho weather.

Mica Bay Survey

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

Time: 8:00 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 8, Saturday

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 on the lake. Target birds will include Loons.

**NEW MEMBER
APPLICATION**

Become a member of the National Audubon Society, Join online at www.audubon.org or use this form.

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP

- Regular \$20.00
 Two Years \$30.00
 Seniors and Students \$15.00

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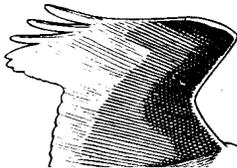
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Send this application and your check payable to:

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