

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

October 2019  
Volume 30 Number 2

## October Program

Date: October 8, Tuesday

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey, CDA

Speaker: Carrie Hugo, Wildlife Biologist for the BLM and past CDA Audubon president

Program: "Bird By Bird Program"



Carrie will share the successes of the Bird by Bird Program in two of our Kootenai County Schools. This popular and growing outreach program was created by Idaho Fish and Game and it brings birds into the classroom by providing bird feeding supplies, field guides, binoculars, and most importantly facilitators. The goal of the Bird by Bird program is to connect students with birds and the habitats they depend on, ultimately increasing their knowledge and desire to become future stewards. CDA Audubon has sponsored the Bird By Bird program for two years by "adopting" two classrooms,

## President's Message



I was going to write about the fall migration as birds leave for the south and what an amazing feat that is. However, in this morning's Spokesman is a shocking article - MISSING: NEARLY

3 BILLION BIRDS THAT USED TO LIVE IN NORTH AMERICA. The research was published in the journal Science. Lead author Kenneth Rosenberg, conservation scientist at Cornell University and the American Bird Conservancy, explains that the researchers compiled information from a variety of sources including weather radar and the North American Breeding Bird Surveys which go back to 1970. (Incidentally, some of our members have participated in these Breeding Bird Surveys and two are currently active in the program. Our club has probably contributed to this data through the Mica Bay monthly surveys, the Christmas Bird Count, the annual Century Count done in May, and the HooDoo Valley Bluebird Nest box Trail done every summer.)

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## President's Message

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Whereas researchers had previously been able to monitor trends by species, they had never been able to estimate total population size. The article notes that 90% of those lost since 1970 have been from 12 bird families including the small migratory songbirds such as swallows, warblers, finches, bluebirds, and vireos as well as grassland dwelling birds such as some sparrows, meadowlarks, and grouse. The primary cause of the decline is loss of habitat through human activity as well as the use of pesticides.

"Declines in the abundance of common species may not seem as dramatic as the endangerment of rare ones, but it is a very serious form of ecosystem erosion. That's because abundant species play important roles in their biomes, whether they control pests, pollinate flowers, disperse seeds, or provide food for other animals or contribute to the natural beauty of an area that draws tourists who support local economies. When you're losing abundance you're losing the fabric of food chains, the fabric of ecosystems, more than losing one rare species."

Their research also implied the possibility of positively accelerating declines. As the population of a species shrinks, it gets harder and harder for individuals to find mates. So at some critical point the total disappearance of a species could occur fairly rapidly - (think Passenger Pigeons).

When we look at the rapid growth in our area, we can see what is happening. The Rathdrum Prairie has largely disappeared



and the rest will be gone shortly affecting the variety of birds who lived and hunted there. The wide-spread use of pesticides kills insects which reduces the food supply of insect-eating species. Virtually everything that any of us do has an effect; there are too many of us.

Dick Cripe



### Audubon Fall litter pick-up

Thanks to the members that

participated in this fall's litter pick-up along Highway 95. We collected 16 bags of trash and helped keep Idaho's roadsides looking good.

As we turn the reins of the program over to Ellie Emm and Susie Cross starting next spring we would also like to express our gratitude to all those who contributed their time over the past eight years to help with the program. Thank you.

Mike & Val Zagar

## Email from Sneed B. Collard III

(September's program speaker)

Hi Midge and Lisa

Thank you so much for your wonderful hospitality during my visit last week. I greatly enjoyed meeting and talking to your group, and felt right at home there. I also really appreciate being able to stay with you, Lisa. Thanks for the great B&B service!

Thought you might want to share my latest birding post, which mentions your group and describes the adventures I had after leaving you. Feel free to subscribe to our blog by filling out the box down on the right. As I mentioned to Lisa, I'd be delighted if you shared reviews of my talk with other Audubon groups via list-serve or what-have-you. Here's the blog link:

<https://fathersonbirding.com/going-for-gulls-part-1/>

Thank you again for inviting me and have a wonderful, bird-filled fall!

My Best,  
Sneed

## September Bird Sightings

Trumpeter Swan - 2 - September 15 - Ball Creek Ranch Preserve, Boundary County

Shorebirds: Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper - Sept 2 - Canyon Road Marsh, Kootenai County - and Semipalmated Sandpiper - September 15 - Ball Creek Ranch Preserve, Boundary County - Jon Isacoff

Barred Owl - Sept. 11 - Bonner County - Fred Forssell

Northern Pygmy-Owl - Bonner County - Jason Talbut

White-throated Sparrow - Sept. 15 - Sandpoint area - Rich Del Carlo

## Harrison Bike/birding trip

Dick Cripe

Photos by Jan Severtson



We lucked out hitting a fine day between rainy days - partly cloudy, no wind, and moderate temperature. We started from Harrison and made our way towards Medimont until 12:00 at which point we turned around and headed back. Birds seen: Common Raven, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-tailed Hawk, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pied Billed Grebe, Cedar Waxwing, White Pelican, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, American Widgeon, Catbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Double-crested Cormorant, Northern Flicker, Song Sparrow, Great Blue Heron, gulls-species.

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## Harrison Bike/birding trip

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Our trip was punctuated by frequent groups of Coeur d'Fondo cyclists who would suddenly appear and then disappear going past us at 20-30 mph. We quickly learned to frequently check the trail ahead. The trip ended with lunch together at the Hawaiian style Food Cart and a stop at Harrison Creamery. Participants were: Rich and Carol Ogle, Linda Wolovich, Shirley Sturts, Jan Severtson, and Dick Cripe.



### Project Feederwatch

Want to participate in a citizen science project that will help researchers learn more about bird populations. You can sign up on the Feeder Watch

<https://feederwatch.org/about/project-overview/>

(The following is copied from their website)

#### What Is Feederwatch?

Project FeederWatch turns your love of feeding birds into scientific discoveries. FeederWatch is a winter-long (November-April) survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. Participants periodically count the birds they see at their feeders and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. Your bird counts help you keep track of what is happening in your own backyard and help scientists track long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. With FeederWatch, your observations become part of something bigger.

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, calendar, 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.

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## Project Feeder Watch

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Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by its participants. The annual participation fee is \$18 for U.S. residents (\$15 for Cornell Lab members). Canadians can participate by joining Bird Studies Canada for CAN\$35. The participation fee covers materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and the year-end report (Winter Bird Highlights). Without the support of our participants, this project wouldn't be possible.

### What Do Feederwatch Data Tell Us?

When thousands of Feeder Watchers in communities across North America count birds and send their tallies to the FeederWatch database, the result is a treasure trove of numbers, which FeederWatch scientists analyze to draw a picture of winter bird abundance and distribution.

FeederWatch data show which bird species visit feeders at thousands of locations across the continent every winter. The data also indicate how many individuals of each species are seen. This information can be used to measure changes in the winter ranges and abundances of bird species over time.

### Why Are Feederwatch Data Important?

With each season, FeederWatch increases in importance as a unique monitoring tool for more than 100 bird species that winter in North America.

What sets FeederWatch apart from other monitoring programs is the detailed picture that FeederWatch data provide about weekly changes in bird distribution and abundance across the United States and Canada. Importantly, FeederWatch data tell us where birds are as well as where they are not. This crucial information enables scientists to piece together the most accurate population maps.

Continued on the Feeder Watch Website

<https://feederwatch.org/about/project-overview/>



## Field Trips and Activities

### Mica Bay Survey

**Date:** October 8, Tuesday (Held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on the month)

**Time:** 8:00 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.

### Turnbull NWF/ Sprague Lake

**Date:** October 26, Saturday

**Time:** 8:00 am.

**Meet:** Lowe's parking lot, SW corner.

**Leader:** Dick Cripe, 208-665-0010/ 208-659-0357

**Activity:** Drive to Cheney, WA and tour Turnbull. Option to go on to Sprague Lake and continue birding. Look for returning waterfowl and shorebirds, and migrating songbirds. Option of lunch in Cheney or bring lunches.  $\frac{3}{4}$  day.

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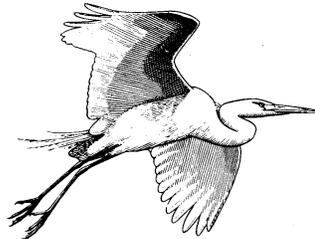
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**Join by Phone – call:**

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**Reference our Chapter**

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**Local Membership Dues**

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