



President's Message



As I write this we have just passed the autumnal equinox. I know this means the daylight hours are getting shorter and the sun appears to be moving into the

southern sky, but it was a fun mental exercise to think through and visualize exactly what is happening to the earth and its relationship with the sun as it continues its annual journey around the sun. I know, I learned about this a long time ago, but I hadn't thought it through for awhile. This is not only an amazing world, but a fascinating solar system and universe. Our bird friends have understood these changes, at least at a sensory level, for eons and are responding and moving to warmer climes where insects and other food are more plentiful. Meanwhile, those of us bi-peds who are not migratory begin to think of preparations for the coming cold season.

Your hard-working board (snicker) did meet recently and discuss some issues and make some decisions. First, after some informal polling, we decided that there was almost no support for ZOOM meetings and no wish for

us to begin meeting at this time. So, we will wait. We have paid the church rental for the space, so it is available to us whenever we want to resume.

We received a request from Cliff and Lisa Weisse, who support the Idaho State Bird Records website and database -



www.idahobirds.net for financial support to expand the capacity of the site. We voted to send them \$75 and to issue a challenge to the other five Audubon chapters in Idaho to do likewise.

We received a \$50 contribution from Carol Olsen in memory of her brother Niell Ott who was a bird lover and lived in Avery, Idaho. We voted to match the \$50 and send it to the Avery Elementary School. The school responded enthusiastically and said they would put in an additional \$50 to build bird houses and feeding stations to install around the school where the children could watch the birds.

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Janet reported that attendance at the Mica Bay surveys has been heavy and that people are looking for opportunities to get outside and do something.

I asked Ted Smith to be Field Trip coordinator. So, field trips will resume this fall. Pam Gomes was asked to join the board and has accepted. She and her husband, Ron, moved to CdA in 1977. Pam taught biological sciences at Lake City HS for 30 years before recently retiring. She has been involved in Audubon activities during that time. She will be a strong addition to the board.

Richard Cripe, President

Christmas Bird Count

Doug Ward and Shirley Sturts, organizers

We will be doing the CBC but with some changes. There will be no breakfast or after count gathering. You can either go out by yourself or organize your own team of 2 or more that you feel comfortable being with. Another way to participate is to stay home and count birds at your feeder. The date will be sometime between the Monday the 14th and Saturday the 19th of December. In the past, we have usually done the count on the weekend to accommodate those that work during the week. Let us know by email if you are interested in participating and date preference. Also if you would prefer doing a feeder count instead of counting birds in an area. Please send email to both of us at: dougward@frontier.com shirley.sturts@gmail.com

Surprising Observations



June 18-25, 2020

Marilyn Robertson -
Sandpoint

Photo by George
Saylor

For those of us who pay attention to birds, we may have seen a flock of Waxwings descend on a tree with berries, such as a Mountain Ash, and devour berries at full speed, and fly off in a whirr of wings. I have had that brief experience several times in the winter. So, my first surprise was to see a pair of Cedar Waxwings on my Mountain Ash in June, when there are no berries, and flit from there to a nearby evergreen shrub, to an apparent start of a nest. Even more surprising was their feeding behavior. Several times a day, they visit the small holes made by a Red-Naped Sapsucker on the trunk and branches of that Mountain Ash, apparently feasting on the sap and bugs they can glean, even hovering with flapping wings, when there is no handy perch by the row of puncture-type holes.

I have had chances to watch the action a few times each day; I have a chair that is several yards from that Mountain Ash that has been my early morning "Sit Spot" lately. It is also a handy place for my breaks from pulling weeds. On one occasion, a Sapsucker, probably the one who prepared the feeding holes in the bark of the tree, flew in and checked several holes, and also pounded the trunk to make a new hole. The next day, when a Sapsucker flew in, 2 Waxwings fled. I hope they can work out a "taking turns" arrangement, because I enjoy seeing them, and hope to observe nesting, from a

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Surprising Observations

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distance, and if I'm extra lucky, see the fledging of young Cedar Waxwings. Today, Thursday, I saw the Waxwings mating, so, I suppose they are claiming this as their nesting territory.

Update - The Waxwings are definitely nesting in the yew shrub by my driveway.

Recent Bird Sighting

Peregrine Falcon - August 7 - Schlepp Ranch
- Doug Ward

Western Screech Owl - August 7 - Loch Haven, Hayden - Doug Ward

Great Horned Owl - 2-3 heard calling - July 5th - trees next to their backyard and across the street, Hayden - Mike and Valerie Zagar - (my guess is that they are a family of newly fledged young with their parents keeping track of each other - Shirley)



Common Nighthawk (photo by Darlene) - 1 - September 24 - sitting on her fence in the backyard - near Fred Meyer.

Say's Phoebe - a pair - August 15 - getting a drink in the fountain in their yard - Hayden - Mike and Valerie Zagar

Field Trips



Mica Bay Survey

Date: October 13, Tuesday
(Held 2nd Tuesday of each month -

times vary depending on the month)

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.

Mica Bay Survey Field Trip-Sept. 8, 2020

Participants: Jackie Beery, George Saylor, Vera Taggart, Ernie Ewing, Darlene Carlton, Carol Ogle, Derek Antonelli, Janet Callen

Wild Turkey - 8

Pine Siskin - 12

Cedar Waxwing - 4

Mourning Dove - 2

Black-capped Chickadee - 4

Cooper's Hawk - 1

Red-naped Sapsucker - 2

California Quail - 4

Belted Kingfisher - 1

House Finch - 15

Song Sparrow - 4

Spotted Towhee - 1

Gray Catbird - 5

Warbling Vireo - 1

Great-blue Heron - 2

Pied-billed Grebe - 1

Mallard - 2

Red-winged Blackbird - 2

Canada Goose - 32

Ring-billed Gull - 3

Northern Flicker 1

Swallow species - approx.. 10

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Valerie Zagar 208 819-5115

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Janet Callen 208 664-1085

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all officers and Pam Gomes, Ted
Smith

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Publicity: open

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George Saylor 208 664-2787

Education: Barbara Christofferson 208 667-
3931

Conservation:

Membership: Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616

Hospitality: Elli Emm

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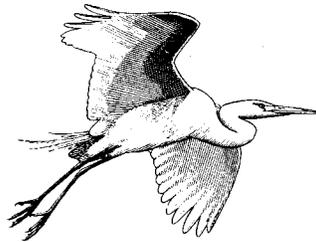
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