

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

### Regular Monthly Meeting Set

The October Coeur d'Alene Chapter meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 10 at the Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey Road, Coeur d'Alene. The program is TBD.

### Highway Cleanup October 21

The Chapter's annual fall Highway 95 cleanup day will be October 21, Ellie Emm has announced.

Ellie manages this event, held in the fall and spring every year.

Participants will gather at the Mica Grange, 7465 W Kidd Island Road, at 8:30 a.m. for a cup of coffee and treats before staffing the cleanup.

Ellie promises to provide some "very attractive safety vests," grippers and trash bags to all volunteers.

The cleanup crews work in pairs to beautify the stretch of Highway 95 south of the Grange. Ellie estimates that if 16 folks sign up, the entire route can be cleaned in about 2 hours.

A signup sheet for participants will be available at the October chapter meeting, or interested people may call or text Ellie at 970-744-0104.

## Donna Love's Loon Slide Show: A Big Hit at September Meeting

A highlight of the September 12 fall kick-off Chapter meeting, held at its new time of 6:30 p.m., was a presentation on Loons by Donna Love of Missoula, MT.

Love is the Secretary of the Montana Loon Society and has worked for many years to protect and gather information on the loons in the Missoula area. She is also the author of several children's books about loons. A particularly interesting book is "A Montana Loon Summer Surprise," complete with photographs, of a loon pair which adopted three Canada Goose goslings after the adult geese abandoned their nest. Two of the goslings grew to adulthood under the care of their loon "parents."

Love showed pictures of the loons carrying the goslings on their backs, as they do with their own species' offspring. She said there have been only two other known examples of loons adopting chicks of another species, and neither of these were geese hatchlings.

(Continued on Page 2.)

### Inside This Issue

Avian Awareness Quiz/The Amazing Crow... P. 2  
President's Message... P. 2  
Participate in Audubon Activities... P.3  
"Extinct" Bird Hidden Here... P.3

## A Love-ly Loon Show Recap

(Continued from Page 1)

Love provided not only several striking photos of loons but also audio clips of their calls, and shots of volunteers banding the birds. She noted that the Common Loon weighs up to 12 pounds (compared to a Great Blue Heron, which is much taller with a far greater wingspan, but weighs about 5 pounds). Loons can fly up to 70 miles per hour, and 300-plus-mile migration patterns from inland Montana to the Pacific coast have been tracked by loon enthusiasts. A group of loons is called a "raft." It's a Takahē.

Following her presentation, Love autographed and sold copies of her books to interested Audubon chapter members.



The uncommonly beautiful common loon

## Test Your Avian Awareness: Can Crows Do Calculus?

Below, fill in the blanks to correctly identify just how smart crows really are!  
(Answers on Page 3)

1. Just like in the Aesop's fable, crows have been observed \_\_\_\_\_
2. Crows hold ritualized events which are similar to human \_\_\_\_\_
3. Crows can accurately identify and remember human \_\_\_\_\_
4. Crows are the only non-primate species to create and use \_\_\_\_\_
5. Scientists believe crows have a level of intelligence similar to a child of \_\_\_\_\_

6. Crows have been observed doing what in busy intersections? \_\_\_\_\_
7. A crow's brain-to-body ratio is bigger than what species? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Crows pretend to hide food in a cache, but secretly \_\_\_\_\_
9. A flock of crows is called a \_\_\_\_\_
10. Crows understand the highly abstract numerical concept of \_\_\_\_\_

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## President's Message

It's looking like fall is about to begin. I am looking forward to cooler days and nights, fall colors and am excited to see what the fall migration brings our way. So far there have been some interesting sightings in the area with a couple of unusual shorebirds showing up at the Saltese Wetlands.

Our field trip out there on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September didn't turn up anything unusual but was a great trip anyway. If you are reading this and haven't been out on a field trip lately, please consider joining in the fun. We try to be totally inclusive and we work hard to help novices improve their bird identification skills. Of course you all know birders are just the nicest people to hang out with.

We are hoping that some of our members will step up to be on our website development committee. We sent a signup sheet around at the last general meeting but got no volunteers. I am hoping that at the next meeting a few people, at least, will agree to help us.

Your board has a lot on its plate and any help we can get from the membership will be greatly appreciated. This shouldn't be an onerous task. Mostly looking at a few websites and deciding what you like and what you don't like.

(Continued, next page)

Answers to quiz; 1, Drop pebbles in a container to raise its water level; 2, Funerals; 3, Faces; 4, Tools; 5, Age 7; 6, Drop nuts into traffic and wait for cars to run over them; 7, Homo Sapiens; 8, Hide them in their feathers and stash them elsewhere; 9, Murder; 10, Zero

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 2)

Of course new ideas and suggestions are always welcome. I am excited about our upcoming efforts to have a presence at Higgins Point on weekends when the eagles are in the area. Part of the purpose is to assist visitors with finding and viewing eagles but I also want us to take the opportunity to show them loons, grebes, goldeneyes, nuthatches and any of the other birds that might show up. A friendly face, a helping hand and a kind invitation to join us might just inspire some new birders to join our ranks. It will also give us exposure within the community. Should be fun.

I recently had the opportunity to talk about the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Club with the Christian Women's Connection, a women's club here in the area. It was fun to see and hear the interest most of these ladies had in birds. In preparing for the talk I did some research into how birding has grown since its inception in 1905. Between 1982 and 2001 the percentage of the population interested in birding rose from 12% to 33% for people aged 16 and older. The reporting body that provided this data hasn't released data for 2001 to present but the thought is that post COVID, interest in birding increased substantially. What is really interesting is that birding is no longer a pastime just for older white folks. The birding demographic is taking off and includes diverse cultural groups and age groups. I am hopeful that our efforts with Audubon Adventures in the classrooms will inspire some new young birders.

Just a reminder, please find out about the biannual highway cleanup coming in October and sign up with Ellie Emm to participate. Many hands make light work. So for now, consider ways you can become more involved, and by all means let me and your board members know of any

suggestions you have for improving your Audubon experience. All the best, Ted

## Birding Opportunities

Chapter members are welcome to present a program entitled "Bird of the Month" at each meeting. In September George Sayler provided a beautiful slide show on great blue herons. Please contact Ted Smith if you'd like to do a "Bird of the Month" slide show

George Sayler is heading a committee to re-start the "Audubon Adventures" program in local schools. At one time, the CDA Chapter visited 100 classrooms with educational presentations on birds and birding. All members are encouraged to get involved in this worthwhile effort. Please contact George for details

The Chapter will staff a table at Higgins Point during the winter bald eagle migration there. Spotting scopes will be set up for use by the public and participating members will provide information on bald eagles.

Ted Smith and chapter members will teach a beginning birding class which will be open to the public. This winter the three-day class will focus on waterfowl. Anyone who would like to attend is welcome—let your friends and neighbors know about this great opportunity!

## Name That Bird!



The photo above is of a "prehistoric bird" declared extinct in the late 1800s; it was recently rediscovered in New Zealand. What is it? The answer can be found hidden in this newsletter. (Full article in next month's issue).

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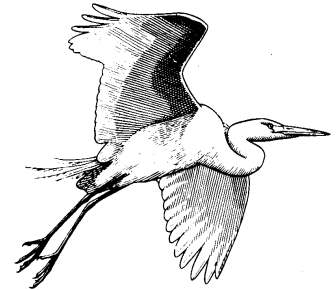
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