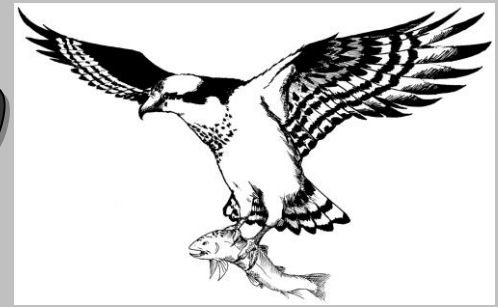


# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society

SEPTEMBER 2001

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

Visit our website: [www.cdaaudubon.org](http://www.cdaaudubon.org)

## SEPTEMBER PICNIC/PROGRAM

**DATE:** September 17, Monday

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** NIC Beach - north end of  
Rosenberry Drive

**ACTIVITY/PROGRAM:**

6:00 p.m.- Picnic! Bring  
something to grill and a dish to  
share. Blanket or chairs  
recommended.

7:00 p.m. - Program: Jeanne  
Givens will give us a "Native  
American History of Yap-Keehn-  
Um Beach", commonly known  
as NIC Beach.

## DECEMBER 2001 NEWSLETTER COULD BE YOUR LAST

PLEASE READ - PLEASE READ - PLEASE READ - PLEASE READ

This notice concerns the method of delivery of "The Fish Hawk Herald". If you responded previously our request in May, please ignore this and thank you for replying. As explained, our chapter is trying to reduce the annual cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. We asked all members to respond to a questionnaire. Many of you did not reply, so again we have enclosed this questionnaire on page 7. Please check your preference and mail, e-mail or telephone your response.

**If we do not hear from you by December 1, we will assume you no longer want to receive our newsletter. "The Fish Hawk Herald" will be discontinued after the December, 2001 issue. Please respond, so we do not leave anyone out.**

Thank you,  
Board of Directors

## BIRD REHABILITATOR HONORED

Local veterinarian, Stephen Lindsay, was recognized by our chapter at our May meeting for his work as a bird rehabilitator. Dr. Lindsay was presented a framed photograph of a Northern Pygmy-Owl by Allison Meyer, with calligraphy by local artist, Sharon Gould.

For many years Audubon members, as well as Fish and Game personnel, have taken injured birds to Dr. Lindsay for the first step in rehab - medical evaluation and treatment. Although raptors are most commonly brought to him, he has also treated a variety of song birds, gulls and corvids (jays and crows). Never has he turned away any one of us, even after business hours.

Dr. Lindsay is the veterinarian included in the grant to fund a raptor rehabilitation facility at Farragut State Park. He is an avid birder and is currently working on a "Big Year" list. We have enjoyed his program presentations, contributions to the newsletter and leadership on a field trip to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

## GARAGE SALE - HUGE SUCCESS!!!

Many thanks to all the people who gave their time, expertise, and donations to help make this our best fund-raiser! Special thanks go to Theresa and David Potts for hosting the sale at their home again this year and Jan Severtson for co-chairing. Antje Cripe was again "chief organizer" and we all appreciate her skill at organizing all the donations. Helping to set up on Friday and sell on Saturday were Kris Buchler, Janet Callen, Elaine Coddling, Joan Gundlach, Lisa Hardy, Jan Severtson, Lynn Sheridan, Shirley Sturts, and hubbies, Richard Coddling, Dick Cripe, Bill Gundlach, and Herb Severtson. A BIG THANK YOU to all!!!!

## MISTER STELLER COMES TO STAY



And grants me an honorary place within the jay clan

By Susan Weller

Photograph by Wayne Tree

*(Continued from the May Newsletter)*

Last time: A young Cooper's Hawk harries Jay, I procure a butterfly net to help with bug hunting, and Jay learns jay-speak from a tape recording.

### 9 August

Catching grasshoppers with my baseball cap proved to be too hard, so I employed a flyswatter. I finally found a butterfly net and along with Nessa, have now doubled my killing capacity. I believe if the net pole was just two feet longer, I could get even more hoppers. It was not at all helpful for the net pole to break in half part way through my latest hunting expedition. I was, however, able to lengthen it with an old rake handle.

I am convinced that if our creator had not endowed us with the ability to both fashion and use tools, human beings would be far fewer in number. Indeed, I am so inept at catching grasshoppers that I would surely starve if I had to capture enough to satisfy my own hunger. 22 grasshoppers captured in 45 minutes.

### Later...

I was around on the patio watering my watercress when I heard Jay vocalizing quite loudly. When I arrived at his enclosure I could still hear a jay, but my Jay wasn't the one making a fuss about something. Hmm. Perhaps the wild jays have returned. I coaxed and coaxed, but Jay would not budge outside the door of his enclosure. Take your time

Jay, I'm not ready for you to leave either.

### 10 August

Nessa will no longer be allowed outside when I am working with Jay. I was trying to entice Jay to follow me along a safe route to the patio when the dog, ignoring my command to stay, trotted over and scared Jay away. I searched and called to no avail. Needless to say the dog was severely upbraided and dragged unceremoniously back into the house. Better for Jay not to get used to members of the canid family appearing innocuous.

Finally, I located Jay exactly where I wanted him to go in the first place—in the branches of the large Ponderosa Pine on the patio. So, in a round about way, I guess the dog taught me to be more careful of what I introduce into Jay's world.

Jay had a wonderful time flying from branch to branch, from tree to tree, from tree to roof and back again. He let out a startled alarm call when an Evening Grosbeak flew over him. Ah, he too has noticed the Cooper's Hawk. Good. Jay played in the trees for over an hour and then flew down into the small carrier. This indicates he's tired and wants to return to the safety of his enclosure. He took a big step today in the struggle toward achieving true wildness as a bird.

Jay's story will be continued in the October newsletter.

## BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER SURVEY

Susan Weller, Conservation Chair.

After ice storm, birders found something positive to look forward to in spite of all the damage done to trees. Ice storm created woodpecker habitat by creating

hundreds of new snags. Trees weakened by the event would also become targets for pine beetles and other insects, guaranteeing a boom in woodpecker populations over the next few years.

Audubon took advantage of the situation by applying for a Nongame Wildlife Grant with Idaho Department of Fish and Game. We were awarded a four-year grant to survey for Black-backed Woodpeckers on the Coeur d'Alene National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service contributed matching funds and will receive the data we collect. The survey will document the number of years the woodpeckers occupy an area after the occurrence of a beetle infestation. Currently, no data exists for this species on our forest. Because the Black-backed is listed as a species of special concern, both with federal and state agencies, as well as National Audubon, the data will provide important information for biologists and land managers.

*Audubon members who participated in the project this year are: Janet Allen, Kris Buchler, Ken Eppler, Lisa Hardy, Steve Lindsay, Gary Nilson, Shirley Sturts, Judy Waring and Susan Weller. Money earned for the surveys will contribute toward the cost of printing and mailing "The Fish Hawk Herald". Those interested in participating in 2002 may call me at 682-3413.*

### **CHECK IT OUT**

**The Idaho Native Plant Society - Calypso Chapter - is holding their first meeting of the year on October 3, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at the Life Care Center. For information call or email Janet Benoit - 683-2407 jebenoit@cisna.com**

## SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

### FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

1. Please register with the leader ahead of time.
  - a. It helps the leader plan the trip.
  - b. You will be informed if the trip time or location is changed or if the trip is canceled.
2. Fees: (to paid to the driver of the car) \$5.00 - all day trips \$3.00 - 1/2 day trips.
3. We sometimes use radios to communicate between cars. If the radios are used we are asking participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries.

### MICA BAY SURVEY

**DATES/TIME:** September 4 and 17, Tuesday/Monday / 8:00 a.m.

**MEET:** Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

**LEADERS:** Shirley Sturts, 664-5318 - Kris Buchler, 664-8225

**ACTIVITY:** We spend about 3 hours twice a month counting birds in the Mica Bay area. Beginner birders are welcome to join us.

### BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

**DATE/TIME:** September 11, Tuesday / 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

**MEET:** Fairmont Loop Road and Highway 95

**LEADER:** Roger Young, 664-4179

**ACTIVITY:** He will take us birding along the shores of Cougar Bay to look for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds.

### BOUNDARY CREEK WMA / BALL CREEK RANCH

**DATE/TIME:** September 8 - 9, Saturday and Sunday / 8:00 a.m.

**MEET:** K-Mart Parking Lot -south west corner

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

**ACTIVITY:** ( a combined CDA-Palouse Audubon Field Trip) We will bird the Boundary WMA north of Bonner's Ferry looking for fall migrants. Participants may return home Saturday afternoon or elect to stay overnight at Ball Creek Ranch and do a bird survey there Sunday morning before returning home. Bring lunch and water, and for those staying overnight bring simple food that can be prepared in the kitchen at the ranch. This trip is being joined by the Palouse Audubon Society. Call or e-mail Lisa if you plan to spend Saturday night at the ranch.

### FREEZEOUT SADDLE/GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN

**DATE/TIME:** September 30, Sunday / 7:30 a.m. (call ahead - date and time could change)

**MEET:** Cove Bowl Parking Lot

**LEADER:** Shirley Sturts, 664-5318 [ssturts@iea.com](mailto:ssturts@iea.com)

**ACTIVITY:** We will drive to Clarkia going through St. Maries and then take Forest Road 301 toward Freezeout Saddle. This will involve about 2 1/2 hours plus driving time - depending on stops along the way. We will hike from Mark's Butte toward Grandmother and Grandfather Mountain. The distance we hike will depend on the wishes of the participants (it is about an 8 miles round trip if we go as far as Grandfather Mountain). Grandfather Mountain is 6307 feet in elevation and Mark's Butte is 6297 feet) Target birds will be Clark's Nutcracker, Pine Grosbeak, White-crowned Sparrow, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Lazuli Bunting, White-winged Crossbill, Blue and Spruce Grouse. Depending on time and interest we could drive further east to Orphan Point or out to Freezeout Mountain for some additional birding.

### CANOE TRIP TO HIDDEN LAKE

**DATE/TIME:** October 13 / 8 a.m.

**MEET:** Cove Bowl - East end of Sherman Ave. for car pool - leader at Rose Lake exit 8:30 a.m.

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

**ACTIVITY:** Bring your canoe or kayak for a water trip into the floating bogs of Hidden Lake (adjacent to Killarney Lake). Contact Lisa if you don't own a canoe and want to go - we will try to have enough canoes to accommodate all those that want to come. Bring a container for picking cranberries, and lunch and water.

**CENTURY COUNT**

Shirley Sturts



Photograph by Wayne Tree

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Century Count was held June 6. Our first count covered Benewah, Kootenai and Bonner Counties. The last three years we have limited it to Kootenai County. This year we set a record high of 106 species. (The record was 102 in 2000)

Many of the birds on our list are commonly found in several locations. However, if we wanted to find 100 bird species we knew we had to travel to different types of habitat and in some cases, specific locations to find some of our more elusive feathered friends. Our route was planned to locate these hard to find species. We knew their locations from past birding experience, prior reconnaissance and help from Steve Lindsay, who has been scouring Kootenai County since January 1 on his "Big Year" bird quest.

Our first target bird was the Western Bluebird. We knew a pair was nesting in one of our boxes in Mica Bay. The Bank Swallow we found in large numbers. They are nesting in banks behind a business building on the north side of Seltice Way. The Horned Lark was a little harder, but by following Steve's directions we found a couple in the fields behind the Outlet Mall west of Post Falls. We were saddened by the fact that as the Rathdrum Prairie and Post Falls continue to sprout more buildings, the Horned Lark may survive in

name only (on a street sign - Horned Lark Lane).

From here we drove across the Prairie adding the Western Flycatcher but missing Gray Partridge and Vesper Sparrow which Cindi Langlitz often sees near the CDA Airport.

We had started at 5:00 a.m. along the shores of Fernan Lake. It was around noon when we stopped for a break at the home and feeders of Kris Buchler where we added Downy Woodpecker, Mountain Chickadee and Calliope Hummingbird. Our bird list was already up to 80 species. We now had most of the commonly seen birds. The next 20 would be a challenge.

A stop at Fourth of July Pass gave us two of these, a Cassin's Vireo and Western Tanager. We picked up Gadwall, Redhead and Hooded Merganser in the Cataldo area. Susan Weller invited us by her home and helped add Rufous and Black-chinned Hummingbird. These had eluded us so far because they had stopped coming into feeders. When the hummingbirds first arrive in the spring they are common at area feeders. Then they disappear for a few weeks to raise a family only to return again with young ones in tow. We couldn't find the Band-tailed Pigeon that has been hanging around Susan's house but we did find the Chestnut-backed Chickadee which had nested in her back woods.

Other target birds were located in their expected places. We found Bobolink on the Tamarack Ridge Road (but not the hoped for Lazuli Bunting) and American Redstart in Shady Lane, just south of Rose Lake (but not the expected Veery).

Our best find of day was the American White Pelican. We counted 3 of them on Cave Lake. This was not entirely unexpected. Cindi Langlitz had reported to me

that Jesse White had seen 7 of them there on June 4. We thought this was bird species 100 so we whooped, hollered and gave high-fives! Then our scribes, Elaine Coddling and Nancy Mertz, did a recount coming up with only 98. We immediately added number 99, an American Goldfinch feeding in a nearby cottonwood.

It was now 7:30 p.m. and we had one target bird left on our list, a Bullock's Oriole that had been seen at Thompson Lake twice during the past two weeks. Sure enough, five minutes after arriving at the Thompson Lake road, the participants in my car added the Bullock's Oriole as their 100<sup>th</sup> bird. For the birders in Lisa's car, looking in the other direction, the Ring-necked Duck was their 100<sup>th</sup>. We soon located each other's birds giving us a total of 101.

We continued around the lake adding 5 more birds: Ruddy Duck, Marsh Wren, Wilson's Warbler, Ruffed Grouse, and Wild Turkey. Expected, but missing from our list were the Belted Kingfisher and Hairy Woodpecker.

*Participants included: Kris Buchler, Dick and Elaine Coddling, Bill Gundlach, Lisa Hardy, Nancy Mertz, Gary Nilson, Jan Severtson, Shirley Sturts, Judy Waring.*

### BIRDSEED FOR SALE

**Black Oil Sunflower**

**50LB \$15.00**

**Niger (Thistle) \$1.25 LB**

**Available at Regular Meetings**

**or call Janet Callen at 664-1085**

**Price includes sales tax  
All proceeds benefit  
Coeur d' Alene Audubon**

**MICA BAY VIEWING  
PLATFORM COMPLETE**



Kris Buchler



Photograph by Wayne Tree

Come out to Mica Bay and enjoy the beauty and wildlife! Our platform and trail are now complete, thanks to the hard work of many volunteers. Idaho Fish and Game provided a trail marker and a new "Adopt a Wetlands" sign with our chapter's name.

A great trail crew, Roger Young, Del Cameron and Ken Eppler, installed the signs so that people can find the trail and know that the Gertie Hanson Memorial Viewing Platform is watched over by the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society. Shirley Sturts, project coordinator, invites everyone to declare war on knapweed and pull a few from the hill when you visit. Special thanks to Elaine and Dick Codding for pulling more than their share of this noxious weed. Many thanks to all the people who put time into this worthwhile project.

## REVETT LAKE TRIP

Lisa Hardy

Two carloads of birders headed up the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River on a Saturday morning. Our first birding stop of the July 7 trip was at Prichard to see a family of American Dippers. We then continued up Prichard Creek to Thompson Pass, leaving behind a few lingering morning clouds.

Revett Lake occupies a basin carved by a mountain glacier, and is just one of the cirque lakes found near the Bitterroot divide between Idaho and Montana. We

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

hiked the 2 miles to the lake from the trailhead at Thompson Pass. Passing through cool shaded forest and sunbaked rock slopes, we heard the distinctive songs of three of the thrush family, Hermit Thrush, Varied Thrush and Swainson's Thrush. We also had looks at Yellow-rumped and Townsend's Warblers.

We ate lunch at the lake and threw sticks in the water for the dogs. With six people and five dogs, the numbers were about even. On the way home, we stopped briefly at Murray and Eagle. Trip participants: Dick Cripe, Ken Eppler, Lisa Hardy, Jan Severtson, Lynn Sheridan, Shirley Sturts, and Bruno, Fidelity, Morgan, Olde, Traveler.

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN BIRDING

Kris Buchler

Where can you travel two hours north to bird and stay in a comfortable ranch house? Answer: The Ball Creek Ranch!

Three overnight bird trips to The Nature Conservancy's newest preserve provided some unique sightings and a few lifers for some of the participants. This is a working ranch with livestock and crops on much of the acreage. Audubon members did baseline bird counts in the month of June. These will be compared to future counts which will hopefully reflect improved ranching techniques that will benefit the habitat and wildlife. Already, critical riparian areas are being protected from grazing.

The discovery of Long-billed Curlew excited birders as they are uncommon and few breed this far north in Idaho. Other species seen or heard that are not common in Coeur d'Alene were Lewis' Woodpecker, Bobolink, Bank

Swallow and Least Flycatcher. Cottonwoods along the river sheltered many Bullock's Oriole, Red-eyed Vireo, American Redstart and various warblers. A real treat was observing three newly fledged Great Horned Owls not far from the ranch house.

Many thanks to members taking part in these counts: Shirley and Keith Sturts, Dan and Wendy Aeschliman, Ed and Kris Buchler, Gary Nilson, Ken Eppler, Nancy Mertz and Terry Pritchard, Lisa Hardy, Judy Waring, Janet Callen, Corinne Cameron, Jan Severtson, Cynthia Langlitz, Kathryn and Caitlin Henderson.

There will be future field trips and other counts to assess seasonal populations of birds. If you wish to bird The Ball Creek Preserve, call the local office of The Nature Conservancy ( 676-8176) for information.

### **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**DATE: Sept. 16, Sunday**

**TIME: 10:00 a.m.**

**LOCATION: Home of Susan Weller - 682-3413**

Audubon members wishing to serve on the Conservation Committee should attend the first meeting. The conservation policies of National Audubon will be outlined, as will the parameters of conservation issues pertinent only to Coeur d'Alene Audubon. To obtain directions or if you wish to serve on the conservation committee but cannot attend the meeting, call Susan to have your name added to the committee roster. Coffee, fruit, and breakfast breads will be served.

**Susan Weller, Conservation Chair**

For years, Higgen's Point has provided premium salmon fishing opportunities for wintering Bald Eagles. A significant portion of Lake Coeur d'Alene's Kokanee Salmon population spawn and then die in the bay, at exactly the same time the eagles pass through. During ice storm in 1996, two of three fishing snags fell and I have worried that the remaining snag would also fall. It turned out that Randall Butt, manager of Coeur d'Alene Parkway, has shared my concern. He was receptive to the idea of replacing the snags with live trees from Higgen's Point—trees also badly damaged during ice storm.

The project was going to be possible only if Audubon could find cooperating partners to help. The project had five elements: an existing Ponderosa Pine needed to be pruned to open up the branches to admit a large bird. Holes had to be dug in the hillside and fitted with culverts to accommodate the replacement trees. Someone had to fell the trees earmarked for the project. A helicopter was required to pick up and place the trees, and people were needed to plant seedlings to provide a new generation of future snags.

This winter, as you view the eagles utilizing the replacement snags, you'll remember the folks who made the project possible; Ken Roberge of Specialty Tree Services; Shawn Montee Logging and Alpine Helicopters; Kootenai Electrical Cooperative; Coeur d'Alene Mines; and George Saylor and his class from Coeur d'Alene High School; all deserve thanks for the goods and services they provided.

## **Photograph by Wayne Tree OBSERVERS:**

Kris and Ed Buchler (KBUC,EBUC), Elaine Coddling (ECOD) Caroline Eppler (CEPP) Ken Eppler (KEPP), Bill Gundlach (BGUN), Jerry Hanson (JHAN) Cindi Langlitz (CLAN), Nancy Mertz (NMER), Gary Nilson (GNIL) Theresa Potts (TPOT) Terry Pritchard (TPRI), Scott Robinson (SROB) Steve Lindsay (SLIN), Shirley Sturts (SSTU), Susan Weller (SWEL), Jesse White (JWHI)

**American White Pelican** 40 flying over Killarney Lake May 30 (SROB); 7 Cave Lake June 4 (JWHI reported by CLAN)

**Cinnamon Teal** 1 nest with 7 eggs Hoo Doo Valley Bluebird Trail May 25 (CEPP,KEPP,GNIL,SSTU)

**Harlequin Duck** 1 male in breeding plumage Harlow Pt. Road south of Harrison June 24 (SLIN)

**Blue Grouse** 1 Bernard Peak July 8 (SLIN)

**Wilson's Phalarope** 4-5 Hoo Doo Valley May 25 and June 3 (CEPP,KEPP,SSTU,GNIL,ECOD)

**Great Horned Owl** 1 Thompson Lake June 3 (JWAR,PWAR)

**Red-naped Sapsucker** 1 nest hole with adults bringing food Cottonwood Creek west of Thompson Lake (GNIL,JWAR,SSTU)

**Northern Flicker** 1 pr nested along the Hoo Doo Valley Bluebird Trail - nest w/5 eggs May 25, 5 newly hatched young June 3 and older young June 26<sup>th</sup> (several observers)

**Three-toed Woodpecker** 1 Moyie River June 8 (NMER,TMER); 3 Boise Peak area east of Latour Creek June 22 (SLIN)

**Least Flycatcher** (rare in Kootenai County) 1 heard Hardy Loop Road (Cataldo area) June 15 (SWEL)

**Rock Wren:** (rare in Kootenai County) 1 rock quarry west of Hwy 95 south of where Lake Creek crosses the highway July 12 (SLIN - 168<sup>th</sup> bird species for his Big Year)

**Bewick's wren:** 1 Mica Bay, June 24 (SLIN) (a first for this location)

**American Dipper:** 1 Latour Creek July 14<sup>th</sup> (SLIN his 169<sup>th</sup> Big Yr. Bird, SSTU,EBUC,KBUC)

**Cedar Waxwing:** 1 nest w/adult sitting of eggs June 30,July 2 (TPOT,SSTU,KEPP,ECOD)

**Wilson's Warbler** 1-2 heard Latour Creek (SLIN 170<sup>th</sup> Big Year bird,KBUC,EBUC)

**Bullock's Oriole** 1 Thompson Lake late May (SSTU,JWAR, GNIL, PWAR); 3 Mica Bay June 16, 1 pr Blackwell Island June 24, 5 Thompson Lake June 25 (SLIN)

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1 pr thought to be nesting behind K-Mart in a field of grass June (several observers)

**Grasshopper Sparrow** (rare in Kootenai Co. - previous only known location was State Line area) 3 adults 1 juvenile .6 miles west of Hwy 95 on Conkling Park Road July 12 (SLIN - 166<sup>th</sup> bird species for his Big Year.

**Fox Sparrow** 1 heard Mica Bay, Coeur d'Alene Lake (1<sup>st</sup> seen in Mica Bay) (SLIN)

**Lincoln's Sparrow** (rare in Kootenai County) 1 rock quarry west of Hwy 95 south of where Lake Creek crosses the highway July 12 (SLIN - 167<sup>th</sup> bird species for his Big Year)

**Cordilleran Flycatcher:** 1 nest top ladder behind his house with 5 eggs Mica Bay, CDA Lake July 7 (JHAN)



ERALD