

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society

**SAVE THIS ISSUE - 2005-2006 SCHEDULE
OF MEETINGS, EVENTS AND FIELD TRIPS INCLUDED**

September 2005

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 1

SUBSCRIPTION FEE FOR "THE FISH HAWK HERALD"

Starting in September, 2005, an annual subscription fee of \$15 will be charged for *The Fish Hawk Herald*. In the past, the cost of the newsletter has been covered by dues-sharing funds received from National Audubon, but as those funds have been reduced, the board has decided to make the newsletter self-supporting. All local Audubon members will receive the September issue containing meeting and field trip schedules as well as the annual summary, but the remaining 8 issues will be sent only to subscribers. (See subscription form on the back page of this)

The *Fish Hawk Herald* is provided free of charge on our website.

www.cdaudubon.org

THE OLD SNAG

Article and Photograph by Dick Cripe



"I think it's time to take out that old snag", I stated firmly. "It's leaning and likely to fall one of these days and the birds no longer pay any attention to it".

"What do you mean-the birds no longer pay any attention to it-they're on it all of the time", replied Antje.

"Yeah, they perch there as they come and go, but there are no bugs in it and they no longer nest there. It's too rotten. It's dead, dead, dead."

The snag under discussion is about 30 feet of the bottom half of a sizable ponderosa pine that broke off many years ago. All of

the bark is peeled off and it is full of holes of various sizes. The woodpeckers and nuthatches have been busy on it over the years. When we bought the house eight years ago it was an old snag. Although it is against our back fence, our yard is shallow and the snag looms over our back deck. Birds have nested there from time to time since we bought the place. The last time was two summers ago when a pair of flickers raised a nest of three. We watched them develop from unseen cheeps, to hungry demanding mouths, to frightened fledglings. Our sister-in-law actually saw the third and final flicker chick take its maiden leap from the safety of the nest out into space - an exciting moment. Last year, however, the snag was vacant and unused all summer.

"I think you should leave it there" said Ken Roberge of Specialty Tree Service and an Audubon member. "It doesn't look like it's going to fall down anytime soon and it adds a lot of character to your yard". So, I was out-voted. The snag was spared for another year.

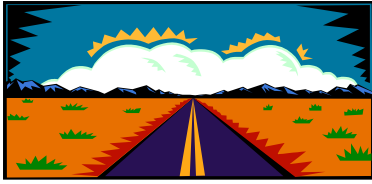
"I think somebody's pecking in the snag. Maybe they are making a nest!", exclaimed Antje, sometime later. Sure enough, a pair of Pygmy Nuthatches could be seen working on one of the existing small holes, chipping it out to meet their specifications. We heard their tap-tap-tap regularly over the course of a week. We thought a couple of times that they had abandoned it, but they soon returned and resumed their work. Now they are clearly nesting. We can see one nuthatch looking out the hole while the other adult comes back and forth bringing something to eat. We don't know if one is nesting and the other is collecting food, or if they are taking turns. But, they are well into their parenting adventure now.

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BIRD TRACKS



AUDUBON MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROJECT

Saturday, October 22

Judy Waring

The results are in. Our Audubon chapter has picked up trash from our adopted two mile stretch of Highway 95 four times, and with each cleaning the yield is less and the time to gather it shorter. The statistics are thus:

Round 1: 19 people, 34 bags full, 2 hours and 20 minutes

Round 2: 16 people, 17 bags full, 2 hours and 15 minutes

Round 3: 13 people, 16 bags full, 2 hours and 10 minutes

Round 4: 10 people, 11 bags full, 1 hour and 45 minutes

We are making a difference out there!

Our next shot at it will be Saturday, October 22. This time we are going to meet at the Mica Flats Grange Hall on the east side of Highway 95 just short of our starting point. Let's make it 8:30 A.M., allowing a little time for our necessary pre-cleanup donuts. Long pants and sleeves are the order of the day. If you haven't tried an Adopt-a-Highway cleanup day I can only give you a measure of the satisfaction involved with a quote from Ronn Rich who said that "this project gives meaning to my whole life"! (Too much sun, perhaps?). For more info call Judy Waring, 765-5378.

EARTH DAY FAIR

Janet Callen

On Saturday, April 23, Audubon was present at the Earth Day Fair. The event was held at the Harding Center with a great variety of displays, both indoors and out. There were events for children, live wolves and a nice cafe sponsored by the Pasty Depot and Pilgrims Market.

Our display, this year, was a venture into the world of pesticides. Starting with information from Audubon at Home, our goal was to make people aware of the dangers of some commonly used pesticides and of the alternatives. Since we are not experts in this field, and a big field it is, we did not attempt to answer questions. Instead we provided information about expert sources, and places where questions can be answered.

Contacts at various local nurseries identified locations where alternatives to chemicals are available and where native plants can be purchased. A small TV with "Bluebirds in the Nest Box" video playing attracted people. We also had drawings for two containers of ladybugs and one with praying mantis' eggs. These were a big hit with children. Northwest Nursery donated a native plant to our drawings and Petal Pushers donated seeds. Our thanks to them.

This experience has occasioned a decision to continue the exploration of the use of pesticides, but focus will be on lawns. According to "Audubon at Home", about 7 million birds are killed each year by lawn pesticides/herbicides.

Lynn Sheridan, Kris Buchler and I represented the chapter.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Janet Callen

We were ready for a great IMBD celebration on May 14, 2005. Flyers had been posted, good articles appeared in the papers and the newsletter. Then it rained. As we had spent IMBD a year ago standing in the rain, when no one showed up and the cookies got wet, the May 14 event was canceled.

But, the prime movers and organizers of this year's event were not to be denied. So, the event was held the following Saturday, May 22, in City Park at the southwest corner.

Attendance at our display was sporadic, but some children stopped by to make greeting cards with Lynn Sheridan and Kayla Leitzke, a freshman from Lake City High. Lisa Hardy and Stephen Johnson were ready to take bird watchers on a walk around Tubbs Hill. Because of some missed communications, Kris Buchler ended up taking a very interested group of eight people on a nature walk around the hill. The attendees were delighted with her expertise. Meanwhile, back at our site in City Park we handed out posters, dressed one family in lime-green Migratory Bird Day T-shirts and gave out coloring books.

The prime movers and organizers were Kris Buchler and Jennifer Soules. Thanks to Lisa and Stephen for their help talking to interested birders and assistance with spotting scopes. Thanks to Lynn for providing the materials and expertise helping young people glue and paste and produce a "nature" greeting card. And a big thank you to Kayla Leitzke, who spent the day with us.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS? WE HAVE ANSWERS



Call or email us with your questions about birds, bats and other wildlife. If we don't know the answer, we know where to go to get an answer. We'd also like to hear your suggestions and comments. See below for the best person to contact regarding your specific questions.

Did you see a rare bird? Do you have a question about bird identification? Shirley Sturts maintains a state-wide database of bird sightings, and is the North Idaho member of the Idaho Bird Records Committee: 664-5318

s.sturts@verizon.net

For questions about orphaned baby birds, problem birds or injured birds, contact local wildlife rehabilitator Kris Buchler: 664-4739

eagleroost@adelphia.net

Do you have bats? Questions about bats? Ed Buchler is the man to call. He is a professional biologist currently working on bat research in North Idaho: 664-4739

eagleroost@adelphia.net

For questions about diseased or sick birds, or any questions concerning wildlife or chapter activities, contact the chapter President, Lisa Hardy: 682-4808

lsh28@cornell.edu

Do you have questions about logging or development disturbing nesting birds or other wildlife? Is there ongoing habitat destruction that Audubon should be made aware of? Give Roland Craft (457-8895) or Mike Mihelich (664-4741) a call with your questions about conservation issues.

BIRD TRACKS



"If I were to make a study of the tracks of animals and represent them by plates, I should conclude with the tracks of man"

Henry David Thoreau

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THE BEAUTIFUL LAWN



Judy Waring, Janet Callen

With assistance from Lisa Hardy

In conjunction with the "Audubon at Home" program our chapter decided to explore ways of reducing the use of pesticides in our residential yards. However, based on the overwhelming amount of information available and the fact that Earth Day participants were primarily interested in pesticide-free ways to maintain a good looking lawn, we decided to focus on lawns. National Audubon recommends "Reduce

the use of all pesticides but **ELIMINATE THOSE USED ON LAWNS**" So we have decided to explore why and how.

The information presented in the upcoming articles has been compiled from various sources noted at the end of this article and also from some good old-fashioned leg-work prowling the aisles of garden stores and inhaling the fumes of various lawn-product chemicals.

As new houses spring up on every vacant space in our county, newly hydro-seeded lawns appear. Ironically, Rathdrum Prairie blue-grass fields disappear only to give way to blue-grass lawns amid the houses and asphalt. Lawns are a symbol of status, a holdover from the great estates of colonial Europe. Pat Munts wrote in *The Spokesman Review*; "Lawns have been an emblem of pride since the times of the great estates of colonial Europe. When the Industrial Revolution created a middle class, the newly rich people wanted the same manicured lawns for their own cottages as royalty had adopted around their castles. And when they moved to North America.....they planted lawns. Lawns became the symbol of paradise in the suburbs after World War II. Even in desert settings...lawns sprouted on the cheap and abundant water sources found by settlers."

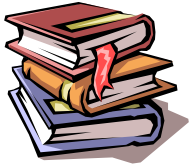
Not only is there a cultural precedent for valuing lawns, we also appear to be influenced by our biology.

The open, park-like landscape created by lawns is instinctively preferred by humans, and some have theorized that this preference harks back to our prehistoric origins on the savanna. ⁽¹⁾

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Book Review

PHEW!



The "call" of a worn-out reader who has followed (in print) the peregrinations of a couple of Big Listers

Tina Wynecoop, Colbert, WA

Kenn Kaufman's Kingbird Highway: The Story of a Natural Obsession That Got a Little Out of Hand (1997) is a birder's memoir of his goal to spot the most North American bird species in one year. The author's writing style, stamina, perseverance and single-minded focus make for a fine story. He is Lance Armstrong on every one else's wheels as he hitchhikes around the North American continent in his quest.

Kaufman's generous contributions to the field of ornithology continue and one hopes the sacrifices haven't been too great.

In comparison, I found Richard Koeppel's compulsion to see and list all the bird species of the world, described by his son, Dan, in To See Every Bird on Earth: A Father, a Son, And a Lifelong Obsession (2005) a little sad because his goal of such Olympic proportions was achieved at the expense of family, career and health. Never maudlin, always searchingly honest, Dan details the cost of his father's compulsion, even accompanying him on whirl-wind trips as he adds to his list - which eventually peaks at over 7,000 species.

This reader enjoyed both books immensely, having learned much about birds,

listers, and the human/avifauna connection. Meanwhile my own little species lists are jotted down on scratch paper and tucked here and there in my field guides. I never plan to be a Big Lister...but now I know one or two, thanks to Kaufman and Koeppel. I can't wait to read Mark Obmascik's The Big Year: A Tale Of Man, Nature, And Fowl Obsession. (2004).



THE BEAUTIFUL LAWN

Continued from page 3

Though neat expanses of green turf have undeniable eye appeal, numerous are the advocates of eliminating lawns as an element of the landscape. A lawn can consume time, money and a lot of water. In drought areas, or where water resources are stretched thin, much can be said in favor of lawn reduction, and/or elimination. However, of greatest concern is the over-use of chemicals and fertilizers. American homeowners use approximately 70 million pounds of pesticides (includes herbicides & insecticides) a year.

Much of this residential application is unnecessary or excessive and is a growing source of contamination to ground-water. Heavy rainfall and melting snow can carry pollution from your backyard to the Rathdrum aquifer and our lakes and rivers, but over watering is a significant factor. The resultant runoff can carry a trace of every chemical you put on your yard. On a positive note, the inclusion of grassy drainage swales in new subdivisions and new commercial properties lessens the amount of runoff going into storm sewers.

"Audubon at Home" states that an estimated 7 million birds

are killed each year due to the aesthetic use of pesticides by homeowners.⁽²⁾ Birds often mistake the granules for seed.

A lawn, however, has a number of positive aspects. It is a place to play and relax, it prevents soil erosion and enhances the value of a home. A lawn can provide an excellent contrast to shrubs and flowers and has a cooling effect. One big plus is its value as a fire break for a home in a wooded area. Grass also works as a filter system removing pollutants as water seeps into the soil.⁽³⁾

So how does one balance the positives and the negatives and be a good neighbor to our environment? Our research to date indicates that the best defense to lawn problems is good offense. A healthy lawn is more resistant to weeds, insects and disease problems. In the next segment we will discuss ways to maintain a healthy and chemical-free lawn.

Stay tuned for the next exciting episode.

1) *The Natural History of Art, Discover, November 1999*

(2) *Source of this information for Audubon was Dr. David Pimentel, Professor of Entomology at Cornell. The seven million does not include the numbers (possibly 72 million) killed by agricultural pesticides.*

(3) *Grassy Drainage Swales in Residential Developments SW-2; Spokane County Division of Utilities*

BIRD QUOTE CORNER

" I once had a sparrow alight upon my shoulder for a moment, while I was hoeing in a village garden, and I felt that I was more distinguished by that circumstance that I should have been by any epaulet I could have worn.

■ **Henry David Thoreau, Walden**

THE OLD SNAG

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There was a flurry of noise and activity around the snag a few days ago. I looked out and watched a flicker checking out a larger hole just below the nuthatches, who were taking exception to his presence and raising a ruckus. Shortly the flicker flew off, presumably to find another nest site and everything quieted down again. I was surprised, then, yesterday, while watching the nuthatches, to see the head of a flicker peering out of the other hole. The flicker couple have, indeed, taken up residence. Now we have flickers and nuthatches both nesting in the snag a couple of feet from each other - a multi-cultural community. We believe in diversity!.

Over the next month we will watch these two families with interest and see how much of the chicks' activity we will be able to observe. This should keep us busy. And the snag will stay until it falls down.

THE OLD SNAG: CHAPTER TWO

Two weeks later: Both nests are abandoned. The pygmy nuthatches and the flickers are both gone. A few mornings ago I stepped out on the deck with a cup of coffee and looked to see how the expectant parents were doing. I immediately noticed that the nuthatch nest hole was about three times bigger than before. Something had ripped the hole open. I watched for some time and saw no sign of the nuthatches. Since then a pygmy nuthatch has lit on the snag from time to time, but has never paid any attention to the nest hole. At first I thought the flickers were still in business. I saw flickers around the snag for a couple of days, and, at one point, a flicker was in the nest looking out; but, no longer.

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Whatever they were doing that day has ceased and the nest is vacant.

When I started this little article I thought that I would be able to describe at leisure the development of the two nests of chicks and give an account of their fledging. I expected to have the camera on tripod with telephoto lens, hooded with plastic, with cable release, right next to my chair on the deck. I could drink coffee and click away - my little step into nature photojournalism. But, the old snag has no activity now except for an occasional bird alighting to look around before going on about its business.

So, what happened? There is a broken branch about 18 inches below the nuthatch nest. I thought that a predator bird probably couldn't use that branch at that distance to get into the nest. The branch is just above the flicker nest, so the predator would have had to hang upside down to access their nest hole. Certainly a pair of flickers can fight off most any predator bird? As I said above we have not had any squirrels around this spring or last year. There are starlings around, and crows, and a Hairy Woodpecker visits the suet feeder every day. But, we don't know.

Do birds grieve? I think that they must, but I like to think that the next day both pair were out together looking for another nest prepared to start all over again. As for the old snag, we'll still leave it up and see what further adventures in nature come our way.

EPILOGUE TO THE OLD SNAG.

June 22. I came out on the deck this morning and the old snag had fallen down overnight. We have had a lot of rain and last night some strong winds. It didn't damage anything

when it fell except for a couple of plants. I think a pair of Pygmy Nuthatches were starting to set up house in a hole in the back of the snag. When I checked the hole I found fresh nesting material, but no eggs. So, the snag is gone. The backyard has lost a landmark and its character and the birds have lost their potential nests.

BROWN BAG BIRDING

(This popular one hour event led by Lynn Sheridan is a good way to get to know what our chapter is all about. Below is her account of the May trip on Tubbs Hill. See Field Trips for Brown Bag trips scheduled for the coming year)

Lynn Sheridan

On May 17, at 12 noon, Karen Linnane, Anne and Jessica Wilson, Judy Waring, Lee and Jonathan Brennecken and Judy Edwards joined me for a walk up Tubbs Hill. It felt like imminent rain and it was windy on the south side. There was not much bird life but a Winter Wren was heard, chipmunks played, and an Osprey flew overhead. On the north side it was better: saw Red-breasted Nuthatch, Chestnut-backed and Black-capped Chickadees, Yellow Warbler, American Robin and swallows. At McKuen Field two platforms were occupied by Osprey. Also heard, were Spotted Towhee, California Quail, Northern Flicker, Common Raven, Song Sparrow, and Pygmy Nuthatch.

After the wildflower program the evening before, we were anxious to test our skills. Judy Waring was disappointed not to find a Prairie Smoke, but we found Lupine, Larkspur, Sege Lily, Camas, Wild Hyacinth, False Solomon Seal, Chocolate Lily, Honeysuckle, Lomatium, Yarrow and Mitrewort. Thank you, nature lovers.

OBSERVATION POST

FIELD TRIP ACCOUNTS AND TRIP LISTS FOR SPRING AND SUMMER FIELD TRIPS 1.WESTMOND AND ROUND LAKE 2. BONNER CENTURY COUNT 3. FISHTRAP LAKE, CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE

WWW.CDAAUDUBON.ORG

Shirley Sturts

2005 Kootenai County Big Year - as of August 13 we have 190 species, Shoshone has 141 and Bonner 145. Here are some highlights, go to our website www.cdaaudubon.org for a complete list. Look on www.idahobirds.net to see other state county lists.

American White Pelican: about 40, Squaw Bay, CDA Lake, Wendy Jacobsen and about the same number at Cougar Bay, CDA Lake, Roberta Larson, June 27, (could have been the same flock moving through.

White-winged Scoter: record from Rose Lake this spring - Brian Spears .

Sandhill Cranes: ranch downstream of Lane Marsh - Mike Schlepp

Long-tailed Jaeger: 13 flying over, Sandpoint, Aug. 8, Earl Chapin (Bonner County)

Bonaparte's Gull: Fernan Lake, Aug. 13, Ed Buchler

Band-Tailed Pigeon: north of Lancaster Road - North East of Hayden Lake (town), May 22, Stevan McQuiston

Lewis's Woodpecker: Rathdrum Prairie (Meyer Road north of Prairie) May 19 Stephen Johnson (we are lucky to have the Lewis's - this is our 4th year of doing a Kootenai Co. Big Year and this is our first Lewis's Woodpecker.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Toboggan Creek, CDA National Forest, May 25, Lisa Hardy and Kris Buchler

Marsh Wren: Porters Lake, May 12, Carrie Chalcraft

Black-throated Sparrow: north of Lancaster Road - North East of Hayden Lake (town), May 19, Stevan McQuiston

Northern Waterthrush: Post Falls, June 5, Stephen Lindsay - We are lucky to get this species - it stayed about 20 min. and then moved on.

Fox Sparrow: east of Hudlow Saddle Coeur d'Alene National Forest, July 6, Kris Buchler

2005-2006 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Our chapter holds a general meeting each month, September through June, We have a guest speaker at every meeting. The meetings are open to the public, and provide a good introduction to our group for prospective members, as well as being popular with home-schoolers. We generally meet the third Monday of each month, at 7:00 P.M. From September to December, we will meet at the Idaho Fish & Game building at 2750 Kathleen Ave. From January to May, we will meet at the Presbyterian church at 521 Lakeside. Please check our website though, for any last-minute changes.

Board meetings are held once a month at 4:30 P.M. on the same day as the general meetings. Meeting are held at the Mountain West Bank, 125 Ironwood.

PROGRAMS SCHEDULED FOR THE COMING YEAR:

September 19, 2005: Bob Ries, NOAA, "Status of Columbia River Salmon"

October 17, 2005: Carol Randall, USFS, "Recognizing Insect Signs in the Forest"

November 21, 2005: Bryon Holt, USFWS, "Status of Northwest Lynx"

December 12, 2005: Kris Buchler, Coeur d'Alene Audubon, "Winter Bird Identification"

January 16, 2006: Wayne Melquist, University of Idaho, "River Otter Genetics"

February 20, 2006: Harvey Brown, "The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge"

March 20, 2006: Nancy Mertz, Coeur d'Alene Audubon, "Vancouver Island Orcas"

April 17, 2006: Don Johnson, University of Idaho (retired), "Osprey Banding Program"

May 15, 2006: To be announced, "Shade-grown Coffee"

June 19, 2006: Picnic, look for details in the May newsletter or on our website

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EVENTS

RAPTOR CHAPTER

15 Oct 2005, 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. RAPTOR CHAPTER will give an educational presentation with living hawks, owls, falcons and a bald eagle. Red Lion Inn in Post Falls. Also included will be a discussion of the organization's educational and rehabilitation goals, a silent auction and refreshments. More details will be available in the next newsletter. This is a program you won't want to miss!!

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Our Audubon chapter has adopted a two mile stretch of Highway 95 before the turn off to Mica Bay. We pick up trash twice a year. Our fall pick up day is Saturday, October 22 (see the article on page 2 for details). The spring pick up day will be announced in the April newsletter and on our webpage

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

December 14 - January 5 - See Dates and information for local counts under field trips.

EARTH DAY

Our chapter hosts a booth at this annual event in April. Check our website for details.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Join us in a celebration of the return of warblers and other songbirds from their southern wintering grounds. Check our website for details on this event held the second weekend in May.

CENTURY COUNT

May 30 - See details under Field Trips

ANNUAL YARD SALE

This annual fund-raising tradition will be held Saturday, June 3.

2005-2006 FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

1. **PLEASE REGISTER:** Dates and trips could change - check future newsletters or our website - or call the trip leader ahead of time
2. **COST:** Participants will share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver. With the price of gas going up, our past reimbursement policy is inadequate. This will be taken up at the next board meeting and a the new mileage reimbursement will be announced in the October newsletter and on our website.
3. **RADIOS:** We will ask participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries as needed.
4. **UNSCHEDULED TRIPS :** Sign up for to be on the group email list for unscheduled trips with Shirley Sturts: s.sturts@verizon.net. Those without email may get on a call list by calling Shirley at 664-5318.

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES: 2nd Tuesday of each month

TIME: 8:00 A.M. September - November and April; 9:00 a.m. December- March: 7:00 a.m. May-August

MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

LEADERS: Shirley Sturts, 664-5318 - Kris Buchler, 664-4739

ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds in the Mica Bay.

BROWN BAG BIRDING TRIP

DATE: 3rd Tuesday of each month

TIME: 12:00 noon - 1:00 P.M.

MEET: September 20th Fernan Lake Boat Launch (west end)

October 18 Tubbs Hill - 11th Street entrance; November 15 Independence Point December - May meeting places will be announced in future newsletters and on our website

LEADER: Lynn Sheridan, 765-2603

ACTIVITY: Take an hour out of your busy day to enjoy the out-of-doors, see how many different species of birds one can find in an hour and get to know people that share your interest in nature.

Beginner bird watchers are welcome.

Continued on page 8

2005-2006 FIELD TRIP CONTINUED**CHAIN O' LAKES BIKE TRIP****DATE: Saturday, September 10****TIME: 7:30 A.M.****MEET: Fernan Ranger Station****LEADER: Dick Cripe, 665-0010.****ACTIVITY: Three quarter day - Bike from Medimont to Harrison and back.****DR. BILL REMBER'S BOTANICAL FOSSIL DIGGINGS - CLARKIA****DATE: Saturday, September 17****TIME AND MEET: Register with Roland Craft****LEADER: Roland Craft - 457-8894.****Sponsored by Coeur d'Alene Native Plant Society.****CANOE CRANBERRY TRIP****DATE: Thursday, October 13****TIME: 9:00 A.M.****MEET: Fernan Ranger Station****LEADER: Dick Cripe, 665-0010.****ACTIVITY: Put canoes in at Killarney Lake and canoe to an ancient cranberry patch - There may be room in a canoe if you don't have one - call Dick****BEGINNING BIRDERS TRIP****DATE: Saturday, October 29****TIME: 9:00 AM.****MEET: Independence Point****LEADER: Dick Cripe, 665-0010.****ACTIVITY: Look for birds in City Park, the NIC campus and along the Spokane River. (half day)****BOREAL OWL TRIP****DATE: Saturday and Sunday, November 12 and 13****TIME: 9:00 A.M. (Saturday)****MEET: K-Mart parking lot, south end****LEADER: Roland Craft, 457-8894****ACTIVITY: Search for Boreal Owls - details provided in the November newsletter****CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**

Three Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) are conducted in the Coeur d'Alene area each winter, part of a larger Audubon program extending across the Western Hemisphere. No matter what your skill level, beginner or expert, you can be a part of this century-old tradition. Join an Audubon team for the day or half of the day, or count birds at your feeder if you live within one of the count circles. For more information about the CBC, go to www.audubon.org and click on "Science". For specific information about our local CBCs, or to sign up, contact Shirley Sturts s.sturts@verizon.net

Cost: \$5.00 per CBC plus gas money for the driver**Coeur d'Alene CBC: Thursday, December 15, 2005****Indian Mountain CBC: Monday January 2, 2006****Spirit Lake CBC: Thursday, January 5, 2006****RATHDRUM PRAIRIE****DATE: Sunday, January 22****TIME: 12:00 Noon to dark****MEET: K-Mart parking lot, south end****LEADER: Dick Cripe, 665-0010****ACTIVITY: Look for winter visitors from noon until dusk****Continued on page 9**

2005-2006 FIELD TRIP CONTINUED**SANDPOINT AREA****DATE:** Sunday, February 19**TIME:** 8:30 A.M.**MEET:** K-Mart parking lot, south end**LEADER:** Dick Cripe, 665-0010**ACTIVITY:** Look for winter waterfowl and unusual gulls. (full day bring lunch and water)**SPOKANE VALLEY AREA****DATE:** Saturday, March 18**TIME:** 8:30 A.M.**MEET:** K-Mart parking lot, south end**LEADER:** Roland Craft, 457-8894 (maybe jointly with Spokane Audubon)**ACTIVITY:** Visit Dishman Hills and Liberty Lake (Full day bring lunch and water)**COLUMBIA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. OTHELLO, WASHINGTON****DATE:** Saturday and Sunday, April 8 and 9

Note the date is two weeks after the Sandhill Crane Festival - lots of birds but fewer humanoids.

TIME: 9:00 A.M. (Saturday)**MEET:** K-Mart parking lot, south end**LEADER:** Roland Craft, 457-8894.**ACTIVITY:** Look for Sandhill Cranes and other migratory waterfowl - Leave 9:00 A.M. Saturday and drive to Othello. Bird in the afternoon and following morning. Start home after lunch on Sunday. Stay overnight in motel or make personal arrangements. Roland will have motel information available but you are responsible for making your own reservations.**CHENEY WASHINGTON AREA****DATE:** Sunday, May 7**TIME:** 7:30 A. M.**MEET:** K-Mart parking lot, south end**LEADER:** Roland Craft, 457-8894 (May be a joint with Spokane Audubon)**ACTIVITY:** Visit Turnbull Wildlife Refuge, Fishtrap Lake and the surrounding area. (full day bring lunch and water)**BEGINNING BIRDERS TRIP****DATE:** Saturday, May 20**MEET:** Fernan Ranger Station**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.**LEADER:** Dick Cripe, 665-0010**ACTIVITY:** Visit local feeders (half day)**CENTURY COUNT**

This is a Big Day style count in which we attempt to locate 100+ species in a single day. All skill levels welcome for this event held in late May. The 2006 Century Count will be in Kootenai County on May 30. It's a blast! Check our website in April or May for details.

PELAGIC BIRD TRIP. WESTPORT, WASHINGTON**DATE:** Saturday - Monday, June 25-26 (tentative date)**TIME:** Time 8:00 A.M. Saturday**MEET:** K-mart Parking lot, south end**LEADER:** Roland Craft, 457-8894.**ACTIVITY:** Leave 8:00 A.M. Saturday and drive to Westport, WA. - pelagic bird trip by chartered boat on Sunday - Return home Monday June 26. Roland will have motel information available but you are responsible for making your own reservations for the motel and the boat trip.

