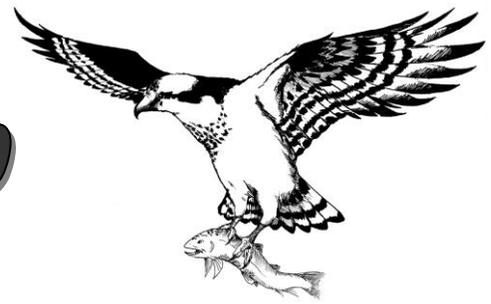


# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

September 2007

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 1

## BOARD MEETING

**DATE:** September 17, Monday  
**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Mt. West Bank  
125 Ironwood Dr.

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

**DATE:** September 17, Monday  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** First Presbyterian Church,  
521 E. Lakeside, Coeur d'Alene  
**SPEAKER:** Wes Hanson  
**PROGRAM:** "Ways to Conserve  
Your Land Through Conservation  
Easements"



Photograph  
Wayne Tree

## BALD EAGLE DELISTING CELEBRATION!

*"Living with Birds of Prey"*

Presented by *Birds of Prey Northwest* and  
Sponsored by the Post Falls Library

**Date:** Saturday, September 22, 2007

**Time:** 11:00 A.M.

**Place:** Post Falls Library

Come have "breakfast with the birds." Enjoy a **free program** showcasing Liberty, a female Bald Eagle. Learn about eagles, hawks, falcons and owls and their role in our environment. Discover how you can help our birds of prey.

Refreshments will be provide

## BALD EAGLE REMOVED FROM THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST

Kris Buchler

On June 28, 2007, Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne, announced the delisting of the Bald Eagle from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. The final delisting rule was published on July 9, 2007 and became effective on August 8, 2007. The USFWS will continue to work with state wildlife agencies to monitor eagles for at least 5 years, as required by the Endangered Species Act.

The Bald Eagle was first protected in 1940 under the later named, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Additional protection was given by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Even with these in place, the population plunged in later decades due to widespread use of the pesticide DDT after World War II. DDT accumulated in the eagles, causing them to lay eggs with thin shells resulting in minimal breeding success. Some protections were instituted in 1967 and then the species was added to the new Endangered Species Act in 1973. DDT was banned in 1972 by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Recovery was accelerated by captive breeding programs, reintroductions, law enforcement efforts, education, protection of habitat around nest sites, and land purchase and preservation activities. The numbers of an all-time low of 417 breeding pairs in 1963 have increased to a high of 9,789 pairs in the lower 48 states today. Bald Eagles in Alaska have never needed protection with an estimated population of 50,000 to 70,000 birds.

Bald Eagles will continue to be protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Both Federal laws prohibit the "taking" of eagles – defined as killing, selling, or otherwise harming eagles, their nests, or eggs. **Please note: the USFWS is currently accepting public comments on a proposed rule for managed take under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act that would allow a limited take of Bald and Golden Eagles.**

Outdoor enthusiasts have enjoyed the beauty our growing Bald Eagle population brings to our lake country. It seems new nests are established each year in our bays and along our rivers. Many private citizens as well as agency employees participate in eagle monitoring. Roger Young and I monitor nests each summer for IDFG.

*Continued on Page 2*

## BALD EAGLE . . .

### Continued from page 1

In the winter, Audubon members, Roland Craft and Stephen Johnson, have assisted me in a midwinter Bald Eagle Count for the BLM. Alert bird watchers discover new nesting sites each spring and their reports to Audubon and IDFG enable nests to be monitored. Hundreds of residents and visitors to our state experience the migration of Bald Eagles to Wolf Lodge Bay where they feed on spawning kokanee salmon. This magnificent species inspires awe with its beauty and majesty as our National Bird. We trust citizens to be its caretakers and guarantee that the Bald Eagle will be around for a very long time about other projects.



### ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROJECT A June Foray

Judy Waring

Saturday, May 5 was our eighth time out to Mica grade for the clean up of two miles of accumulated litter. We have consistently had good luck with weather on these forays and this one was no different - cool to start, turning sunny and pleasant.

The morning yielded twenty-one bags of debris collected by fifteen Auduboners over 1 ½ hours. Using the "minimum size" system, which is to pick up nothing smaller than a deck of cards, we cover our ground in short order and leave the highway looking much improved.

The fall pick up is scheduled for Saturday, October 6. We meet at the Mica Grange at 8:30 am for the standard doughnuts

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

and juice. Come out and enjoy a guaranteed nice fall morning with the group. For more info call Judy Waring at 765-5378



### A MESSAGE FROM CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Lynn Sheridan

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer, although it has been very hot. It must be what the California Quail like as I have had oodles of them, covies of 10 to 20. Cute! I've enjoyed my first year and hope that the next will prove as interesting. I appreciate the support and good advice from fellow members.

One of our on-going projects is the Susan Weller Memorial Fund of \$500.00. This year it was awarded to Laura Hershberger, who is majoring in forestry. She would like to help manage our natural resources.

See you all at our first September meeting, unless our paths cross sooner.

### CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

If you have an interest in education or conservation issues, consider donating as little as a few hours of your time to the work done by our local committees. Our volunteers work on a number of projects, including giving presentations to schoolchildren, and researching the science behind environmental issues.

Whoever you are, you have skills and experience which would benefit our local chapter. One project with which we could use help is our bluebird trail monitoring project. Volunteers make sure that each spring, the

boxes are clean and ready to go. Through the nesting season, the progress of the bluebirds from nest-building to fledging of young is monitored.

Give a call to any of our committee chairs to find out

### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Roland Craft

Persons with conservation ideas pertaining to birds are welcome to attend our meetings. They are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM at the Little Seattle Coffee shop on 4th Street. For information about our activities call me at 457-8894

#### Activities this past year:

1. Attended meetings with the USFS concerning the travel management plan for the Coeur d'Alene Ranger District. The environmental assessment should be coming out in September.
2. Attended meetings with BLM about their management plan for land they own in the Blue Creek area.
3. Worked with the Fernan Lake Conservation group on the reconstruction of the Fernan Lake road and the proposed development above the heron rookery.
4. Discussed a visit to the Ulm Creek forest fire to determine the impact on birds.
5. Attended meetings related to the cleanup of the Coeur d'Alene River basin.
6. Worked with other Audubon members to record bird development in bird boxes on the Resort and Avondale golf courses, Hoodoo Valley, Mica Bay and Higgens Point.
7. Attended Kootenai County Comprehensive Plan meetings.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE 2006-2007

Janet Callen

I believe the purpose of Audubon education is to connect with the public and create an interest in all things related to birds. To that end, last year we had a display table at the Kootenai Farmer's Market in August; we traveled to a grade school in Kellogg to present a program appropriate to third-grade students; we were represented at the Earth Day Fair in April with a display about bird, bat and butterfly friendly yards; on International Migratory Bird Day we helped with a trash pickup on Fernan Lake and then conducted a short beginning birders walk; and two members led a bird-watching and plant identification walk on Tubb's Hill with Coeur d'Alene's city forester. Lastly, but not least we placed *Audubon Adventures* newsletters in 137 classrooms in Kootenai, Shoshone and Benewah counties. Coeur d'Alene was first among Audubon chapters throughout the United States in the number of classrooms reached, but we could not have done so without the generous financial support of Mary Lou and Scott Reed.

My goals for the Education Committee in the upcoming fiscal year are first, to have all classrooms contacted and the *Adventures* packets ordered by the first week of November. My second priority is to place Idaho Birding Trail Guides in the new Chamber of Commerce office. We'll see if it can be done. I am working on an idea for International Migratory Bird Day that differs from what we've done previously. If anyone has ideas for education outreach, please call me at 664-1085. Our

activities are not exclusive and volunteers are always welcome. Thanks to all who have helped on our projects this year, with a special thanks to Kris Buchler.



### MILES TRAVELED BIRDS SEEN A DIARY OF PAST FIELD TRIPS

#### COULEE CORRIDOR TRIP APRIL 28-30, 2007

Janet Callen

Ten members of Coeur d'Alene Audubon traveled to Moses Lake on April 28 to begin a bird-watching trip following the Washing Coulee Corridor map. We met Doug and Barb Schonewald who graciously offered to be our guides for the next two days. On Saturday, we traveled south of Moses Lake where we had sightings of Black-necked Stilt, Cinnamon Teal, and White-throated Swift, among just a few. One of the highlights of this day was an extensive grove of cottonwood trees with nesting Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, and Great Egret. There must have been at least 200 birds throughout the trees.

And there was the mystery of the golden birds. We first spotted them on the road ahead as we walked a willow-lined road

between two bodies of water. They shone golden in the sunlight, but Doug kept insisting they were White-crowned Sparrows. They had been eating the pollen-laden seed pods hanging on the willows and were covered in pollen. Some had so much pollen on them that their white heads was golden.

April 29 saw two travelers return to Coeur d'Alene and the rest of us traveled north with a side trip west of Highway 17 and then to Soap Lake. We stopped at Lake Lenore and Sun Lakes State Park searching for more birds. Some highlights of this journey was a Loggerhead Shrike (a first for me) a Sage Sparrow, Long-billed Curlew, and American Avocet at Soap Lake. On Lake Lenore we had wonderful close viewings of Barrow's Goldeneye. Barrow's nest at Lake Lenore in the cliffs. After a stop to view Dry Falls, Doug and Barb returned home and our group continued north to Grand Coulee where we spent the night.

On Monday, two more travelers returned to CDA and the rest of the group went to Steamboat State Park and climbed to the top. Wildflowers, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, Say's Phoebe, and a Western Meadowlark, defending a nest site, entertained us on the climb. The five-mile hike was not particularly difficult except for the places where we walked on loose rocks. The weather for the three days was perfect and so was the company. Ronn & Roberta Rich, Judy Waring, Nancy Mertz, Bill & Joan Gundlach, Jan Severtson, Roland and Pat Craft and myself made the trip. We owe Doug and Barb Schonewald a special thanks.

**INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRATORY BIRD DAY**  
MAY 12, 2007



**Bullock's Oriole  
photograph by Bill Lynn**

Janet Callen

This year five members of Audubon joined the Fernan Lake Conservation Recreation Association and picked up trash from the west-end boat launch to the east end. Yes, we found fishing line tangled along the banks and in the shrubs. At 10:30 a.m. we departed the trash pick-up and went back to the west-end boat launch. A two-hour birding expedition was planned, following the same path we'd taken previously. We were joined by a couple from Spokane and a home-schooling family of son, mother and grandmother. We also met a woman and her daughter who'd been waiting in that area for us. We birded around the boat launch area, pointing out the nesting pair of Red-necked Grebe and the Great Blue Heron rookery, and then traveled on to the eastern boat launch. The highlight in this area was Wood Ducks, including a female with chicks. A Yellow Warbler and a Belted Kingfisher were found in the willows. Audubon members participating were Roland Craft (in the boat), Kris Buchler, Lynn Sheridan and Jonathan Breneke.



**NOON TIME  
BIRDING**  
MAY 15

(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 Noon Time Birding scheduled for the coming year)

Lynn Sheridan

Dale Horst, Judy Waring and I enjoyed our walk on Tubbs Hill. We thought we heard a Yellow Warbler, and finally we saw 2 fly in front of us. A Downy Woodpecker was conspicuous, and flocks of Violet-green and Tree Swallows swarmed over the water.

We heard a clear American Robin song and then a slightly different song, with a burr at end, and faintly "per-chik". We hoped it was a Western Tanager but couldn't find it. Other "heard only birds" were: Northern Flicker, Common Raven and Osprey.

Flowers were plentiful among the lush greenery: shooting star, pink and white phlox, starflower, Oregon grape, arrowleaf balsam root, larkspur, wild hyacinth, chocolate lily, and lomatium.

Thank you, friends.

**BEGINNING  
BIRDWATCHING**  
June 25, 2007

Janet Callen

New member, Adela Sussman, and I traveled to Fernan Lake to participate in the last *beginning birdwatching field trip* of a series in June. We found no one at the boat launch, and no one ten minutes later at the Fernan Ranger Station so we traveled to the other end of the lake. We stopped once to

view the Bald Eagles, and then proceeded to the boat launch area. We were greeted with the loud, continuous "MEOW" of a cat somewhere on the hillside. I climbed part way up, but couldn't see the creature. It was obviously in distress. And then Shirley Sturts and Kathy Erickson appeared (we'd missed them at the ranger station) and we discussed the cat. Shirley climbed the hill and shortly thereafter called, "I'm petting it" and I could see a tail moving back and forth. She came down the hill, and kitty was right behind. It was a young, yellow-gold unaltered male with amber-colored eyes and very skinny. We couldn't leave it. Shirley has dogs, I have three cats already but Adela who loves cats, while being extremely allergic to them, said she'd take him for the night. It was obviously not a feral cat, and it was extremely in need of affection. We stopped at my house, gathered food and a carrier, and litter and she took him home.

The Humane Society couldn't take him immediately, and Adela was put on a waiting list. She searched the *lost & found list* posted by the society. She took him to the vet, paid for him to be neutered, have rabies and feline leukemia shots, and fortunately found him a home. Kitty was just what her asthma didn't need because he wanted to be with her constantly, held and loved.



**"In order to see birds it is necessary to become part of the silence**

-- Robert Lynd (187-1949)  
Irish Journalist



photo by  
Wayne Tree

## SHOSHONE RIDGE HIKE

AUGUST 1

Dick Cripe

A little of everything it was: a little hiking, a little birding, a little huckleberry picking, a little dog walking, and a lot of conversation. Six of us made our way along a mostly level trail that cut through a steep slope with great views of the North Fork Canyon and the CDA Mountains to the west. From the top of the ridge we also had extensive views of the Cabinet Range to the east.

Birds included Ruffed and Spruce Grouse, Clark's Nut-

cracker, Chestnut-backed and Mountain Chickadees, and various sparrow and finch species (probably indistinct juveniles) - (Roland, what else is on your list?) We made our way casually past Downey and Bennet Peaks and had lunch on Little Sentinel Peak. We went on over Sentinel Peak, but didn't make it to Pond Peak and didn't care. After huckleberry picking our way back we considered ending the day with a dip in the river, but settled for ice cream at Babin's Store. Participants were Shirley Sturts, Lisa Hardy, Roland Craft, Janet Callen, Jan Severtson, Dick Cripe, and dogs: Daisy, Ben and Kip.

## **OBSERVATION POST**

From the Journals of Roland Craft, Theresa Potts, Shirley Sturts

### Hoo Doo Bluebird Trail

Western Bluebirds: boxes used 13 (3 twice) - fledged 59 -

failed nesting attempts 2

Mountain Bluebird: Boxes used 1 - nesting attempt failed

Tree Swallow: boxes used 38 - fledged 109 - failed nesting attempts 10

Mountain Chickadee: boxes used 1 - fledged 5

House Wren: boxes used 1 - fledged unknown number

### Mica Bay/Flats Trail

Western Bluebird: boxes used 3 (2 used twice) - fledged 15

Tree Swallow: boxes used 18 - fledged 58 - failed nesting attempts 6

**Thank you to those who helped us with the surveys.**

## **2006-2007 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. . Our meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church, 521 Lakeside. Please check our website for any last-minute changes. Our June meeting is a picnic, the location announced in the May Newsletter.

Board Meetings are held once a month at 4:30 P.M. at Mountain West Bank, 125 Ironwood, prior to the general meetings.

### PROGRAMS SCHEDULED 2007-2008

- Sept 17 Wes Hanson, "Ways to Conserve Your Land Through Conservation Easements."
- Oct. 15 Kate Healy, USFWS, "MAPS: Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship."
- Nov.19 Tom Buckley, USFWS, "Effects of Water Quality on Local Birds and Fish."
- Dec 10 (2nd Monday) Kris Buchler, "Wintering Birds." (getting ready for the Christmas Bird) Also we do a COOKIE EXCHANGE!!
- Jan 21 Jane Cantwell, Bird of Prey Northwest, "Living With Birds of Prey. "
- February To be announced
- March Scott Robinson, BLM, "Breeding Birds of Blackwell Island"
- May To be announced
- June , 2008: Picnic, look for details in the May newsletter or on our website

## EVENTS

### ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY OCTOBER 6, 2006

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 6; see the article on page 2 for details. The spring pick up day will be announced in the April newsletter and on our webpage

### EARTH DAY - APRIL 19, 2008

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

### INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY - MAY 10, 2008

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.

### ANNUAL SPRING YARD SALE - JUNE 2007 (Day to be announced)

This is an annual fund-raising tradition. Check the May newsletter for details.

## 2007-2008 FIELD TRIPS

**PLEASE REGISTER:** Watch the website for updates to our field trip schedule. Participants should contact the trip leader at least 24 hours in advance of the field trip to find out if the meeting place/time or destination have been changed.

**COST:** Participants will share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver at a rate of \$0.25/mile, with the trip leader responsible for collection and distribution of the compensation.

**RADIOS:** We will ask participants to contribute \$1.00 toward batteries as needed.

### MICA BAY SURVEY

**DATES:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### NOON TIME BIRDING TRIP

( 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month - 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.)

**DATE:** September 18 - Tuesday

**TIME:** 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

**MEET:** Fernan Lake, west end boat launch..

**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 who share your interest in nature.

Beginner bird watchers are welcome.

### BIKE TRIP - TRAIL OF THE COEUR D'ALENES FROM BLACK ROCK TO HARRISON

**DATE:** September 15 - Saturday

**MEET:** Black Rock trailhead (Highway 3) at 8:00 a.m.

**LEADER:** Lisa Hardy 783-1262

**ACTIVITY :** This is a 3/4 day trip. Bring lunch and water in addition to your bicycle. If the weather is poor, we may walk the trail instead.

### CRANBERRY BOG CANOE TRIP

**DATES:** October 3, Wednesday, and October 13, Saturday

**MEET:** Fernan Ranger Station at 8:30 a.m.

**LEADER:** Dick Cripe 665-0010. Call leader by October 1 to arrange canoe transport.

**ACTIVITY:** We will paddle to the floating cranberry bog at Hidden Lake and pick cranberries. Wear appropriate footwear, and bring lunch and water as well as a container for your berries. This will be a full day trip.

### MINERAL RIDGE TRAIL ON LAKE PEND OREILLE

**DATE:** October 27, Saturday

**MEET:** K-mart parking lot, behind Mexican restaurant at 8:30 a.m.

**LEADER:** Judy Waring 765-5378

**ACTIVITY:** This will be a 3/4 day trip. The hike will be 4.2 miles round-trip. Wear appropriate footwear, and bring lunch and water.

### OTHER SCHEDULED FIELD TRIPS

Check details in future newsletters

**NOVEMBER 10 - Saturday, day trip to Little Spokane River, Leader: Jan Severtson 667-6209**

### **CHRISTMAS COUNTS (tentative dates)**

**CDA - Dec. 15 Saturday**

**Indian Mtn. date not set yet**

**Bonnors Ferry - 29 Dec. Saturday**

**Sandpoint - Dec. 15 Saturday**

**Spirit Lake - 5 Jan. Saturday**

### **2008**

**JANUARY 27, Sunday, Rathdrum Prairie, leader: Roland Craft 457-8894**

**FEBRUARY 16, Saturday, Sandpoint, leader: Lisa Hardy 783-1262**

**MARCH 16, Sunday, Boundary WMA - Ball Creek - Kootenai NWR, leader: Lisa Hardy 783-1262**

**APRIL 27, Sunday, to be announced, leader: Roland Craft 457-8894**

**MAY 10 - Saturday, Moscow area, leader: Janet Callen 664-1085**

**MAY 24, Saturday, Worley - Conkling Park area leader: Kris Buchler 664-4739**

**JUNE 7 - Saturday, Benewah County Century Count**

## **SUBSCRIPTION FEE FOR "THE FISH HAWK HERALD"**

**All local Audubon members 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 newsletter)**

**Please renew. Questions? Call 667-6209--Jan**

**The Fish Hawk Herald is provided free of charge on our website -- [www.cdaudubon.org](http://www.cdaudubon.org)**