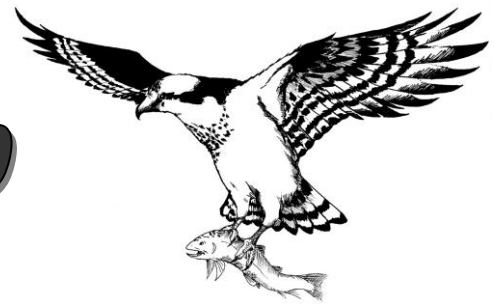


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society
www.cdaudubon.org

September 2009

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 1

FISH HAWK HERALD SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Our September issue is complimentary to all local Audubon members. To receive the October - May issue you need to subscribe: \$15 for one year or \$25 for two years. (See the subscription form on the back of this newsletter.) Some of you have paid for two years, and some have a different expiration date. Please call Jan at 667-6209 if you are unsure of your subscription status. The newsletter is free of charge on our website: www.cdaudubon.org

ALSO: Articles for the newsletters are welcome. Please submit to the editor Shirley Sturts at: shirley.sturts@gmail.com by the 15th of each month,

Thank you and happy reading!

AWARDS PRESENTED AT SPRING PICNIC

PICNIC FIRST FALL MEETING

DATE: Sept. 1, Tuesday
PLACE: Picnic at NIC Beach
TIME: 5:00 p.m. social hour
6:00 p.m. picnic dinner

BRING:

- ✓ Your own entree, plates, utensils and drinks
- ✓ A dish to share
- ✓ Charcoal will be provided if you wish to barbecue
- ✓ A chair and or blanket to sit on
- ✓ Please bring your friends and others who may like to become members

Visit our website:
www.cdaudubon.org

Ed Buchler



Ed Buchler (right) presents a Meritorious Service Award from the National Audubon Society to Roger Young (left)

At our annual spring picnic, the board chose to recognize the efforts of some of our members who have been "in the background", but have contributed a great deal over the years. Each of the following received a Meritorious Service Award from the National Audubon Society and a gift certificate for Northland Nursery. **Ronn Rich** - for being our Treasurer for the

last several years, keeping meticulous records of income and expenditures and acting as our trusted counsel in all financial matters. **Joan Gundlach** - for ensuring that those members who receive hard copies of the monthly Newsletter do, in fact, receive them. This involves the thankless task of folding, sealing, stamping and addressing about 60 copies every month. **Kris Buchler** - for presenting a number of educational programs and completing many breeding bird surveys on Audubon's behalf. She also spearheaded the effort to have four Idaho Birding Trail interpretative signs designed and installed. We co-sponsored these with the WREN Foundation and other stakeholders. **Roger Young** - for inviting many of us into his workshop over the years to construct blue bird nesting boxes. All who participated immediately recognized his great efficiency, order and attention to detail. We were fortunate in being able to give his well-deserved award to Roger a few weeks before he passed away. He was a kind and gentle man. Please read Dick Cripe's tribute on page 2 of this Newsletter.

ROGER YOUNG

In Memoriam

Dick Cripe

At our annual picnic on June 6 CdA Audubon awarded Roger with a plaque for his contributions over the years. Within a month, Roger died of complications due to cancer. I first met Roger through the work parties Audubon organized to assemble birdhouses. Roger would have cut all of the pieces and drilled holes so that all the work crew had to do was screw the pieces together. That way we could construct twenty birdhouses in a short period of time. I really didn't get to know him, however, until November, 2005 when I organized a hike from my front door to Canfield Mountain. I had described the hike as an easy walk, but it proved to be about seven miles with 2000' elevation gain. Roger participated and completed the hike as easily as anyone, and I was impressed when he announced that he would be 80 the following month.

Roger asked me if I would be interested in joining him in walks during the coming winter. I agreed and so began a friendship based on hiking, biking, and bird watching. Roger very much enjoyed the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes and we biked all sections numerous times. He was a good birder and liked to travel slowly and check out the bird activity. We also biked the Centennial Trail and the new trail northwest of town. He enjoyed hiking and I took him on several hikes in Shoshone County visiting spots I had hiked as a kid. The highlight occurred last September when we saw a wolf at St. Regis Lakes. For several minutes the wolf watched us while we watched him, so that we all got a good look at each other. Roger and I always ended a bike ride or a hike with a huckleberry ice cream cone, or coffee if the weather was cold.

Roger suggested that we put up birdhouses on Ponderosa Golf Course near our homes. We put up six houses, monitored them, and cleaned them each fall. I asked him to help me put some houses on property near my home - the Johnson farm. We started with six houses the first spring and added some each year until now there are 15 houses that I continue to monitor.

Roger lived almost all of his life in Coeur d'Alene and he loved to talk about the town and tell stories about his growing up years. During the winter when we took walks around town he would point out things to

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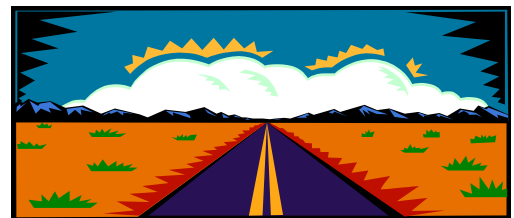
me that I didn't know or only vaguely remembered such as the location of railroad spurs through town, lumber yards, and loading docks.

Three years ago Roger was diagnosed with cancer and began aggressive treatments. We continued taking walks and short bike rides during that time depending on how he felt. Someone suggested that this was a nice thing that I was doing with Roger as if it was some sort of social service project. But that wasn't the nature of the relationship at all. We were friends. We had interests and values in common; he was good company. Throughout his cancer treatment he never expressed self-pity. I remember when he first told me about the cancer - it was as if he was telling me that he had a leaky roof in his house, a great annoyance and inconvenience. He was always cheerful and positive in his outlook. If he felt crummy from his cancer treatments he said so and suggested that I call him next week when he would feel better.

I miss Roger. A couple of days ago I checked on our birdhouses and, in my mind, gave Roger a summary of the summer's nesting activity. He would have been pleased and excited by the success of our houses. I think of him when I'm out biking when I know that he would have enjoyed the day. I miss him and know that many others do also.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Judy Waring



On May 9th we picked up highway litter along the backside of Mica grade for the 12th time. It was the usual nice morning that we have come to expect and the work went quickly. It took 5 and ½ people (Pat Bearman joined us later in the morning) only 1 and ½ hours to complete the job, netting 13 bags of trash.

On Saturday, October 3 we will be back at it again. We meet at 8 a.m. at the Mica Grange Hall for the donut and juice ritual. If you have a free morning, please join us in our community service effort. It is a satisfying way to spend two hours. For more information call Judy at 765-5378.

OWL HOOT Free Program



Photographed by
Wayne Tree

DATE: Saturday,
September 26
TIME: 6:00-7:30 p.m.
PLACE: Blackwell
Island Boaters' Park

SPONSORS: BLM, "Take It Outside Grant"
Bring your family for an entertaining evening featuring wildlife educators from BLM, IDFG and Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society, live educational owls and refreshments! All ages welcome! We'll finish the educational program with roasted marshmallows and s'mores. Bring law blankets. Information: Beth Paragamian-699-7724

on a snag which turned out to be a large owl. We could see ear tufts but not much else in the dim light. After several minutes it silently glided away. The next evening, the owl was back in exactly the same place. We have continued to hear the screeching off and on since the beginning. Last night we finally were treated to a visual confirmation.

While watching a film, Ed spotted a large owl on the corner of the roof peak of the new house next door. It continually made the screechy sound we had been hearing. Its ear tufts stood out and as we watched, another slightly larger owl flew in to join it. This one turned towards us exposing the white throat of the Great Horned Owl. We're not sure if we were watching two juveniles or an adult and a juvenile but they were definitely family. We continued to hear them the rest of the night and look forward to enjoying our little bit of wildness for as long as it lasts.

PHILLIPS FARM AND STEPTOE BUTTE FIELD TRIP MAY 16, 2009

Janet Callen

The weather was fantastic and the bird-watching even better. The birding party of Lisa Hardy, Judy Waring and myself, Janet Callen, gave the day at least 4 and ½ stars. One of the first sights as we arrived at Phillips Farm was a male Western Tanager on a low branch in the sunlight. One of the last was a close-up view of a Great Horned Owl perched on open branches about 20 feet above the trail. We were able to view it for about ten minutes. And there were numerous Chipping Sparrows, Yellow Warblers, a Red-naped Sapsucker, vocal House Wrens and other delightful sightings.

As we ate lunch at the Steptoe Butte park' we were treated to an eye-level look at a Townsend's Warbler in an apple tree. The picnic area and the journey to the top yielded Spotted Towhee, MacGillivray's Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Western Kingbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, and other species.

At the McCroskey rest area on Highway 95 we heard a Northern Waterthrush and a Cassin's Vireo. Throughout the trip, Red-tailed Hawks were numerous. On the way home we stopped at the Oksdale sewage ponds and picked up some waterfowl. In total, we spotted 53 species, not counting the three moose and the marmot.

www.phillipsfarm.org

www.parks.wa.gov



OF SAW- WHETS AND GREAT HORNEDES

Kris Buchler

The screechy sound began at dusk in early July. There were two voices coming

Photographed by Wayne Tree

from the hill below our house. One would call, then another would follow in answer. One sounded raspy (a boy?) and the other more musical (a girl?) Our imaginations worked overtime as these sounds went on for most of the night. They would move around, sometimes coming from overhead trees next to the house. Only our sense of hearing was assaulted and never could we see anything.

Out came all of my birdsong CDs. Few contain more than the hooting of each owl species. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology CD had some screeches and we decided we might have Northern Saw-whet Owl juveniles. However, I have heard Great Horned Owls vocalize with a raspy screech during daylight hours so that was always a possibility.

Finally, one evening in late July, I was demonstrating my iPod to our young houseguests while standing on our deck at sunset. We observed a rounded shape

PEREGRINES AND BOBOLINKS

Boundary County Century Count

Kris Buchler



**Photograph
by Wayne
Tree**

It is hard to pick the highlight of our June 6th Century Count but the accommodations rank right at the top. Ripley Comegeys donated his Selkirk House to our chapter for two nights of luxurious comfort which eased the pain of rising at 4:00 a.m. and birding until almost 9:00 p.m. The birds that came with the house and property were unbelievable. In the past, we would rejoice in one Least Flycatcher. We tallied 6 before we ever left the grounds.

Our trip began the day before where participants gathered at the home of Janet Callen. Roland and Pat Craft drove their camper while Janet, Peggy Albertson, Derek Antonelli, Kris Buchler, Lisa Hardy, Jan Severtson and Linda Wright carpooled to dinner at Papa Byrd's in Bonners Ferry. After unloading at Selkirk House and meeting Ripley, we took a walk around the many acres of grounds, scouting for the morning. Linda delighted in feeding the trout in the pond.

Beginning at 4:30 a.m. in the early predawn, we tallied 26 species on the property in 1 ¼ hours. Driving south along Deep Creek, we picked up our American Dipper from a bridge across a bubbling brook. The Bobolinks were bobbing along near the road and we soon turned east along the south side of the Kootenai River. Lisa and Kris had done bird surveys for IDFG 3 years ago and became familiar with this route. Sure enough, we picked up a Lazuli Bunting just where we remembered seeing one years ago and everyone got good looks. We explored some spectacular real estate on a bluff above the river and at the foot of Two Tail Mountain. Although Peregrine Falcons are known to nest on the cliffs visible from there, we could not find them but managed to net some other species.

Cruising to Boulder Creek on the Idaho-Montana border, we passed up likely spots to target the Hermit Thrushes we remembered from our bird surveys. They did not disappoint us. Several were heard and our explorations to the ghost town of Boulder City and its cemetery produced two great warblers – Wilson's and Nashville. This was all new territory for most of the group and they found the old cemetery and history quite fascinating. Heading back to Bonners Ferry at just the right time snagged

one of our target birds, the Peregrine Falcon. Derek called out a large bird soaring up from the cliffs of Two Tail as we neared the curve to head down the mountain. We had found our falcon at last!

The sewage ponds of Bonners Ferry gave us several waterfowl we were still missing and the much sought-after House Sparrow was in town. We soon headed north to the Copeland Bridge where we picked up several swallow species and other waterfowl along Westside Road. Boundary Creek was rather quiet late in the day but we scored with Black Tern, Marsh Wren and Virginia Rail. The Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge gave us two hummingbirds with its many feeders. The Vaux's Swifts were located not far from the Ball Creek Ranch where they nest in the chimney.

Tired and with fading light, Lisa suggested we stand for a few quiet minutes near the banks of the Kootenai River and hope for a common Nighthawk. Sorceress that she is, it didn't take more than 3 minutes before Janet Callen spotted one fluttering over our heads for bird #102.

Rejoicing, we quickly piled into the cars and headed back to our waiting dinner and wine, showers, and wonderful space at Selkirk House. This is a rental house and available to birders. Ripley Comegeys manages the property for wildlife and it is a wonderful setting for birds, moose and serenity. We are very grateful for his generosity.



THE PROPOSED SCOTCHMAN PEAKS WILDERNESS REGION

Jon Isacoff

On Saturday, June 27, eight Birders from the CDA Audubon set out on a gorgeous, perfect day, to bird the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness region (see www.scotchmanpeaks.org - a really nice website). I was joined by Kris Buchler, Joan and Bill Gundlach, Janet Callen, Jan Severtson, and Valerie and Mike Zagar. Weather was approximately 80 and sunny around Lake Pend Oreille and a wonderfully comfortable 72 at 3,300 feet in the proposed wilderness where we ended our day.

Continued on Page 5

SCOTCHMAN PEAKS WILDERNESS

Continued from Page 4

While our targets were boreal specialties, we had some real surprises. On the first leg of our tour of Sunnyside Loop, we were treated to outstanding views of a Caspian Tern. Then while scanning for more eerns, we found several Ring-billed Gulls and in their midst, 2 adult Franklin Gulls. That was tough to top, but several minutes later, we found a Lark Sparrow perched perfectly atop a small ornamental spruce on a lawn. I believe these are quite rare in Bonner County so it was a real treat for the group to get such excellent views.

We proceeded up the Lightning Creek drainage in search of American Dipper and Harlequin Duck. Unfortunately, a new gate forced us to park about 2-3 miles further downstream than would have been ideal. Pardoning the pun, we "dipped on the Dipper" but just before we decided to return from our walk, Bill Gundlach spotted 1 female Harlequin Duck, giving us our main target for that area.

We finished the trip by birding our way up to an old cut near the Scotchman Peak trailhead at about 3,300 feet. Swainson's Thrush, Townsend's Warbler, and Chipping Sparrow were abundant and Winter Wren, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, MacGillivray's Warbler and Yellow-rumped Warbler made appearances. Several hikers told us they encountered a Dusky Grouse on the road just down from our spot, but we were unable to locate it. However, at the end of the trip, we were treated to outstanding views of an adult Northern Goshawk (probably male, based on size) that first made a quick flyover, then returned about 10 minutes later and circled over the open cut for at least 2 minutes provide spectacular viewing.

Clearly, a fantastic field trip! Full species lists on our website



BEGINNING BIRDING TRIPS WITH LYNN SHERIDAN

Honeysuckle Beach

June 18, 2009 10 a.m.-12 noon.

It was sunny and breezy as 6 of us met at Honeysuckle Beach: Christine Ibsen, Pat Bearman, Linda Meyer, Tom and Connie Dunn, who were visiting from San Diego.

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There weren't many people on the beach, but there were quite a few Canada Geese with their half grown goslings. On the dock a group of Ring-billed Gulls took it easy, while swallows swooped around them. Walking along the dike road we heard the twittering of Pygmy Nuthatch and lots of crickets too. The lake was bereft of waterfowl, but a Great Blue Heron flew by. American Robins were everywhere, especially at the soggy meadow on the right, as many juveniles, with their drab color and eye-catching black spotted breasts, were searching for worms.

There was a great deal of conversation, sharing knowledge of what species we have and know. With field guides in hand, we sorted out the swallows as they flew by. Some sat on fence posts which was a big help. We identified Tree, Violet-Green and Barn Swallows. Along the edges of the muddy pond we saw Spotted Sandpiper, Killdeer and Brewer's Blackbird. A lone Cedar Waxwing posed for us. The final delight of our outing was 3 silvery turtles, sunbathing and swimming.

Thank you everyone---our newcomers saw my ad in the Calendar page of the Coeur d'Alene Press.

Birding Blackwell Island July 11, 10 a.m.-Noon

Three of us, Adela Sussman, Vera Taggart and I, birded the Blackwell Island boat launch and picnic area managed by BLM. We parked at Fairmont Loop and walked back along Hwy 95, with me wearing an orange vest.

Waterfowl were absent in the creek and along the river edge, but plenty of Barn Swallows entertained us with their swooping over the meadow. On the grass, were "signs" of Canada Geese activity. In the dense deciduous trees, were bird sounds we couldn't identify (I was hoping for an oriole). We did add a Northern Flicker, Song Sparrow, and noisy Redwing Blackbird, making constant call notes, to our outing list. On the far side of the Spokane River we saw an Osprey family on a pole, and Tree Swallow going in and out of nest boxes.

There were not as many species as I had expected, even though there weren't many cars in the parking lot. Several dogs were splashing around in the marshy area, as their owners let them off the leashes.

The most prominent wildflowers were pink spirea, and yellow St. John's wort.

Thanks, ladies for joining me on such a hot day!

2009-2010 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Our chapter holds a general meeting each month, September through June, We have a guest speaker at our regular meetings. The meetings are open to the public, and provide a good introduction to our group for prospective members. We meet the first Tuesday of each month (DAY CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR) at 7:00 P.M. at the Lutheran Church of the Master on the NE corner of Kathleen and Ramsey. 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.

EVENTS 2009-2010

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY - Our Audubon chapter has adopted a two mile stretch of Highway 95 before the turn-off to Mica Bay. Our fall pick up day is Saturday, October 3 (details page 2). The spring pick-up to be announced

PROJECT FEEDER WATCH - They are now taking sign-ups for the 2009-2010 FeederWatch season, which begins on November 14. (go to <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>)

THANKSGIVING DAY BIRD COUNT - Thursday, November 26 - look for information in the November newsletter.

YARD LISTS - January 2010 - Time to turn in your personal Yard List totals for 2009 to: Lisa Hardy, basalt@earthlink.net. See Feb. or March newsletter for results; January 1, 2010 start a new Yard List.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT February 12-15: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY - April, 2010: <http://www.earthday.net/earthday2010>
Global Days of Service – April 17-18, 2010 - Global Day of Action: April 22, 2010

NATIONAL ARBOR DAY - April 30: <http://www.arborday.org/arborday/>

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY - May 8: <http://www.birdday.org/history.php>
Check our website for details on events held the second weekend in May.

FIELD TRIPS 2009-2010

PLEASE REGISTER: Watch the website or newsletter 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 has been changed. Participants will share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver.

MICA BAY SURVEY

DATES: September 8, Tuesday (held 2nd Tuesday of each month - times vary depending on month)

TIME: 8:00 a.m.

MEET: Fairmont Loop and Highway 95

LEADER: Shirley Sturts 664-5318

ACTIVITY: We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Everybody is welcome. Beginner birders are welcome. We will help you with identification skills.

EASTERN WASHINGTON MIGRANT EXTRAVAGANZA

DATE: September 13th, Sunday

TIME: 6: 15 a.m.

MEET: K-Mart Parking Lot, south side.

LEADER: Jon Isacoff - Call Ed or Kris Buchler at 664-4739 for information and to register .

ACTIVITY: All day trip so bring lunch and water. Look for Swainson's Hawk, all flycatchers, vireos and warblers, Canyon and Rock Wrens, Hermit and Varied Thrushes, American Pipit, Lark, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows. Numerous rarities were seen in 2007 -2008. Registration is required as the trip is limited to 10 people. Webpage will have more details about this trip.

FIELD TRIPS 2009-2010 CONTINUED

MINERAL POINT TRAIL

DATE: September 26, Saturday

TIME: 8:00 a.m.

MEET: K-Mart parking lot, south side.

LEADER: : Judy Waring - 765-5378

ACTIVITY: This trip was made last year under rainy, foggy weather so we are hoping for a nice sunny day. Mineral Point Trail, #82, overlooks Lake Pend Oreille and is 2.1 miles one way. It is labeled as an easy trail. In the same area is Lost Lake Trail, #81, and the two trails connect. Lost Lake is 2.3 miles long in a loop and is also labeled easy. Hikers can have a choice of hiking 2.1, 4.4 or 6.5 miles if they so choose. Bring water, lunch, and of course, binoculars. We will be looking mainly for upland birds.

MARIE CREEK TRAIL

DATE: October 17, Saturday:

TIME: 8:00 a.m.

MEET: Fernan Ranger Station

LEADER: Dick Cripe - 665-0010

ACTIVITY: This is mainly an all day trip so bring lunch and water. The hike is approximately 2 miles of fairly easy terrain. We will look for upland birds but also can spend some time around Wolf Lodge Bay searching for waterfowl.

HAYDEN LAKE AND ENGLISH POINT

DATE: October 24, Saturday

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

MEET: Meet: K-Mart parking lot, south side.

LEADER: Lisa Hardy, 783-1262 or e-mail basalt@earthlink.net

ACTIVITY: This will be a half-day trip looking for waterfowl on Hayden Lake with a hike at English Point.

NOTE: There will not be an Audubon organized Cranberry Bog trip this year.

TRAIL OF THE COEUR D'ALENES

DATE: November 14th, Saturday: -Jan Severtson leader.

TIME: 8:30 a.m

MEET: Fernan Ranger Station

LEADER: Jan Severtson, 667-6209

DESTINATION: Cataldo area of the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes. This will be walking tour along this beautiful portion of the trail. It will be a 3/4 day event, eating lunch at the Cataldo Mission Cafe--(quaint). Anyone wishing to visit the Mission after lunch may do so. It is well worth the time! Dress appropriately, and bring water.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS : (Tentative Dates) Contact Shirley Sturts 664-5318 or shirley.sturts@gmail.com
Coeur d'Alene - December 14, Monday : Spirit Lake - January 2, Saturday - Indian Mountain - January 4 Monday

2010 trips with more details later;

January 23: Sandpoint area and Pend Oreille River. Leader Bill Gundlach: 667-3339

February 13: Rathdrum Prairie 1/2 day. Leader: Bill Gundlach: 667-3339

March: (about the 20th) Chain Lakes for swans and other migrants. Leader: Lisa Hardy

April 24: Fishtrap/Hog Lake: 30 miles south of Spokane. Leaders: Roland Craft 457-8894 and Janet Callen 664-1085

May 1: Elk River Falls, White Pine Drive, Bovill and Deary. Alternate: Westmond Lake and Round Lake. Leaders: Roland Craft and Janet Callen

May 14, 15, 16: Three day, 2 night trip to Lee Metcalf Wildlife Refuge (on the Bitterroot Valley Mountain Birding Trail), Stevensville, Montana. Leaders: Kris Buchler 664-4739 and Janet Callen

June: Bonner County Century Count

Note: Beginning April, 2010 Lynn Sheridan will lead monthly local-area birding trips for beginning birders. Each event will begin at 10:00 a.m. and last an hour and one-half. See dates and times beginning with the April newsletter.

June, July, August: If there is enough interest, field trips can be scheduled in these months.

