

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

September 2011

Volume 21 Number 1

FISH HAWK HERALD SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Our September issue is complimentary to all local Audubon members. To receive the October - May issues 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, All submissions are subject to editing.

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE!

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Carrie Hugo

I hope you all had a great summer and saw lots of interesting wildlife! We would love to hear about your adventures in an upcoming edition of the newsletter. As for me, it seemed like summer just barely got started and now



SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

DATE: September 13, Tuesday

PLACE: Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey, CDA

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PROGRAM: Reunion/Meet and Greet and watching a film – read "Welcome Back Everyone" for details.

BOARD MEETING

DATE: September, Tuesday

PLACE: Mountain West Bank, 125 Ironwood Drive, Coeur d'Alene

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

it is almost over. My family and I went to the Olympic Peninsula for almost two weeks. My favorite part was walking along the beach and watching the pelicans diving for fish. We saw lots of gulls, Lisa would have loved it! And of course those gregarious Oyster Catchers are always fun to watch. We saw a Peregrine Falcon along the sea stacks. But the most exciting part was seeing a starling, or maybe it was a black bird, mobbing a Cooper's Hawk. The Cooper's turned around in mid-air and snatched that bird right out of the sky and then dove into a tree to dine on it. Just goes to show, when you decide to harass somebody, you better make sure they don't turn on you!

Our first meeting will be a reunion/meet and greet. Michael Lucid will introduce himself to our group. He is the Nongame Biologist for Idaho Fish and Game. Michael will give us a summary of his current projects in the Panhandle and perhaps some ideas for the future of the Nongame Program. We will also be watching a film, either "Lords of Nature" which is about the role of predators in our North American ecosystems, or we may watch "Green Fire", which is a documentary about the life of Aldo Leopold and how the application of his "Land Ethic" is more relevant today than ever. If you feel inclined to bring a snack to share, please do. But as always, some goodies will be provided.

Continued on Page 2

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE!

Continued from page 1

We will be discussing the year's upcoming events, speakers, field trips, and fundraisers. Which brings me to my next subject. Jenny Taylor generously donated 5 boxes of nature-themed books to our group. Her idea, which is a great one, is for us to hold a nature-themed book sale. I know I have plenty of books I could donate to this cause! Please start looking at your shelves to see if you have any books you would like to donate. You can bring them to the September, October, and possibly November meetings and I will gather them up, or you can bring them directly to the sale. Also, if the board approves, we may sell Audubon Calendars at this event. We get a great discount and can offer these to our members and to the public at much less than retail. There are several beautiful options to choose from. So don't buy your 2012 calendar yet!

Thanks to all our volunteers who helped with Bluebird Trail monitoring this summer. Hopefully, this turned out to be a great help to Shirley, Roland, and Theresa I am sure it was a fun experience for everyone! Lastly, we have two openings on the Conservation Committee if anyone is interested. After many years of service on the Board, Mike Mihelich and Roland Craft are "retiring". We appreciate all of their contributions and their vigilance in keeping up with the many projects and developments in the Panhandle!

Please feel free to email me with any suggestions you might have. carriehugo@wildblue.net

compelling. McKoy's complex compositions—hallmarks of his work—appear to defy gravity as groupings of birds lift into flight. Like others before him, and much like John James Audubon, McKoy's sculptures focus on the dynamics of avian behavior as inspiration—birds feeding, flocking, fleeing danger or fighting.

Mr. Lufkin is perhaps best known as the co-founder of Donaldson, Lufkin and Jeanerette, the global investment-banking firm. However, he was an early leader in the conservation movement as one of the original founders of Earth Day in 1970, which ignited the modern environmental movement. Dan left DLJ to serve as the first head of the new Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Lufkin is making the gift in honor of his lifelong friend Donal C. O'Brien, who served as Audubon's Chairman for 15 years. Dan and Donal have been friends since their days at prep school over 65 years ago. An earlier challenge grant from Mr. Lufkin established the Donal C. O'Brien Chair in Bird Conservation and Public Policy of the National Audubon Society, which is catalyzing some of the Society's most exciting and significant conservation initiatives focused on flyways and the landscapes birds depend on throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Dan is making this gift to both positively impact bird conservation and to inspire the next generation of conservation leaders. The Carolina Parakeets will be showcased at the new Audubon Center at Mill Grove in Pennsylvania, the original home of John James Audubon when he came to America. The Center will also showcase one of Audubon's Double Elephant Portfolio's of the Birds of America. From this base in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, Audubon launched his famous painting expeditions throughout the early America.

The Audubon Center at Mill Grove will use wildlife art to build people's awareness and appreciation of birds, wildlife and nature to ensure the conservation of this extraordinary resource ...so that unlike the Carolina Parakeet, which is now extinct, our kids and their kids and all Americans, will be able to be inspired and awed by the diversity of life in nature and become good citizens and stewards of our planet. For further information on Mill Grove, contact Phil Wallis, Audubon PA executive director.

DAN LUFKIN'S GIFT OF THE CAROLINA PARAKEETS BY GRAINGER MCKOY

From Audubon Chapter Services

Former Audubon director Dan Lufkin is donating a Grainger McKoy wood carving of a flock of Carolina Parakeets to the National Audubon Society. The life-size piece will be part of the upcoming Grainger McKoy exhibit of his sculptures and woodcarvings of birds at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia, from September 25, 2011, through January 8, 2012.

Grainger's unique approach is to carve the individual feathers and insert them in the bird and then connect them into flocks - a covey of quail rising, a flock of Sanderlings, or Green-winged Teal on the wind, in an extraordinarily realistic style that is unique and

Continued on Page 3

HOPING TO SHAKE LOOSE FROM SOME OF OUR DREARY, DRIZZLY NORTH IDAHO WEATHER

Karen Williams



Hoping to shake loose from some of our dreary drizzly North Idaho weather, my husband, son, and grandson and I ventured south to attend the 8th Annual Pacific City Birding and Blues Festival, April 8-10th this spring. Wanting full exposure to all that the Oregon coast has to offer, we sought out and found a four-bedroom rental home overlooking the estuary off Whalen Island.

I immediately set up the spotting scope to scan the mud flats and bay upon arrival. We shared the home with two friends who journeyed down from Tacoma, WA to meet us. Included in the event were nature seminars, guided field trips, boating tours and many more activities too numerous to mention.



With our 3 1/2 year old grandson in mind we made sure to attend the live birds of prey events hosted by two non-profit organizations, Liz Diver with Badger

Run Wildlife Rehab, and Wildlife Images, an animal sanctuary and education center. We were intrigued by the prospect of the live blues music presentations but the outdoor hot tub and prospect of local seafood on our barbecue won out in the final vote.



The seabird presentation by Curator of Birds CJ McCarty convinced us to extend our stay another day and take in the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport. Our grandson Kylan showed obvious amazement at his first close encounter with the strikingly colored puffin, only slightly overshadowed by his first octopus (understandable). Our five-night stay was mostly shirtsleeve weather only broken by one day of violent coastal storm, which we enjoyed immensely. (However, I think my husband was more than a little relieved when they canceled our planned kayak adventure.) Hats off to the festival-planning group for this terrific event!

DAN LUFKIN'S GIFT... Continued from page 2

The High Museum of Art's "The Sculpture of Grainger McKoy" exhibition will feature 34 small- to large-scale sculptures and several related models and color sketches produced over the course of Grainger McKoy's career, which spans from the early 1970s until the present. The installation will also explore McKoy's artistic process, showcasing a selection of sketches to finished sculptures, as well as a film of the artist at work in his studio.

An observer of nature and a hunter from an early age, Grainger McKoy received a gift of an antique duck decoy from his grandmother one Christmas. From this he was inspired to sculpt his first bird, a shorebird carved of cypress from the corner of his family's log cabin in rural South Carolina.

Continued on Page 4

DAN LUFKIN'S GIFT...

Continued from page 3

McKoy studied architecture for a few years in college but he never abandoned his first love: carving. The innovative bird carver Gilbert Maggioni of Beaufort, South Carolina, who convinced McKoy that he might try to make a living from carving, recognized his skills. Upon graduating from Clemson University in 1970 with a degree in zoology, McKoy moved to Beaufort with his wife Floride to pursue his passion under the tutelage of Maggioni. McKoy also used his knowledge of architecture to create complex, gravity-defying structural compositions, the likes of which had never before been seen in wildlife sculpture.

For more information about the upcoming exhibition or to make advance reservations, visit

<http://www.high.org/Art/Exhibitions/Grainger-McKoy.aspx>.



EARTH DAY - APRIL 23 CELEBRATION IN COEUR D'ALENE

Lynn Sheridan

This year the event was held at the Coeur d'Alene Library in the community room, which turned out to be a better venue than in years past. I volunteered to chair the committee for our Audubon Chapter's participation and was assisted by Janet Callen. On the day of the event, the library was packed with vendors and display tables. Janet and I decided to focus on natural backyards by supplying free native plants and emphasizing attracting bees, butterflies and birds.

Janet visited Plants of the Wild in Tekoa, WA to get 60 native plants at a very low price. She purchased 20 each of blanket flower, goldenrod and columbine. Northland Nursery donated 5 shrubs and Aspen Nursery gave us 10 small dianthus. I made 25 half gallon plastic milk bottles into bird feeders with the help of my son, Clark, who was visiting from California. All these gifts were eagerly taken in less than 2 hours, as streams of people came by. My volunteers and I answered many questions and gave out lots of pamphlets and gardening instructions. One of our handouts explained how Idaho chose the Mountain Bluebird to be our state bird.

Our hour-long guided bird walks on Tubbs Hill did not go over very well. Only the first one, led by Linda Wright, attracted a few participants.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

Over 500 people were tallied at the event. Janet and I thank the volunteers that came out to help at the booth: Laura Bayless, Kris Buchler, Roland Craft, Adela Sussman, Vera Taggart, Linda Wright and Valerie Zagar.

WESTMOND LAKE

Janet Callen

On April 30, 2011, Roland Craft, Bill Gundlach, Mary Deasy and I traveled to Westmond Lake to look for spring migrants. At Westmond we met Sally Jones, who joined us for the day. The day was cool with no rain. At Westmond, we spotted several Great Blue Heron, Tree Swallow, Northern Shoveler and heard a Sora, among other species. The Black Terns, for which this area has been named an Important Birding Area, had not yet arrived. After Westmond, we journeyed to Gamlin Lake and hiked the short distance to the viewing platform. Among the highlights, were Green-wing Teal and Cinnamon Teal. Four male Cinnamons were battling over the prize, one lone female. Who said birding is dull? We also heard and saw a Wilson's Snipe.

KAMIAK BUTTE, LEWISTON, CLARKSTON AND ASOTIN

Janet Callen



On May 21, fourteen Coeur d'Alene birders headed south. Our first stop was Kamiak Butte, WA. We hiked the 3-½ mile trail to the top, listening to warblers and identifying various species.

Wildflowers in bloom, sunshine and spectacular scenery made this stop most enjoyable. From there we drove south to Lewiston, ID, where our first stop was Mann Lake. Forster's tern, Western Kingbird, Sora, a pelican and a Spotted Sandpiper were some of the highlights. From Mann Lake we traveled Lindsay Creek road to downtown Lewiston. We stopped at the levee ponds and then journeyed to Clarkston where we stayed the night.

Continued on Page 5

2011 CENTURY COUNT

KAMIAK BUTTE ...

Continued from Page 4

Sunday morning began with breakfast at 6 a.m., with everyone packed and ready to go at 7 a.m.. We had arranged to meet two very good birders from the Lewiston area, Keith Carlson and Rick Welle, at the motel for an early start. After introductions, we headed up the Snake River, stopping at Swallows Park where Keith told us about the fluctuations of the water level affecting the migratory stops. Mud is a must and it was all under water that day so we moved on to the main destination, Asotin Creek Road. While we didn't find the Mountain Quail, a target bird for many of us, we had great sightings of Lazuli Bunting, a lone Lark Sparrow singing at the top of his lungs on a fence top, American Goldfinch, and a tree festooned with Western Tanager. Many of these treats were due to Rick's amazing eyesight. Keith pointed out a pair of mountain sheep grazing high above us along the way.

Before starting for home we followed up on a lead that Barn Owls had been seen in clefts on the basalt walls along Highway 12, west of Clarkston, WA. and there they were, unaware that they were the subject of close scrutiny! We then tried to find the Yellow-breasted Chat known to be nesting along the river. The iPod brought a response and a quick glimpse of the bird in flight but not enough to qualify as a documented sighting. (Judy, Kris, and Valerie*)

*Respectfully, we must disagree: Based on quick views of the bird in flight, the habitat and behavior and hearing a responding song and call a couple of times, we are quite certain that the bird(s) were Yellow-breasted Chat. We just didn't get a good look.

However, Keith Carlson heard and saw at least four Yellow-breasted Chat the following day in the same location. Janet

Total bird species seen and /or heard was 91. Some visual highlights: the beautiful Lark Sparrow, five male Western Tanagers in the cottonwood trees and a brilliant Bullock's Oriole in the sunshine.

Thanks to Jan Severtson (who kept the bird list), Judy and Phil Waring, Kris Buchler, Valerie Zagar, Darlene Carlton, Kathleen Burgess, George & Helen Neuner, Bill & Joan Gundlach and Karen Williams for making this a great trip. And, of course a special thank-you to Keith and Rick.

Kris Buchler

Kootenai County

June 4th found many intrepid birders gathered at 4:45 a.m. at the Fernan Ranger Station ready to embark on an intensive big day of birding. It turned out reasonably well, considering it was a very late spring and a few species had not yet returned.

We used a mix of hard work, a few iPods to attract difficult species, our eyes and ears to finally reach our goal of 100 species. The protocol had been finely-tuned to make everyone work hard and be part of the count. I think we accomplished that as several people saw and heard new life birds.

Our itinerary took us to many habitats. We began along Latour Creek and the rich riparian lands bordering the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes. We visited areas of Cataldo, Old River Road and Tamarck Ridge. Lane Marsh and the Schlepp Ranch provided waterfowl and many small songbirds. City streets of Coeur d'Alene coughed up a few species as well as Mica Bay and Blackwell Island. We finished the day on the Rathdrum Prairie, finding 2 species, Western Kingbird and Horned Lark, that made the whole day worthwhile.

It was a day special to each person in a different way. Following are some of the highlights for participants. Join us next year for a day of challenging and rewarding birding.

- Horned Lark late in the day (Janet)
- Cinnamon Teal - perfect time of day – bill and feet – like diamonds, glittering on the water in the noon day sun - a picture to always remember (Tootie)
- Colorful Lazuli Bunting (life bird) - wonderful learning opportunity for a beginner like myself - best overall was the patiently helpful, kind, and fun Homo sapiens (Sally)
- Vibrant orange and black of an American Redstart as he zips from perch to perch. The melody of the Veery's song is captivating, and his "yurt!" as he skulked away from us in the underbrush compelled us to follow. The day was capped with the tinkling sound (like glass wind chimes) of the many Horned Larks hopping about on the prairie in the dwindling light (Kris)
- Orange-crowned Warbler - I seldom see one – sharing some great views of special birds with friends (Shirley)
- Redstart was my first favorite moment. I loved seeing the Bobolink -another life bird for me. Calling in the flycatchers, and seeing the Horned Larks on the prairie rounded out an absolutely wonderful day (Darlene)
- favorite moment on the Century Count was to see the smiles when I passed out candy! *Roland*



HONEYSUCKLE - JUNE 16,

Linda Wright

When I pulled into the parking lot at Honeysuckle on June 16, Ken Fisher and Joyce* were already there. At a little after 9:00 a.m., I knew something was wrong because Lynn was not yet there. Fortunately, I had her number in my phone, and was able to contact a very weak and ill-sounding friend who had been ill all night ...she asked me to take us on the route, so off we went.

The water was all over the inland side of the dike road so we didn't see the variety of birds by the dike that we have before. There were Canada Geese with their goslings on the far side of the little lake, as well as Common Merganser, one of which was seen with a fish, along with some Mallards. An Osprey was flying overhead much of the time. The pines were filled with Pygmy Nuthatch, and Joyce and I believed there was an entire new family on an outing.

We spied a couple of mystery birds which were quite close to us, but the backlighting made it difficult to identify them. At this point, all I can remember is some sort of sparrow; they were eating pinecone nuts. Northern Flickers were also present. As we left the dike road and moved to the right along the fence and Honeysuckle, a quick glimpse of a shorebird was noted as it suddenly took flight and disappeared. There were many nuthatches there too.

The three of us had an enjoyable time together on a quite windy and cool day. Both Joyce and Ken were equipped w/binoculars, and Sally also brought a reference pamphlet. Ken had spent the winter in Arizona and did much birding there, following the birds north this spring. He has a Smart Phone with the greatest bird app ever...when we were unsure about a White-breasted Nuthatch vs. a Pygmy Nuthatch, he pulled up the best comparisons, then played the call of the one we chose. We were immediately joined by a Pygmy Nuthatch scolding us quite adamantly. We were careful not to do that again. Joyce had attended all the meetings this winter and told Ken how wonderful they have been, and I suspect he will be involved in many more of these trips, as will Joyce. *(apologies – we are not certain of her name)



BIRDING AT FERNAN LAKE JULY 22

Lynn Sheridan

At 9:00 a.m., Linda Taylor from Spirit Lake, Sally Jones from Cocalalla, Pat Bearman, Vera Taggart and Adela Sussman met at the west end by the dock. Our first sighting was two Bald Eagles (an adult and immature) perched like sentinels high on trees. The lake was deserted except for a few Mallards in the water and swallows overhead. We heard Song Sparrow and Red-winged Blackbird.

The east end of the lake had a much thicker growth of water lilies which made finding birds tricky. Three Great Blue Heron were on nests, and 12 flew off as we watched. A Bald Eagle was near the lake and an Osprey dove, but came up empty.

There were lots Tree, Violet-green and Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallows were pecking at the muddy shore and then flying toward the bridge.

An insect-like sound caught Sally's attention, as she spotted 2 Cedar Waxwings. We all saw them before they flew off over vegetation, to join the Red-winged Blackbirds. Vera heard grebes but we couldn't see them. Mallards and a muskrat were seen in the water. As we watched three Common Raven overhead and heard a Northern Flicker call, an Eastern Kingbird suddenly flew into our view. Finishing off our bird list, a few Northern-rough winged Swallows were flying in and out of holes and crevices in a rocky bank along the road and a Gray Catbird flew across the road into a low bush.

Thank you for joining me on this summer outing. PS. Later Linda called to tell me she went Kayaking and found 3 Red-necked Grebe.



TRAIL OF THE COEUR D'ALENES BY BIKE AND BY HIKE JULY 26

Shirley Sturts

After a feast of summer salads, bread and cool drinks at the Black Rock Trail Head, we split into two groups for some early evening birding along the trail of the Coeur d'Alenes. Kris took the hiking group over to the Medimont Trailhead, while Lisa led the biking group west toward her favorite birding area, the Schlepp Ranch.

Continued Page 7

BIKE AND BY HIKE Continued from page 6

Highlights included Hooded Merganser and Wood Duck families, Black Tern, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper (2) and American White Pelican (100+). As a group (or should I say 2 groups) we saw or heard some 40+ species and a moose. Well, some saw the moose. I didn't.

This evening birding (with picnic) was enjoyed by all and may turn into an annual event. Thank you for joining me: Pat Bearman, Kris Buchler, Dick Cripe, Lisa Hardy, Sally Jones, Carol and Rich Ogle, Adela Sussman and Judy Waring.



COUGR BAY NATURE PRESERVE AND MICA BAY - AUGUST 18

Lynn Sheridan

Pat Bearman drove us to Fairmont Loop where we met Cheryl Harris, newly settled in the area. Cheryl drove us in her car to the Cougar Bay Nature Preserve. There were quite a few cars parked but luckily we didn't encounter many hikers on the trail. I remembered to bring the "Off" spray to keep the mosquitoes at bay.

Right away we noted Tree and Barn Swallows, Dark-eyed Juncos and Red-winged Blackbirds around the tall marsh grass. As we walked up the trail, there was hardly a sound except for squirrels. Then, at last, a Willow Flycatcher "fitzbewed"; and a Red-breasted Nuthatch did a clear "ank, ank" call. As we were leaving, an Eastern Kingbird show up.

Cheryl was intrigued to hear about Mica Bay, so we drove there and were well rewarded. Highlights included: Great Blue Heron, a Belted Kingfisher (in helicopter mode), Eastern Kingbird, Mourning Dove, a large Wild Turkey family, 2 Osprey flying in circles, a few Canada Geese, a Mallard family, Dark-eyed Junco, and several Yellow Warbler.

While looking for a Gray Catbird without success, we found 2 dead porcupine. They appeared to have been hit by a car. As we left Mica Bay, two young deer crossed the road - a happy ending. Cheryl is a member of Audubon and an experienced birder. It was a pleasure to share our knowledge and we hope she will join us on future field trips.

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/media/windowsWildlife>

Windows to Wildlife is a quarterly newsletter of the Idaho Watchable Wildlife Committee and Idaho's Wildlife Diversity Program.

This newsletter provides readers with information about nongame wildlife activities, research and viewing opportunities. Subscriptions are available by donation to the Idaho Wildlife Diversity Program through the following methods:

- purchase a wildlife license plate;
- make a nongame tax donation (nongame tax check-off on your tax form);
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- view for free on-line!

If you would like a subscription or need to update your current one, contact the [editor](#).
deniz.aygen@idfg.idaho.gov

MEETINGS/EVENTS 2011-2012

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 2nd Tuesday of each month 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. www.cdaudubon.org

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

ADOPT-A HIGHWAY FALL CLEANUP



Date: October 1, Saturday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: Meet at Mica Grange Hall for donuts, coffee and road assignments. It may take 1-2 hours depending on number of volunteers. Long pants, sleeves and gloves are advisable. If you are planning to help with the clean-up please sign the roster at the September monthly meeting as IDOT requires signatures prior to the event. For questions or more information call, Mike Zagar, 208-819-5115. **Continued page 9**

WINDOWS TO WILDLIFE

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

MEETINGS/EVENTS 2011-2012

Continued from page 7

PROJECT FEEDER WATCH

They are now taking sign-ups for the 2011-2012 Feeder Watch season, which begins on **Nov.11**.

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>)

THANKSGIVING DAY BIRD COUNT

Thursday, November 24 - look for information in the November newsletter.

YARD LISTS

January 1st - Time to turn in your personal Yard List totals for 2011 to: Lisa Hardy, basalt@earthlink.net

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

February 17-20 <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

41ST ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

April 22, Sunday, 2012

<http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/world/earth-day>

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON BIRTHDAY

April 26

NATIONAL ARBOR DAY

April 27 <http://www.arborday.org/arborday/>

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

May 12 <http://www.birdday.org/birdday>

KOOTENAI ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

Noon meetings at the Ironhorse Restaurant the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, running September through June. Check their home page for information on upcoming meetings, or call the office at 667-9093, or email kea at [kealliance.org](http://www.kealliance.org).

<http://www.kealliance.org>

ON A WING & A PRAYER - Benefit Event put on by

Birds of Prey Northwest <http://birdsofpreynorthwest.org/>

Friday, September 9th 7:00 to 9:30 pm Jacklin Arts & Culture Center, 405 N. William, Post Falls,

FIELD TRIPS 2011-2012

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.

THE FISH HAWK HERALD

MICA BAY SURVEY

Date: September 13, 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. Beginner birders are welcome. We will help you with identification skills.

LATOUR ROAD/CRYSTAL LAKE

Date: September 18, Sunday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: Fernan Ranger Station

Leader; Shirley Sturts 664-5318

High altitude birding 5,000-6,000 feet. We will hike into Crystal Lake (Benewah County). Target birds: Spruce and Blue Grouse, Golden Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Clark's Nutcracker, Gray Jay, Mountain Bluebird, Hermit and Varied Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Rock Wren, White-crowned Sparrow and Pine Grosbeak.

SLAVIN RANCH

Date: September 25, Sunday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: Lowes, southwest corner.

Leader: Judy Waring 765-5378

This will be a partial day trip, but bring a lunch, or snacks. It's a pleasant hike, hopefully with some shorebirds, and whatever else we find.

BOREAL TRIP – SALMO WILDERNESS / NE WA

Date: October 8-9

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: To be determined.

Bring: Layers of clothing, drinks and lunch for Sat.

and Sun, binoculars and spotting scopes, iPods etc. Itinerary: Sat. we'll bird along the Pend Oreille River to Metaline Falls. There we will check into the Circle Motel and have an early dinner at a local restaurant. We'll head up rugged forest roads past Sullivan Lake to Salmo Pass. We'll alternate driving with 20-30 minute walks. At dusk we'll head downhill and follow a protocol for owl calls. Our target will be Boreal Owls but Barred Owls are also in the area.

Sun. After breakfast we head for Bunchgrass Meadows and can spend the rest of the day there. Species of note for both areas are Spruce Grouse, owls, Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, Boreal Chickadee and others. Call or email Kris Buchler – 664-4739, eagleroost@roadrunner.com

EAST SIDE LAKE COEUR D ALENE & HWY 3**Date:** October 22, 2011, Saturday**Leader:** Janet Callen, 664-1085**Meet:** Fernan Ranger Station**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

Target birds: Loons and other waterfowl, with a stop at Karen William's property. We will return via Highway 3 and time permitting stop at Medimont, Schlepp Ranch and Rose Lake. Karen says she will serve tea and crumpets. Bring a lunch and water and be prepared for cool weather.

MINERAL RIDGE DAY HIKE**Date:** November 5, 2011 Saturday**Leader:** Janet Callen, 664-1085**Meet:** Fernan Ranger Station**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

Hike the trail, and look for waterfowl in Wolf Lodge and Beauty Bay. This will be a half-day trip.

WATERVILLE PLATEAU**Date:** November 19, 2011, Saturday**Leader:** Kim Thorburn**Meet:** To be determined**Time:** To be determined.

Important: Contact Janet Callen at 664-1085 before November 12, 2011 if you plan on going. We will join Spokane Audubon for this trip. It will be a long day, as we will be traveling up to 300 miles. The Waterville Plateau is a challenging but huge quality destination for rarities during the late fall and winter months. We will work the rolling steppe of the Plateau in search of the rare raptors, owls, and Passerines. We will then head down toward the Columbia River in search of rare Arctic Gulls and Saltwater waterfowl, such as scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Pacific Loon.

Target Birds: Loons and grebes; scoters and rare wintering waterfowl; wintering raptors; Glaucous, Thayers, and Glaucous-winged Gulls; Snowy Owl; Northern Shrike; Snow Bunting; Lapland Longspur; Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. We will hunt for elusive rarities, including Gyrfalcon and Northern Hawk Owl.

This will, obviously, be a full day trip. Bring a lunch and snacks and be prepared for cold weather.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS Dates to be determined**PEND ORIELLE RIVER AND LAKE****Date:** January 22, 2012 (Sunday)**Leader:** Bill Gundlach, 667-3339**Meet:** K-Mart parking lot, south side**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

This will be a full day trip. Bring a lunch and water. this is primarily a waterfowl and eagle sighting.

LINCOLN COUNTY WINTER BIRD ROUTE**Date:** February 18, 2012 (Saturday)**Leader:** Janet Callen , 664-1085**Meet:** K-Mart parking lot, south side**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

This will be a full day trip and it is a repeat of a trip we did in 2010 in search of winter birds.

CATALDO AND CHAIN LAKES AREA**Date:** March 10, 2012**Leader:** Lisa Hardy, 783-1262**Meet:** To be determined**Time:** To be determined

Target bird: Swans and other waterfowl

Meet: Fernan Lake Ranger Station

Time: 7:15 a.m.

We will meet Lisa Hardy, leader, at 8:00 a.m. at the Rose Lake exit.

This will be a full day trip, bring a lunch,snacks ,water and be prepared for cold weather. Target birds are swans and other waterfowl.

RSVP: Roland Craft 457-8894 or Janet Callen 664-1085

RATHDRUM PRAIRIE AND POST FALLS PARKS**Date:** March 31, 2012**Leader:** Roland Craft**Meet:** Super 1 grocery store in POST FALLS, southwest corner of parking lot.**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

We will look for returning songbirds and raptors

LITTLE PEND ORIELLE WILDLIFE REFUGE**Date:** April 28, 2012 (Date may change but we will notify participants)**Leader:** Roland Craft, 457-8894**Meet:** Super 1 grocery store in POST FALLS, southwest corner of parking lot.**Time:** 7:30 a.m.

This will be a full day trip and a refuge employee will be our guide

ILLER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA**Date:** May 5, 2012**Leader:** Dick Cripe**Meet:** K-Mart parking lot, south side.**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

Easy hike in riparian and mixed forest hillside looking for neotropical birds. Half day – bring water and snack. Iller creek is just beyond Dishman Hills in Spokane Valley.

**MISSOULA BIRDING TRAILS
AND MOISE BISON RANGE**

Date: Memorial Weekend or weekend before

**Leaders: Please call Janet Callen at 664-1085 or
Roland Craft at 457-8894**

**Please let us know ASPS if this trip would be of
interest to you.**

CENTURY COUNT: Early June