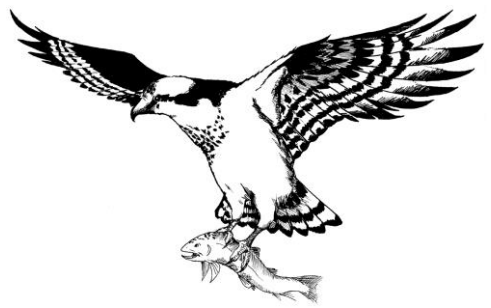


THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

September 2014

Volume 24 Number 1

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

DATE: September 9, Tuesday
PLACE: Lutheran Church of the Master,
4800 N. Ramsey, CDA
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PROGRAM: "All You Want To Know
About 'Audubon Adventures' But Were
Afraid To Ask"
Did you know that for many years the
Margaret Reed Foundation has paid for
excellent teaching materials to be sent to
area elementary schools to help children
learn more about nature, and especially
birds? Yes, and the volunteers in our club
coordinate the ordering of the materials.
Tonight's program will be all about this.
Come and join in – you'll be glad you did!

MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER INFORMATION



Coeur d'Alene Audubon is a Chapter of the National Audubon Society, one of approximately 500 chapters across the country. To join National Audubon go to their website: www.audubon.org and click on member center. Please use the code C9ZG060Z on your application to show chapter affiliation.

LOCAL MEMBERSHIP

Joining our local chapter helps support our activities. As a member, you will receive emails concerning chapter meetings, field trips, and special events.

Our newsletter, "The Fish Hawk Herald", is published on our Website. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the newsletter in the regular mail, choose a hard copy option. All members receive the September newsletter as a complimentary hard copy.

See the back page of this newsletter for a membership form to mail in or bring with you to September meeting. - OR - You can join or make a donation online using PayPal or your credit card through PayPal at www.cdaudubon.org and click on membership. Dues are as follows: Individual Membership \$10.00 - Family Membership \$15.00 Individual Membership (with a hard copy of the newsletter mailed \$25.00) - Family Membership (with a hard copy of the newsletter mailed) \$30.00 - Donations Welcome. Please call Peggy at 664-1616 if you are unsure of your subscription status.

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.

MAY 2014 MONTANA FIELD TRIP

Kris Buchler



Seventeen Coeur d'Alene Auduboners trekked to the Mission Valley north of Missoula for the weekend of May 23-25. We met at the National Bison Range where we picnicked and then spent several hours combing the habitats for birds, especially, those not seen regularly in our area of North Idaho.

Larry and Kasue Krumpelman had already been photographing for several hours when the rest on us arrived. Highlights on the range included excellent views of Lewis' Woodpecker (a pair feeding young in a nest cavity), Bullocks' Oriole, Lazuli Bunting, Brewer's Blackbird and Mountain Bluebird. American Kestrels are known to breed on the refuge but we did not pick up any other falcons.

Friday night we gathered at Ninepipes Lodge for dinner where they gave us a room for our group. Denver Holt and Toni MacFarland joined us and Denver gave us a preview of the plan for Saturday when he would lead us to the best birding spots in the area. Since the Owl Research Center and his home are located on the Ninepipes National Wildlife Refuge, he knew the area well.

Saturday we consolidated birders but still had six vehicles in our train. Denver first took us on a hunt for the elusive Long-billed Curlew which proved to be just that. It would have been a lifer for several of our birders. We were more successful with the Short-eared Owls. They are unique in their feeding and flight behaviors and more closely resemble Northern Harriers which share their habitat. Both use their sense of hearing in seeking out prey. This makes sense since they hunt in fields and meadows of long grasses. The refuge and its ponds yielded good sights of grebes - Western (much ado and courting going on), Clark's, Red-necked, Pied-billed and Horned. Some muddy areas attracted shorebirds - Black-necked Stilt, Wilson's phalarope, Spotted Sandpiper, and Killdeer. Continued on page 3



MONTANA FIELD TRIP

Continued from page 2

All of the teal and many other ducks were highly visible along with many pairs of Trumpeter Swans which nest on the refuge.



Larry Krumpelman 2014

One of the favorites of the day was a juvenile Great-horned Owl who was newly "branching" (hopping about and jumping from branch to branch around the nest). and was a star on the explore.org videocam. Denver is a natural educator and throughout the day enriched our experiences with natural history and behavioral information gathered from years of experience.

Other favorite sightings included the Peregrine Falcon spotted by Jim Lynn on the cliffs of the Flathead River, a Red-tailed Hawk that flew over our heads trailing a very large snake (yumm), and a confrontation in the sky between a Red-tailed Hawk and a Swainson's hawk.

Sunday called many of us out before breakfast for another curlew hunt and Short-eared Owl observations which were terrific. Some of us tried different routes home with many stopping by the bison range for more looks at nesting Trumpeter Swans.

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Participants: Jim and Sheelagh Lynn, Kasue and Larry Krumpelman, Ed and Kris Buchler, Carrie and Iva Hugo, Linda Chalcraft, Valerie Zagar, Sally Jones, Marilyn Robertson, Darlene Carlton, Karen Williams, Marlene Stein, Janet Callen, Jenny Taylor and Jan Severtson.

A return trip is planned for next March. We intend to be there for the courtship flights and rituals of the Short-eared Owls. Check the website for information.

CENTURY COUNT - June 2014

Kris Buchler

Big Day Century Count. What are they? They are basically the same thing. They are counts usually conducted in a 24-hour period where birders strive to locate as many species as possible. Our Coeur d'Alene birders have traditionally done a Century Count where we hope to find 100+ species of birds from predawn to dark. We've been doing this count since 1995.

Boundary Count called to us this year and we were lucky to make the Selkirk House our headquarters for early birding as well as lodging on June 6 and 7. It is on several hundred acres along Deep Creek in the valley on the south end of Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge.

Since this is a count for fun, we began with dinner on Friday night at the Kootenai River Brewery in Bonners Ferry. The house slept seven of us comfortably for a 4:30 a.m. start on Saturday. We birded the area until 6:00 a.m. and then headed for the refuge.

Continued on page 4

CENTURY COUNT

Continued from page 3



Eastern Kingbird

Photograph by George Saylor

We already had 5 species of flycatchers and 5+ species of warblers with numerous others before we left the Selkirk House. A cow moose and her calf peeked at us

from behind cottonwoods while we listened to American Redstart.

Two cars with 7 birders made it easy to get around. The refuge was naturally rich in the early morning and the numbers started adding up. Bald Eagles nest there and we collected views of all the teal and other ducks, with only Pied-billed Grebe of that family. As the morning wore on, we headed north on Westside Road to Ball Creek Ranch (a Nature Conservancy preserve) where we heard and saw many Eastern Kingbirds and an elusive Clay-colored Sparrow. We found the Wilson's Phalarope at Boundary Creek Wildlife Management Area right where Lisa Hardy said it would be. After a trek up Smith Creek to higher elevations we searched the agricultural areas for those hidden Long-billed Curlews that continued to elude us. However, we saw an interesting confrontation between two kingbirds, Eastern and Western, who had been perched a foot or so from each other on a wire fence. They suddenly decided to "duke it out". Further along we saw Say's Phoebe.

An area just north and above the Kootenai River west of Highway 95 was fairly rich, giving us Pygmy Nuthatch, Mountain and Western Bluebird and a great view of Western Tanager

We almost ended the day south of Selkirk House looking in fields that border Deep Creek. Here Bobolinks bobbed up and down from grasses and shrubs. These were first time birds for a couple of birders. The final hour of the day was going up Myrtle Creek Road to an overlook which gave us a 180 degree view of the Kootenai Valley and refuge

The wine was opened back at the house with a longed for dinner and everyone rallied for a game of Scattagories before we fell into bed.

We had some interesting misses -- Barn Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Mountain and Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Wilson's warbler, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin, and no accipiters or owls. We want to thank Jan Rose and Rich Del Carlo who provided guidance and knowledge of Boundary County.



Gung-ho participants were Lisa Hardy, Sally Jones, Carrie Hugo, Linda Childcraft, Jim and Sheelagh Lynn, and Kris Buchler. Next year's count will take place in Bonner County.

Did we reach our goal of 100 birds? We had an amazing total of 107 birds! Of those, 105 were seen and heard by half the participants and 74 were seen and heard by everyone on the count.

FEEDING TIME

Valerie Zagar



It was a very busy time in Sister's Oregon the weekend of June 21st during the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival. Hatchlings and fledglings of all species were clamoring to be fed. A White-headed Woodpecker, Great Horned Owl, House Wren and Red-breasted Sapsucker were all spotted carrying food to nest holes. Even Common Nighthawks were seen flying during the day to find food for their young.

The first day the birders visited different types of habitats; old burns, high elevation of 5,000 feet, creeks and campgrounds. Kudos to Cathy, Ronn and Roberta who saw 10 of the 11 woodpecker species that live in Deschutes County. Jan, Herb, Russ and Valerie traveled to a more recent burn and other habitat that produced 8 of the 11 species. Later that night Roberta and Valerie went "owl prowling". A Great-horned Owl and fledgling were spotted before dark. A Northern Saw-whet Owl, Western Screech-Owl as well as a Common Poorwill were heard hiding in the darkness.

On the second day the CDA group was the only members of the field trip visiting Camp Polk Meadow Preserve. Camp Polk is a beautiful 158 acre meadow preserved under the Deschutes Land Trust. The three mile trek through the acreage provided sightings of 25 species including a Pygmy Nuthatch family and a Great Horned Owl fledgling harassed by a brave Robin and Red-winged Blackbird. The last stop was along a creek to see a pair of Northern Pygmy- Owls trying to protect their young from the paparazzi that had come to view the family. It was difficult to distinguish the adults from the kids, but the little balls of fluff were definitely the cuter ones.

Continued on page 6



White-headed Woodpecker photographed by Russ Hersurd, Sisters, Oregon

FEEDING TIME

Continued from page 5

Other species of note were a very cooperative Olive-sided Flycatcher that posed for pictures, a Tree Swallow showing off his iridescent colors in the sun and a MacGillivray's Warbler- a life bird for Jan. A few of the group from Coeur d'Alene went along to hike and enjoy the scenery. That group spotted a Western Tanager, American Dipper, Song Sparrow and Clark's Nutcracker. In all 65 species were either seen or heard by the CDA participants. We enjoyed sunny skies, starry nights, accompanied by good company and lots of feathered friends. What more could you ask for?

Trip participants: Bob Conquergood, Russ Hersrud, Cathy Mohns, Ronn & Roberta Rich, Sherry Robinson, Herb & Jan Severtson, Jean Sorley, Shirley Sturts, Mike & Valerie Zagar

HIGH ALTITUDE BIRDING HIKE SHOSHONE RIDGE

Dick Cripe

On August 6, eight Auduboners, who tolerated the long drive on a narrow mountain road, were rewarded with a glorious day on Shoshone Ridge and a mountainside loaded with huckleberries. We started at about 5500 ft. elevation on the trailhead near Little Guard Lookout. The weather was clear with a cool breeze and the views both east and west - successive ranges changing in color intensity from green-black to pale blue-gray. Our goal was to hike 2.5 miles to Sentinel Peak, but, apparently, we hiked 3.3 miles to Pond Peak (61136 ft. elev.) having gone around Sentinel.

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But, the trail was mostly level and shaded. We saw numerous Dusky Grouse. Several of the grouse were female, one with chicks. A final identification was made when we saw a male with a yellow stripe over its eye. On the drive up the river we saw Common Raven and Wild Turkey in a field. Species seen on the trail included Northern Flicker, Western Tanager, Dark-eyed Junco (many), a Mountain Bluebird (female), Pine Grosbeak (female), flycatcher (species?) and some we couldn't identify. Back at the car Cheryl and Shirley saw a Turkey Vulture soar overhead.

The walk back was leisurely as we picked huckleberries along the trail. We ended the day with huckleberry ice cream at the Snake Pit. Participating were Janet Callen, Roland Craft, Cheryl Harris (who drove the second vehicle), Joetta Lawrence, Jan Severtson, Shirley Sturts, and myself.



Sora – photo by Bill Linn

WESTMOND LAKE AND BLACK TERNs

Janet Callen

Roland Craft, Mary Deasy, Matt Thurley, Sally Jones, Judy Waring and I journeyed to Westmond Lake on May 11th, specifically to see if the Black Terns had returned. And, they had. Even though it was a May morning, the breeze was brisk but the swallows were active and Sora were calling. In all, while there and a quick drive through Hoodoo Valley, we picked up 26 species. Not too bad for about 2 ½ hours of birding, as we returned to CdA by noon.

MEETINGS/EVENTS 2014-2015

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 the first Tuesday of every month.



HOW'S BIRDING?

Eula Hickam

The summer is fleeting by and September will soon be here! It's been a busy time for me and probably for you, too - but the question is "How many

times have you seen (or heard) a bird?" I hope you've had some great adventures learning more about this beautiful country and the sights and sounds to share with us in the fall.

The Audubon Society's first meeting will be on September 9, 7:00 pm at Lutheran Church of the Master. Our program will be "Everything I've wanted to learn about Audubon Adventures but were afraid to ask!" Come and be enlightened - and share your summer birding adventures!

ADOPT-A HIGHWAY FALL CLEANUP

Date: October 4, Saturday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: Grab your gloves and join us at the Mica Grange building for the semi-annual highway cleanup. Refreshments will be served starting at 8 am and will begin cleanup about 8:20. Depending on the turnout, we are usually done by 11 am. Collection bags are provided by IDOT and pick-up sticks are furnished by Audubon.

There will be a sign up roster at the September monthly meeting as IDOT requires signatures prior to the event. Any questions contact Mike Zagar, 208 819 5115.

YARD LISTS

January 1st - Time to turn in your personal Yard List totals for 2014 to: Lisa Hardy, basalt@earthlink.net, and to start your 2015 list.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

February 13-16

<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

BIRTHDAY April 26

KOOTENAI ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

Noon meetings at the Ironhorse Restaurant the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, running Sept. through June. Check their home page for information <http://www.kealliance.org>

Or call the office at 667-9093, or email KEA at kea@kealliance.org.

FIELD TRIPS 2014-1915

PLEASE REGISTER: Watch the website or newsletter for updates to our field trip schedule. **Additional field trips will be added if we have volunteers to lead them**

Please contact our field trip coordinators **Janet Callen 664-1085** and **Roland Craft 457-8894** to suggest or volunteer to lead a trip. 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

HIGH-ELEVATION HIKE

Date: September 3, Wednesday

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Meet: Behind Cherry Hill Fire Station

Leader: Dick Cripe 665-0010

"Striped Peak and/or Lake Elsie. Drive up Polaris Peak road from Big Creek (I-90) east of Kellogg.)



Trailhead is at about 5500 ft. elev. so we'd start high. Striped Peak is at 6316 ft. and is the highest in the area, so 800 ft. elevation gain. Or, we could

go past the peak and straight to Lake Elsie. There is a road to Lake Elsie from Big Creek, but we would come from the other side. This hike would be in and out, about 7-8 miles. If we went up Striped Peak only it would be shorter, 4-5 miles. Depending on who goes we can decide details later. All day trip. I would rate this hike as moderate in difficulty."

MICA BAY SURVEY

Date: September 9, 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 and Janet Callen 664-1085

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.

MINERAL RIDGE HIKE: FERNAN LAKE, WOLF LODGE, BEAUTY BAY AND BLUE CREEK BAY

Date: November 8, Saturday

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet: Fernan Ranger Station

Leader: Janet Callen 664-1085

This will be a three-quarter day trip. Bring a lunch, or snacks and water, dress for the weather. We'll hike Mineral Ridge and search for waterfowl on the lake, Target birds will include Loons.

HEYBURN STATE PARK

Date: October 11, Saturday

Meet: Kmart parking lot, 7:30 AM

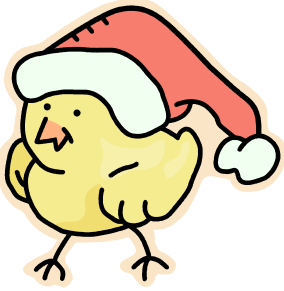
Leader: Lisa Hardy 783-1262

We will hike the bike trail or one of the trails, depending on weather, and then check out Chatcolet Lake from a few viewpoints. This will be a three-quarter day trip, so bring lunch and water. Wear sturdy shoes and dress appropriately for our unpredictable north Idaho weather.

Continued on page 9

FIELD TRIPS 2014-2015

Continued from page 8



CHRISTMAS COUNTS

December 14, 2014
through January 5,
2015. Three separate
counts will take place:

Coeur d Alene, Spirit Lake, Indian Mountain.
Details will be determined later.

PEND OREILLE RIVER, LAKE AND PRIEST RIVER

Date: February 7, Saturday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: K-Mart parking lot, south side.

Leader: Bill Gundlach 755-2378

This will be a full-day trip, bring lunch and water. Target birds primarily waterfowl and eagles.

LINCOLN COUNTY, WA WINTER BIRDS

Date: February 21, Saturday

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: K-Mart parking lot, south side.

Leader: Roland Craft 457-8894 This will be a full-day trip, bring lunch and water. We will travel the roads in the Davenport area in search of winter birds including Great Horned and Snowy Owls; Horned Larks and Snow Buntings.

FLATHEAD VALLEY, NINE PIPES NWR, MONTANA

Date: March 13-14, Friday- Saturday (Tentative)

Time/Meet: Details to follow.

Leader: Kris Buchler 664-4739

This will be a two-day trip to observe the courtship displays of Short-eared Owls, and view spring arrivals on the refuge. .

WALLA WALLA, BIRDS AND WINE

Dates: April, 24-26, Friday-Sunday

Time/Meet: To be determined

Leader: Valerie Zagar

CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE/CASTLE ROCKS STATE PARK

Dates: May 14-18, Thursday-Monday

Time/Meet: To be determined

Leaders: Judy Waring 765-5378 & Janet Callen 664-1085

We have been invited by Wallace Keck, Park Superintendent and former Coeur d Alene Audubon member to visit City of Rocks. We will travel to the Boise area on day one, where we will stay overnight. From Boise we will travel east and visit Bruneau Dunes State Park, then Hagerman Wildlife Management area and stop for the night at City of Rocks. We have secured the lodge and the bunkhouse, both on site, for two nights. Campgrounds are available nearby. Plans for our journey home are still pending.

CENTURY COUNT IN BONNER COUNTY IN JUNE - Details to follow

**NEW MEMBER
APPLICATION**

Become a member of the National Audubon Society, Join online at www.audubon.org or use this form.

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP

- Regular \$20.00
 Two Years \$30.00
 Seniors and Students \$15.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

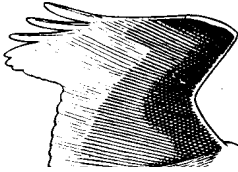
CITY _____

STATE _____ Zip _____

Send this application and your check payable to:

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
 Membership Data Center
 P.O. Box 422248
 Palm Coast, Florida 32142-6718

C9ZG060Z



**National Audubon Coeur d'Alene
 Chapter**
 P.O. Box 361
 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

**CDA Audubon Chapter
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President:
 Eula Hickam 661-3228
Vice President:
 Open
Recording Secretary:
 Valerie Zagar 819-5115
Treasurer:
 Jenny Taylor 755-4216
Board Members: all officers +
 Peggy Albertson, Midge-Marcy
 Brennan, Darlene Carlton, Carrie
 Hugo, Rob Kroese, George
 Saylor, Lynn Sheridan

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Publicity: Carrie Hugo 689 -9600
Field Trips: Roland Craft 457- 8894
 Janet Callen 664-1085
Education: Valerie Zagar 819-5115
Conservation: Volunteer needed
Membership: Peggy Albertson 664-1616

Hospitality: Carrie Hugo 689 -9600
Newsletter: Shirley Sturts 664-5318
Mailing: Peggy Albertson 664-1616
Webmaster: Shirley Sturts 664-5318
Historian: Carrie Hugo 689-9600

LOCAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

- Individual \$10.00*
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 *Individual \$25.00 - with
 hard copy of the newsletter*
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 Additional donation _____

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