

# THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

September 2016

Volume 27 Number 1

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

DATE: September 13, Tuesday  
PLACE: Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800  
N. Ramsey, CDA  
TIME: 7:00 p.m.  
SPEAKER: Dan Schuldheisz, a retired  
educator from Kennewick, Washington



PROGRAM: Dan will be speaking about the exploration and development of the Pacific Northwest by Lewis and Clark and other pioneer/explorers. In retirement, Dan shares stories about animals found along the Lewis and Clark Trail. The hands on instruction makes history lessons exciting and memorable. Come and learn about more about this period in the development of the west.



## From the President

"Anything looked at closely  
becomes wonderful!!" A. R.  
Ammons

My name is Midge Marcy-Brennan and I am the current President of the CDA Audubon Society. I hope that each of you had a summer filled with bright moments and many birds.

I am relatively new to the CDA Audubon Society compared to many of you. I have been "birding" since 1976 or so, being lucky enough to become friends with Bob and Lorraine Dietel in Bonners Ferry, doing the Breeding Bird Survey with them for two years and then subsequent years on my own. I became a member of the National Audubon Society long ago. I am a self-taught birder, with only my Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds* and my binoculars to "name that bird". My husband, Jim, and I moved to Hayden and started working in Spokane in 1991, Just a few years ago, my work schedule as a Cardiac Intensive Care Registered Nurse at Sacred Heart allowed me to attend Audubon Meetings.

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## From the President

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I never had the opportunity to be around other bird-watchers except the Dietels until recently. So, after going on my first field trip with the CDA Audubon group, I called my mom and said "Mom, I found my people!!!!!! There are other people that stop anywhere to look at a bird like I do!!" (Mom always said it took me twice as long to get anywhere as a normal person because I had to stop and look at a bird. On a side note on my defense, Jim had to stop to look at rocks as well.)

So, being here with Audubon I have discovered that "birders" are a marvelous group of people. They(we) look at things closely. According to A.R. Ammons it would follow that those things become wonderful. And you know, I totally believe it. An example: I was with a fairly new birder who, looking out over a refuge pond through his binoculars, declared in awe, "well, look at that." I said, "What? Where?" He turned to me and said, "Oh, there's a Mallard there and....". He had seen the wonderful by looking closely. And this wonderful is not measured by how long one has been birding. I witnessed a world-travelled birder, who had missed seeing a Green-tailed Towhee when others in the group spotted one earlier in the day, jump up and down in delight saying, "Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!!!!" after watching a second one scamper around in the rain-soaked bushes.

We are beginning a new season of sharing our wonderful moments with each other, in our meetings and our field trips, as well as some volunteer projects. I hope that everyone will look closely enough at birds, clouds, sunsets, pets, friends or whatever you find near you to see the wonderful.

See you soon,

Midge Marcy-Brennan

## Birds and Beans

George Saylor



The Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society will again be selling Birds and Beans shade grown, organic, fair-trade certified coffee this fall. This year, unlike previous years, we will only be sending in one order. Orders will be taken at the September through November meetings and online until the day after the November meeting. We do this as a fundraiser for our club and to protect bird habitat in Central America. It makes excellent Christmas presents, so plan now to get your coffee for your own pleasure or as gifts for other coffee lovers .

Prices are \$11.00 a bag (12 oz.) for regular and \$12 for decaf. Two pound bags are \$25.50 for regular and \$27.50 for decaf. The coffee is available in regular, fine and course grinds as well as whole bean.

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## Birds and Beans

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Please plan to pick up your coffee at the December meeting or make arrangements to pick it up from George Saylor.

If you would like to order online, please email George Saylor at [gsaylercda@aol.com](mailto:gsaylercda@aol.com). Please specify what variety or varieties you would like, ground or whole bean, what grind, and what size bag. Payment can be made upon receipt of the coffee, but if you are unable to pick it up at our December meeting, you will need to make arrangements to pick it up from George. Online orders will be taken until November 16th.

## Boundary County Field Trip

Kris Buchler



Western Tanager - June 1982 - Riggins – photographer ?

Fourteen Audubon birders trekked to Selkirk House in the Kootenai Valley for a weekend of spring birding. May 20-22 is a time for catching returning migrants, although a few were still absent at this time. As usual, there were surprises and misses for everyone. A total of 93 species for the weekend was not bad!

After meeting for dinner at the Kootenai River Brewery on Friday evening, we gathered at Selkirk House to plan our strategy for Saturday. We began our day in a light drizzle but it did not stop our songbirds near the house, namely a very loud Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler and Western Tanager. Jim and Sheelagh Lynn had already seen a Red-naped Sapsucker here the day before.

We drove north along the western edge of Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge and then along TNC's Ball Creek Ranch which enhanced ponds some years ago for more waterfowl habitat. American White Pelicans gathered here in great numbers along with other expected waterfowl. At the north end of the ranch we were allowed to drive along Trout Creek on the dike road to the Kootenai River. Some walked the dike and Lisa spotted a hard-to-find Lincoln's Sparrow as well as several Savannah Sparrows. Bald Eagle and Osprey fished the river and we had several species of swallows, including less common Bank Swallow.

Heading north on Westside Road we encountered 2 women looking down the road embankment. Binoculars showed us they were birders and they turned out to be Kathleen Cameron and Jean Seymour from Hailey, Idaho. Kathleen did a presentation to our chapter a few years ago and leads trips to Central America. They joined us for the afternoon as we headed by the burn at Parker Creek which yielded a Black-backed Woodpecker seen by Lisa. Smith Creek climbs in elevation and we sought the elusive Boreal Chickadee. It remained "elusive" for

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## Boundary County Field Trip

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our group but other birds found were Hermit and Varied Thrush and Clark's Nutcracker.

The road along the Canadian Border and northern edge of Boundary Creek Wildlife Management Area was alive with songbirds and Sally Jones spotted a cryptic Great Horned Owl perched in the cottonwoods. A noisy Northern Waterthrush, one of our 7 species of warblers, almost drowned out a Least Flycatcher, a life bird for some. A Bullock's Oriole attracted attention and we all enjoyed the numerous Yellow-headed Blackbirds and Wood Duck moms and ducklings.

Saturday evening we talked about favorite sightings while sharing pizza, appetizers, wine, salads, and desserts that everyone brought.

Sunday was drizzly and rainy. Kathleen and Jean stopped by at breakfast and Kathleen was able to listen to the Least Flycatcher behind the house, recording a "lifer" for her list. We birded the refuge and Myrtle Falls Trail in the drippy weather before returning for a hot lunch of more pizza at the house. Ripley Comeges, the owner and resident on the mountain above the house, stopped to offer greetings.

Trip organizers were Kris Buchler and Lisa Hardy, who does a great job of collecting the data and sending it out to everyone. Participants included Vera Taggart, Linda Wolovich, Darlene Carlton, Cathy Mohns, Valerie Zagar, Linda Chalcraft, Mary Deasy, Marilyn Robertson, Sally and Bill Gundlach, Sheelagh and Jim Lynn.

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Yellow Warbler  
Photo by Wayne Tree

## Century Count June 2016

Kris Buchler

Eight intrepid birders began a county "Big Day" at 4:15 a.m. June

2 to seek 100 plus species within Kootenai

County. Lisa Hardy and Kris Buchler planned the day and itinerary. Excellent eyes, ears and endurance were contributed by Carrie Hugo, Linda Chalcraft, Mary Deasy, Janet Callen, and Sally and Bill Gundlach.

We began the morning traveling along the Coeur d'Alene River south of Cataldo. This is a riparian area rich in songbirds. Most notable was a very loud Red-eyed Vireo that greeted us in the parking lot. This was followed by several warblers including Yellow, MacGillivray's, Northern Waterthrush, and American Redstart. Several species of flycatcher were heard but the Veery remained quiet, despite our efforts to lure it out.

Wooded areas yielded Western Tanager, Hammond's Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush and Yellow-rumped and Townsend's Warblers. A turn through Hardy Loop was very productive. Duck species were gorgeous - Cinnamon Teal, Blue-winged Teal and Green-winged teal, handsome Ruddy Ducks, and families of Hooded Mergansers with ducklings. A Bullock's Oriole caroused in the cottonwoods but the clincher was the Bobolinks. This is a species hard to find in

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## Century Count

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the county and there were several males in the open fields. We were lucky because Ed, Valerie Zagar and I returned 5 days later and not one was found. We had hoped they might be breeding there.

Another unusual find was an Eared Grebe in the Chain Lakes. Horned Grebes are much more common here. There were approximately 58 Western Grebe nests on Cave Lake, up from past years and a good sign they are doing well.

A bird we used to see but is becoming fairly rare is the Olive-sided Flycatcher, easily identified by its song, "Quick, three beers!" Our only one was spotted coming down the old road from 4th of July Pass to Wolf Lodge.

Doug Ward set the stage for some people to hear or see some life birds he found on the Prairie Trail. Despite very windy conditions, we heard Brewer's Sparrow and heard and saw Clay-colored Sparrow.

It was a good day with 105 species tallied by the group. Many species were seen and heard by all, with a few only heard by some.

Next year's Century Count will be in Shoshone County, approximately on the first weekend of June.

## Blue Skies and Bluebirds

June 4, 2016

Janet Callen

Seven interested birders joined Jim and Sheelagh Lynn on the bluebird trail they have created along the Bunco road east of



Photo by Peggy Albertson

Highway 95. They have installed 27 boxes along their trail and Western Bluebirds have occupied 15 of them. Tree Swallows have taken up residence in others. Jim and Sheelagh had previously checked their boxes on May 28 and by the day of our visit, reported that 31 Western Bluebirds had fledged. During their May 28 check, however, they had found 8 other boxes with water damage so they cleaned them all and removed the soggy nests. Remarkably, eight days later (June 4) we found all 8 boxes were in various stages of being rebuilt, and three boxes had 8 new Western Bluebird eggs. As we stopped to check a box we saw a pair of Bluebirds on the telephone wire to our left of the box. And on the wire to our right of the box was a pair of Tree Swallows. The nest inside held 3 Bluebird eggs and was woven of grass, with feathers interspersed throughout. Kris removed most of the feathers, but we pondered which bird family will prevail. Kris Buchler, Valerie Zagar, Cathy Mohns, Darlene Carlton, Peggy Albertson and Margee Van Vlymen joined the Lynns for a most enjoyable morning.

Oh, and one of the Tree Swallows occupied boxes had 13 eggs. That will be one crowded house.

## Email Notices



I keep an Audubon email group contact list for the purpose of sending out messages about upcoming meetings, field trips, interesting bird sightings and any other information that I think might be of interest to our Audubon Chapter.

Many of you are already on the group email list and so you need not respond unless you want to be deleted from the list or be added. Email me at [shirley.sturts@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.sturts@gmail.com) and request to be added or deleted. Thanks, Shirley Sturts

### Meetings 2016-2017

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.. at the Lutheran Church of the Master on the NE corner of Kathleen and Ramsey. **Board Meetings** are held once a month at 4:30 P.M. the first Tuesday of every month at the church.

### Field Trips 2016-2017

**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 or George Sayler 667-2787 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

### 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:** Janet Callen 664-1085

**Activity:** We spend about 3 hours once a month counting birds at Mica Bay. Beginner birders are welcome to come and learn bird identification skills.

### Highway 95 Cleanup

**Date:** October 1, Saturday

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. Sign up Required

**Meet:** Mica Grange-Highway 95

**Contact:** Mike or Valerie Zagar 819-5115

### Hidden Lake-Cranberry Bog

**Date:** \_ October 15, Saturday

**Meet:** Contact Jim at

**Time:** to be announced

**Leader:** Jim Lynn 623-5661

Pick Idaho cranberries at Hidden Lake.

Kayak or canoe necessary.

**Mineral Ridge Hike:** Fernan Lake, Wolf Lodge, Beauty Bay and Blue Creek Bay:

**Date:** November 12, Saturday

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Meet:** Fernan Ranger Station **Leader:**

**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, search for waterfowl. Target birds will be loons.

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## ***Field Trips***

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### **Rathdrum Prairie Hawk Survey**

Will take place once a month from November through March. Doug Ward has been the leader. This two- hour fast-paced, one-vehicle journey across the prairie is a learning experience that is a lot of fun.

### **Christmas Counts**

Between December 14, Wednesday through January 5, Thursday. Three separate counts will take place: Coeur d Alene (Shirley Sturts), Spirit Lake (needs leader), and Indian Mountain (Lisa Hardy, Organizer).

**January** - No one has volunteered to lead a trip in January. Help!

### **Great Backyard Bird Count**

**Date:** February 18, Saturday

**Time and Meet:** To be determined

**Leader:** Lisa Hardy 783-1262

### **Lincoln County Winter Bird Trip**

**Date:** February 25, Saturday

**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

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

**Leader:** Roland Craft 457-8894  
**Target Birds:** Snowy Owls, Horned Larks and other winter birds.

### **Heyburn State Park**

**Date:** March 25, Saturday

**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

**Meet:** K-Mart parking lot, south side

**Leader:** Lisa Hardy 783-1262

We will walk along the bike trail and maybe a foot trail, weather permitting, followed by car birding on Benewah Lake.

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### **Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge**

**Date:** April 1, Saturday - date may change

**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

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

**Leader:** Roland Craft: 457-8894

**Target Bird:** Returning Trumpeter Swans

### **Grays Harbor, Washington**

**Date:** Late April

**Time and Meet:** To be determined

**Leader:** George Saylor 667-2787

**Target Birds:** Primarily migrating waterfowl and shorebirds plus the local birds. We will explore the various areas of this hotspot for spring migration.

### **Boundary County Spring Birding**

**Dates:** May 11-13 (Thursday-Saturday)

**Lodging:** Selkirk House and Bonners Ferry Motels.

**Time:** Travel late Thursday aft. to Bonners Ferry. Dinner at Kootenai River Brewery.

**Leaders:** Kris Buchler 664-4739 and Lisa Hardy 783-1262

### **International Migratory Bird Day**

**Date:** May 20, Saturday

**Leader:** Carrie Hugo 661-9777

### **Southeast Idaho**

**Date:** May 30 Tuesday-June 3, Saturday

**Time and Meet:** To be determined

### **Century Count**

**Date:** early June

**Time and Meet:** To be determined

**More field trip details on our Website**

**New Member Application**

**Join Online**

Become a member of the National Audubon Society, Join online at:  
[https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation2?df\\_id=8080&8080.donation=form1](https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation2?df_id=8080&8080.donation=form1)

**Pick Chapter Code G06**

From the dropdown list

**Join by Phone**

You may also call National Audubon at **1-844-428-3826**  
And remember to reference our **Chapter Code G06**

**CDA Audubon Chapter Officers**

**President:**  
Midge Marcy-Brennan 661-3228  
**Vice President:**  
Open  
**Recording Secretary:**  
Valerie Zagar 819-5115  
**Treasurer:**  
Janet Callen 664-1085  
**Board Members:** all officers +  
Peggy Albertson, Barbara Christofferson  
Carrie Hugo, Jim Lynn, Lynn Sheridan

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Publicity:** open  
**Field Trips:** Janet Callen 664-1085  
George Saylor 664-2787  
**Education:** Barbara Christofferson 667-3931  
**Conservation:** Midge Marcy-Brennan  
**Membership:** Peggy Albertson 664-1616  
**Hospitality:** Elli Emm  
**Newsletter:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318  
**Programs:** Eula Hickam 661-3228  
**Mailing:** Peggy Albertson 664-1616  
**Webmaster:** Shirley Sturts 664-5318  
**Historian:** Open

**Local Membership Dues**

- Individual \$10.00*
- Family \$15.00*
- Individual \$25.00 - with hard copy of the newsletter*
- Family \$30.00 - with hard copy of the newsletter*
- Additional donation\_\_\_\_\_*

Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

NAME\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

CITY\_\_\_\_\_

STATE\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE\_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and your check payable to: **Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter c/o Membership P.O. Box 361 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816**



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

