

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



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

September 2017

Volume 28 Number 1

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

DATE: September 12, Tuesday

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

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

SPEAKERS: Darlene Carlton - Cathy Mohns

PROGRAM:



"A photo presentation of Darlene and Cathy's April trip to Trinidad and Tobago"

You will see magnificent birds including the Tufted Coquette Hummingbird, Bearded Bellbird, Scarlet Ibis, Oilbirds, Parrots, Trogons and so many more. We'll also show the countryside and towns and the flora and fauna as we traveled. And the roads! There is plenty to say about that. We also did a 2 day extension to Mt. Plaisir on the Caribbean where we watched Giant Leatherback Turtles nesting right below us as we watched from our comfortable deck.

President's Message

Forty-one years ago I had the great honor of being mentored into the birding world by two experienced birders, my initiation being in the early morning mist of June as they did the Department of Interior Spring Bird Count for Boundary County. It was on that morning I heard the pump-r-lunk pump-r-lunk echoing across the Kootenai Refuge and was told it was the call of the American Bittern, a common bird, like a heron. I heard that call every spring, and thought I should be able to see them, since they were a heron and there were Great Blue Herons EVERYWHERE, and though I certainly love the Blues, I searched for the silly bird I could hear but never see.

Forty-one years. I have looked for an American Bittern. Granted, there were some years my life interrupted serious birding, but I have always thought about the Bittern as I looked across marshes and wetlands.

This May a troupe of Audubon members journeyed to Bear Lake in southeastern Idaho. We stopped along the way at Camas Wildlife Refuge and then again at Market Wildlife Refuge. There wasn't an awful lot of activity at Camas and the initial venture into Market looked like it wasn't going to be much better, so Jim thought we might as well turn around and head back toward the highway. He drove across the canal to a turnaround spot and we surprised a bird that was in the grasses; it flew across in front of the pickup. Continued on page 2

President's Message

Continued from page 1

Jim looked at me and said, "Is that the bird you are always looking for?" My intelligent answer was "Don't know. I didn't really see it." Lo and behold, though, this silly bird stayed out in view and allowed us to get a few pictures, making sure it stood in the classic pose of beak pointing straight up. I got to see my American Bittern. What a thrill!!!!

So later, when the group was sitting around the dinner table espousing the wonders of their trip so far, I was able to SHARE MY BITTERN. It was a somewhat bittersweet bittern, for others said, "Oh yeah I saw one today, and one yesterday" and the like. Oh well. It was MY BITTERN; MY FIRST.



We continued on the trip, Jim and I going to Bear Lake Refuge as the others of the group headed home. We had just gotten to the wetlands area and there were hundreds of birds, American White Pelican, Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron, Cinnamon Teal, Canada Goose, American Kestrel, Common Merganser, etc. Using my binoculars I scanned the far edge of the pond under some cottonwood trees and saw, lo and behold again, what I took for an American

Bittern!!!! And then another one!!!!, But no, it couldn't be. The second one had huge white fluffs on his "shoulders"!!!!!! What in the world kind of bird was that???? I yelled for Jim to look and I grabbed for the camera, but.....they were gone, gone like they never were.

Searches into my bird books didn't give me any clue into what in the world type of bittern the second one was. I was SURE the first one was a bittern, but then I had only seen one other in my life; but what about the second? Was it ill or injured? Was I crazy? Further, into the internet yielded pictures and there he was. The male bittern in full breeding plumage strutting his stuff for the lady.

After forty-one years, not only did I get to see my bittern, but got to see one in what I would consider to be a moment not observed by many birders. WOW!! Now there may be those of you that can say "oh yeah. I've seen that many times" but that's OK! That's the beauty of bird-watching. WOW moments can come to anyone, anytime, or after forty-one years.

May each of you have a WOW moment or two in the upcoming Audubon year. Midge

Waterkeeper Boat Trip

Eula Hickam



On Monday, July 31, Audubon members Jackie Beery, Valerie Zagar and Eula Hickam went on a 2 hour cruise of Lake Coeur d'Alene with the Waterkeepers

(a part of the Kootenai Environmental Alliance). We left the dock about 10:00 a.m. and cruised down the lake learning about hazards that threaten the water quality. Crew members talked about shoreline care and other influences affecting the lake. It was a good day. Other cruises are available. A sign-up sheet will be available at the September meeting.

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.

If you would like to order online, please email George Saylor at 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

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

Highway cleanup

Date: October 7, Saturday

Time: 8:30 a.m. - sign-up required

Place: Mica Grange - Highway 95

Contact: Val or Mike Zagar; [208/819-5115](tel:2088195115)

Grays Harbor Field Trip

April 28-May 1 -- George Saylor



Photo by Shirley Sturts

Although the weather wasn't always great, the birding was. The twenty participants who went on the Grays Harbor birding trip at the end of April

amassed a total of over 80 species for the two days of birding. I had told Janet Callen and Valerie Zagar that I wanted us to see 100 species, and when we had only reached about 80 I said I would rather see fewer good and unusual birds than more of the ones we usually see, and that is how the trip turned out.

Our birding included time at the Grays Harbor Wildlife Refuge, Ocean Shores, which is the peninsula at the mouth of the bay and is accessed on the north side of Grays Harbor, and the harbor at Westport on the south entrance to the bay. Habitat varied from sandy ocean beaches, the wetlands of Grays Harbor Wildlife Refuge, the scrub forest of Ocean Shores, to the ocean shore and marina at Westport. For some it also included birds seen en route or while returning from Grays Harbor.

Birds seen ranged from a tiny but very beautiful Rufous Hummingbird to what was for me a life bird of importance, White-fronted Geese. I had told Shirley Sturts about 30 years ago that I had seen some, but after her polite but pointed questioning, I realized I was wrong. So, while we were watching them at Grays Harbor I had the pleasure of saying, "Shirley, these are White-fronted Geese!" Then I had to tell her why I made that comment about what was so obvious, which brought a laugh and a smile from her. The White-fronted Geese were quite good looking I must say, especially as highlighted by the early evening sun. Also present then was a small group of Short-billed Dowitchers. **Continued on page 4**

Grays Harbor

Continued from page 3

Other species of note included Least Sandpipers, Pelagic Cormorant, Red-throated Loon, Marbled Godwit, Peregrine Falcon, Marsh Wren, Forked-tail Storm Petrel, Whimbrel, Caspian Tern, Common Yellowthroat, Green-winged Teal, Cliff Swallows, Western Scrub Jay, American Bittern, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and numerous others. With so many types of habitat it was to be expected that a wide variety of bird species would be seen, and so it was.

For me, the trip was a wonderful time of fellowship with fellow birders and the opportunity to see birds I don't usually see. It also yielded eight life birds!

Participating in the trip were: Mary Ayers, Janet Callen, Richard Cripe, Teresa Fandel, her husband John and son Sophie, Bill Gundlach and Sally Jones, Lisa Hardy, Russ Hersrud, John and Susan Lee, Marilyn Robertson, Shirley Sturts, Vera Taggart and Ernie Ewing, Karen and Marv Williams, and Valerie Zagar.

I think everyone would recommend a trip to Grays Harbor for the sea food if not for the birding.

Spring Birding In Boundary County

May 11-13

Kris Buchler

Kris Buchler, Lisa Hardy and Carrie Hugo led a May trip to various habitats in Boundary County. Twelve people participated in the trip based in Bonners Ferry with the primary goal of discovering spring arrivals and to explore Two Tail Mountain, a plot of land owned and managed by BLM. Lisa and Kris did bird counts there over 10 years ago, contracted by IDFG/BLM to monitor breeding bird populations.

Carrie has since become the wildlife biologist for BLM and has made numerous visits. Lisa and Kris' counts were done pre-treatment (logging) and this year we observed the effects and changes in the habitat. We were unable to visit Boulder Creek and Boulder City because of the road washout at Katka Creek. It may not open for another year.

We trekked north along the Moyie River through areas most had never visited, arriving at the Copper Falls trailhead near the Canadian border. The falls are reached by a verdant trail and were gushing this May.



Western Tanager
Fuyertes

Everyone gathered at Selkirk House (south of KNWR) for dinner and libations and to discuss finds for the day. Western Tanagers, numerous flycatchers, vireos and warblers had returned to Two Tail Mountain. Jerry Hugo found a Barred Owl. Our first Lazuli Bunting was found above the Kootenai River. The Least Flycatcher had returned to Selkirk House.

Our second day took us north along the refuge boundary. There were several slide areas and road damage from winter/spring snow and rains but the road was open. Parker Ridge produced a Black-backed Woodpecker in the 2 year-old burn. We attempted to find the elusive Boreal Chickadee up Smith Creek Road but high snow levels prevented us from reaching the altitudes we sought. Varied and Hermit Thrushes sang along with several warbler species.

We managed to add several species to the Boundary County List. Those joining the leaders were Jerry Hugo, Iva Hugo, Ed Buchler, Linda Chalcraft, Valerie Zagar, Nancy Mertz, Sally Jones/Gundlach, Suzanne Marshall and her husband, Mike Marvinny.



Gray's Lake, Soda Springs, Bear Lake and Craters of the Moon

May 30-June 3
Janet Callen

Eula and Rita at Craters of the Moon
Photo by Janet Callen



After a full day of birding – relaxing at Challis Hot Springs
Photo by Valerie Zagar

We traveled one thousand, four hundred and seventy-six -miles of fantastic beauty with sagebrush, blue skies, good friends and good birds. Our first planned stop was Camas National Wildlife Refuge, followed by a visit to Market Lake Wildlife Management area. Among the 44 species in both areas were White-faced Ibis, Swainson's Hawk, Franklin's Gull, Willet and a pair of courting Western Grebe. In Pocatello, longtime Audubon activist, Chuck Trost joined us for dinner. On day three we headed to Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge, but first was a stop in Soda Springs just as the town's geyser was about to erupt with carbonated water. Well worth a visit. While a significant nesting site for Sandhill Cranes and Franklin's Gulls the numbers of visible birds were limited at Gray's Lake. We then traveled south to Bear Lake where waterfowl, and shorebirds were visible in great numbers. We had some great close views

of Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets. There were Forster's Tern, Eared Grebe. Clarks Grebe, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, and Wilson's Phalarope, in total we counted 68 species at Gray's and Bear Lake. Our journey back to Pocatello included a stop at Lava Hot Springs for dinner at a charming outdoor restaurant. A highlight of our journey, as we headed north was Craters of the Moon National Monument. While there were no waterfowl, we saw some great birds including a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (Lisa) and Clark's Nutcracker, Vesper, Brewer's and Sage Sparrows. At the end of the day we enjoyed an evening at Challis Hot Springs and then home via Missoula.

Participants included Judy and Phil Waring, Midge and Jim Brennan; Suzanne Marshall, Cathy Mohn, Lisa Hardy, Eula Hickam, Rita Poser, Valerie and Mike Zagar. Many thanks to Judy who consulted and contributed and did half the work putting this trip together. We counted a total of 112 species and the highlight for me was a McCown's Longspur near Dillon Mt. It was a life bird and one that I previously didn't know existed.

Comments: Eula Hickam "Yes we had a great time and, yes Rita is moving to Coeur d' Alene. "

Lisa Hardy

"My favorite things about the Gray's Lake trip: -outside of Dillon, the McCown's Longspur right where advertised. My notes say I saw one in Colorado in 1984, but I have no memory of it, so I am calling it a second-lifer... -watching the geyser and drinking from the spring at Soda Springs-the long-legged waders at Bear Lake: stilts, avocets and the godwit-seeing the cute little town of Lava Hot Springs-as a geologist, seeing the fresh lava flows at Craters of the Moon was a real highlight, and a brief but perfect glimpse of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was the icing on the cake. And, of course the wonderful company; many good conversations with old friends and a new friend, Rita"

Continued on page 6

Gray's Lake – Continued from page 5

Cathy Mohns

"I really loved the abundance of Ruddy Ducks, and the three juvenile raptors playing around at Bear Lake. Wildflowers at Craters were a real Highlight"

Phil & Judy

"The drive through the spectacular scenery of the American west was wonderful—hundreds of miles of undeveloped mountain ranges and prairies spread out before us."

Valerie and Mike Zagar.

"Bear Lake Refuge was probably my favorite birding spot for up close and personal. Mike enjoyed Carters of the Moon and Camas Wildlife Refuge as well. The baby raptors were pretty cute"

Shoshone County Century Count

June 10 -- Lisa Hardy

This year, the Shoshone County Century Count birding party was *not* snowed on. We did though, pass through three rain showers, including one with hail, and another that produced a rainbow.

Our group of six started at the Enaville bike trailhead and walked downstream a mile, then upstream a half mile, yielding a good start of 43 species, including Veery and Black-billed Magpie (very local in the county). Then with our party reduced to four, we traveled to the Page swamp and water treatment ponds where we picked up 15 more species. In Kellogg we located another 6. At mid-day, we headed for high elevation by driving up the Burke road until we reached snow just before the intersection with Lower Glidden Lake road. After being pelted with hail, this side trip proved fruitful as we picked up Wilson's Warbler, Varied Thrush and Olive-sided Flycatcher, among others, to bring us up to 83 species. Highlights were hearing a singing Brown Creeper, and finding a dipper at a bridge, right where it should be.

We found only a dribble of new species for the rest of the day. We returned to Wallace, and walked a bit up the Pulaski Trail, but with no new species. Then off to Shoshone Park above Mullan, where we found the elusive Evening Grosbeak on the road to Mullan Pass. We returned west and drove the Wall Ridge road. From several pullouts we had sweeping views of the Coeur d'Alene River below, where we spotted distant Common Mergansers. A Redtail Hawk soared by, and near the county line, a Ruffed Grouse attempted to join our birding party by flying into the window of our moving vehicle. Our final destination was a return to the Page ponds, this time in a squall. We admired the rainbow produced in the wake of the squall, and then returned to our parked cars at Smeltonville, where we heard nighthawks foraging high above us in the clean-washed sky, a fitting ending to the day.

We did well to have a clean sweep on the warblers and icterids. Notable misses were Turkey Vulture, Wilson's Snipe, Vaux's Swift, all the hummingbirds, Rock Pigeon, Mountain Bluebird, Red Crossbill and House Sparrow.

Participants: Kris Buchler, Mary Deasey, Sally Gundlach, Lisa Hardy, Tammy Pearson & friend
(See totals species on our Website)

Roland's Memorial Hike

July 29, 2017 -- Dick Cripe



Photo by Shirley Sturts

What a fine day!
Roland would have loved it - hiking a high mountain ridge on a clear summer day. On July 29 Shirley

Sturts, Bill and Sally Gundlach and I undertook a hike commemorating the memory of Roland Craft. As most of you know, Roland was a long-time Audubon member and served for many years as field trip planner.

Continued on page 7

Roland's Memorial Hike

Continued from page 6

He was a reliable participant in all events and often served as recorder of the bird count. His career was as a forester for Idaho Dept. of Lands and he was very knowledgeable about plants of all kinds. With a little encouragement he was quite pleased to share his knowledge. He always urged me to lead a mid-summer, high-altitude hike, so four or five years ago we did this same trip. It was with this in mind that I decided to repeat this trip in his honor.

And it was the easiest 6.7 mile hike you would ever do. It was flatter and more shaded than I remembered. Beginning just below Little Guard Lookout (6031' elevation) and hiking 3.4 miles to Sentinel Peak at 6000' elevation. You can't get any more level than that. We made a point noting the tree species we were passing, mostly mountain hemlock and subalpine fir, but making a specific effort to find the white bark pine only found at high elevations. We re-created the mini-lecture on the significance of white bark pine and Clark Nutcracker that we know Roland would have been able to deliver. From the peak we had a 360 degree view and could see well into Montana and Washington. (I don't know about Canada). There were no fires to the west so the air was crystal clear. At lunch we shared some chocolate mini-candy bars, somewhat softened, as Roland would have provided. And, to top it off, the huckleberries were plentiful, so we picked on the return walk. The mountainside was so steep, however, you could only pick while standing on the trail. Birds seen or heard included Dusky Grouse, Northern Flicker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Raven, Western Tanager, Turkey Vulture, and Hawk (species).

Meetings 2017-2018

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. **Board Meetings** are held once a month at 4:30 P.M. the first Tuesday of every month at the church.

Field Trips

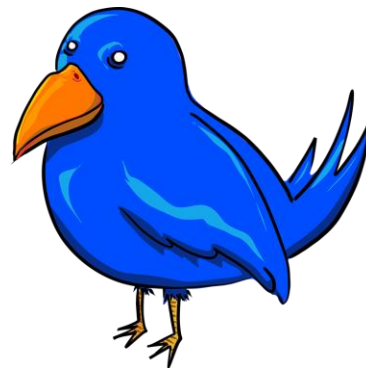
Our field trips are posted on our Website <http://cdaudubon.org/fieldtrips.html>

Dick Cripe has volunteered to be our field trip coordinator. Many thanks to Janet Callen who has done this job for the past 10 years along with Roland Craft and then George Saylor.

Please contact Dick 208-665-0010 to volunteer to lead a trip or to suggest places to go.

For September (Check our Website for any additional trips)

Mica Bay Survey



Date:

September 12,
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.

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

**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 208 661-3228
Vice President:
Dick Cripe 208 665-0010
Recording Secretary:
Valerie Zagar 208 819-5115
Treasurer:
Janet Callen 208 664-1085
Board Members: all officers +
Barbara Christofferson, Carrie Hugo, Jim Lynn, Lynn Sheridan

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Publicity: open
Field Trips: Dick Cripe 208 665-0020
George Sayler 208 664-2787
Education: Barbara Christofferson 208 667-3931
Conservation: Midge Marcy-Brennan
Membership: Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616
Hospitality: Elli Emm
Newsletter: Shirley Sturts 208 664-5318
Programs: Eula Hickam 208 661-3228
Mailing: Peggy Albertson 208 664-1616
Webmaster: Shirley Sturts 208 664-5318
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 _____

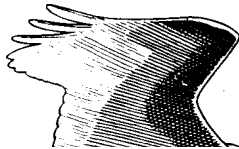
ADDRESS _____

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**

