

Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Evanston North Shore Bird Club

June 2016

www.ensbc.org



Northern Shrike by Nancy Halliday



A Colorado Grouse Tour to Remember! April 2016

*Greater Sage Grouse, Walden, Colorado
by Davida Kalina*

Nine ENSBC High Plains birders participated in the Colorado Grouse Loop Tour this April and were treated to wonderful viewing of ALL “targeted” grouse, gorgeous mountain scenery, canyons, and the wonderful grasslands of the Rockies’ front range. 125 species, including many birds not normally found in Illinois, were tallied by the group within two major driving loops covering 2,372 miles, with nine nights lodging. WHEW!

Highlights included: White-tailed Ptarmigan—ridiculously close at Loveland Pass; Lewis’s Woodpeckers in Buena Vista and Pinyon Jays (25) in Salida; Gunnison Sage-Grouse on a ridge lek, a singing American Dipper, a wonderful pair of Dusky Grouse at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park; a roadside pair of Clark’s Nutcrackers and a Sharp-tailed Grouse in Hayden; two moose crossing the highway in Walden and pronghorn antelopes seemingly everywhere near Lake John and later in the grasslands; the Boreal Owl calling and seen near Cameron Pass on a windless, starry night; Greater Sage Grouse (105) just outside our vehicles, displaying.

And that’s not all!

There were also Williamson’s Sapsuckers and Red Crossbills at Genessee Park; Ferruginous Hawk and Burrowing Owl near Byers; Lesser Prairie Chickens (4, very few left in CO!) booming; Mountain Plover and Scaled Quail on the I.L. road and 242 McCown’s longspurs coming to the gravel roads in Pawnee National Grasslands in a snowstorm. Finally, after 38.5 inches of snowfall at the end (thank God!) of our tour, we made it out of Denver with many mountain and plains bird memories.

Special thanks to Jennifer for all motel arrangements and being the main second driver; to Gary and Wayne as additional drivers and navigators; to David and Dale for logistical directions, keeping on top of local ebird sightings and getting us to pinned ebirding locations-- wherever they might take us; to “Indy” for his outrageous humor and magic flashlight; to Beth for finding Mexican restaurants and scenic stops; and to Katherine for great granola and new bird names! ***(Editor’s note: And extra special thanks to Dave Johnson who led the tour.)***

by David B. Johnson

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Migratory Bird Habitat under Threat in Canada

By Lloyd Davidson

An issue of great consequence for the future of migrating birds lies in the old growth boreal forests of Canada, which are increasingly losing their protection from logging. According to an article in the latest issue of the Natural Resources Defense Council's (<https://www.nrdc.org>) *Nature's Voice* newsletter, one of the last and largest major stands of intact boreal forest is now under threat by clearcutting.

The latest Canadian plan would open the Broadback River area in central Quebec, to logging roads that would "quite literally, pave the way for the destruction of the Broadback Valley." This is "one of the largest, and last remaining, intact stretches of Canada's vast boreal forest" and the "ancestral heartland of the Waswanipi Cree Nation"

Over 5000 acres of Canada's forests are already being clearcut each day, although a large fraction of those grow back over time, as in the U.S. Re-grown forests, however, have much less biological diversity than old growth forests and following clearcutting, much soil is lost through erosion. Also, the logging roads leading into forests, especially in areas like the Amazon and Indonesia, allow for increased access, development and a diminishment of wildlife species. By the way, driving through our National Forests, we seldom see the massive clearcuts that are often just out of sight as loggers always leave a fairly substantial stand of untouched trees bordering each highway.

In spite of the generally poor condition of much of Canada's forests (no worse than ours, however), which is exacerbated by increased pine beetle damage due to warmer winters, their trees (and prairies) still manage to provide shelter and food for 3 to 5 billion migratory birds. However, there has been about a 14% decline in bird populations in Canada just since 1970. Currently, over 50 bird species are considered to be at some level of risk, ranging from endangered to of special concern, but the greater prairie chicken has been extirpated.



Cape May Warbler



White-tailed Ptarmigan, Loveland Pass, Colorado

By Davida Kalina



The following new members have joined ENSBC since the March issue of Bird Calls:

Myrna Cortez

Ben & Nancy Eisenstrin

Robert J. Moran

Tina Seastrom

Cooper Stringer

Clark Street Beach...Earth Day and More

By Libby Hill



Earth Day...

Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary (CSBBS) spring activities started off with a celebration of Earth Day on April 23rd. Students (outfitted as birds) provided wonderful entertainment for an audience of over 50 people. Students researched their birds' natural history and behavior. The flock of 16 species from Baltimore Oriole to Scarlet Tanager, including Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Indigo Bunting and American Redstart with makeup and costumes were true to species.

In a production entitled "Bird Cycle," the audience was treated to an introduction to the birds, water-balloons portraying eggs, and dance imitating flight, courtship and learning to fly against a backdrop of the sanctuary and glistening Lake Michigan. The performance was underwritten by the Evanston Arts Council. Huge thanks are due to students, costumers, make up folks, musicians (guitar, flute and percussion), and especially to Clare Tallon Ruen of LakeDance and Andrew Bilter of Mudlark Theater. A Northwestern student from Medill made a video; view it and like us on our Facebook page, "Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary."

More news of the Sanctuary...

During the first week of May, Sanctuary volunteers enjoyed a plant walk led by Ryan Kettlekamp, who identified bushes, trees and perennials. He was relieved to announce that 95 percent of the plantings made it through the winter with very little sand buildup. There's plenty of work for all volunteers, from pulling garlic mustard to removing dandelions, to fertilizing

plants (contact libbyhill@comcast.net). We also need help with Birds and Bagels in the fall at the Clark St. Beach House from 10:30-11:30, dates to be announced. These events will introduce the public to the Sanctuary and to birds migrating through.

We are fortunate to have arranged an informal agreement with Northwestern for them to provide CSBBS with new and replacement plants, leaf mulch, assistance on workdays and, hopefully, research by students. Want to make a tax-deductible contribution? Just make out a check to Evanston North Shore Bird Club, write CSBBS on the memo line and mail to Libby Hill, 2715 Woodland Rd., Evanston, IL 60201.

And, of course, visit the Sanctuary and watch it grow!

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS



Illinois Beach State Park North Unit
Sunday, June 19
djohnsoda@comcast.net

Rollins Savanna
Sunday, July 24
Beau Schaefer (847-337-3602)

Calumet Sewage Ponds —Shorebirds
Sunday, August 28
wmarcisz@att.net (733-646-3034)



News of the Flock

Barbara Nobles: A Role Model for All of Us!



On a river cruise....

So what was ENSBC like in 1952? Just ask long-time member Barbara Nobles, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday, lunching with her family atop Seattle's iconic Space Needle.

Mostly a small group of women in those early days, they met in the basement of the old Evanston Library, birded along the lakefront (so different from what it is today) and boarded the Central Street bus for field trips to Memorial Park Cemetery. Attired in skirts and jackets, they also ventured into the Skokie Lagoons, pre-Chicago Botanic Garden, trying to avoid duck hunters as they looked for warblers and other spring migrants. Barbara said that over the years, she did just about every job in the Club except President, including Treasurer and publicity person. She was active in Perkins Woods and was one of a group that established the Ecology Center in Evanston, first located at the lighthouse and then at its current location on the Canal.

One fond memory Barbara has is the Club's early effort to get young boys interested in birding. When he was just a kid, Joel Greenberg was one of those boys. His mom brought him over for trips and left him in the capable hands of the ENSBC ladies.

Born in Spokane, Washington, Barbara later lived not only in Evanston but also Pasadena, Cambridge (MA), San Diego and she now resides in Port Ludlow, with her husband Larry, on the edge of the Olympic Peninsula. In each location, she joined a couple of bird clubs. When asked if she is still birding, she said "absolutely, and we have about a dozen bird feeders." Larry, a geologist and former professor at NU, is an avid photographer who has some great bird photos in his portfolio.

Barbara is a world traveler, having taken about a dozen birding trips including to Panama, Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago. In 2001, she, Lynne Carpenter and their husbands went to Morocco together; while looking for the elusive Hoopoe, they almost strayed into Algeria which could have led to a whole different adventure. Barbara has joined Dave Johnson on trips to Churchill, Manitoba and Colorado, for the famous grouse circuit.



A tribal welcome in Australia

During all these years, Barbara maintained her ENSBC membership and really enjoys keeping up with the Club through "Bird Calls." We hope she'll especially like this issue.

By Marj Lundy