



A PUBLICATION OF THE IDAHO WATCHABLE WILDLIFE COMMITTEE AND IDAHO'S CONSERVATION SCIENCES PROGRAM

What's in a Name?

Dr. Bruce Ackerman, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

How do birds get their interesting names? Some are named because of their most obvious feature (yellow warbler) while others are named because of their least obvious feature (white-fronted goose; white is small patch on face while the body is tan). Many are named after their most noticeable colors. Some are everyday primary colors, like blue jay, bluebird, red-winged blackbird, yellow-headed blackbird, red-tailed hawk, or red-headed woodpecker.

But many have names that are quite unusual words – far beyond the 16 colors in a box of crayons, but in fact, literally, every color of the rainbow. Some were named using words that were once more commonly used than today, such as bay, chestnut, ruddy. Some of these birds were named “scientifically,” that is, the colors came directly from Greek or Latin words that you have never heard before, such as fulvous, rufous, ferruginous.

The scientists who described each new species had to come up with a name and written description of the size, shape, and color pattern, to separate one species from every other possible species. Most of the species with complicated names were named after about 1850, and were not previously known to common people – otherwise they would have already had a name with common words.

American ornithologist Robert Ridgway (1850 –1929) worked professionally from the age of 17 and was the first full-time curator of birds at the Smithsonian Museum for 49 years, from 1880 to his death in 1929. He published one of the first color systems for bird identification, in 1886 and more in 1912, “Color Standards and Color Nomenclature,” and other books. He defined 1,115 specific colors to be used in verbally describing the patterns of birds and mammals. Ornithologists all over the world continue to cite Ridgway’s color studies and books.

Here is a list of birds from North America, in a spectrum of colors, following the colors of the rainbow from red to violet. I’ve omitted the many species named for common primary colors. I bet this will make you want to go to your field guide to look up a picture of many of these species (I could make an even longer list of odd colors, with a list of birds of the world!)



Rusty blackbird. Photo by Terry Gray.

Red

- Bay-breasted warbler (dark brownish-red)
- Chestnut-backed chickadee (reddish-brown)
- Chestnut-sided warbler
- Cinnamon teal (reddish brown)
- Rufous hummingbird (reddish, from Latin), rufous-sided towhee
- Ferruginous hawk (rust-colored from Latin)
- Rusty blackbird
- Ruddy duck, ruddy ground-dove, ruddy turnstone (reddish brown)
- Bronzed cowbird (metallic brown)
- Northern cardinal (red robes of Catholic clergy)
- Greater flamingo (Spanish for flaming)
- Scarlet ibis, tanager
- Vermilion flycatcher
- Crimson-collared grosbeak
- Painted redstart (red and black)
- Ruby-crowned kinglet, ruby-throated hummingbird
- Rose-breasted grosbeak, rose-throated becard, rosy-finches
- Roseate spoonbill, tern
- Pink-footed shearwater, flesh-footed shearwater

(story continues on next page)

In this issue...

1 Unusual Names for Colors

Dr. Bruce Ackerman, IDFG
How birds get their interesting names.

3 Birding the Scenic Route

Watching wildlife while driving along Idaho's Scenic Byways.

4 Fall Wildlife Events
Find a fall event near you!

What's in a Name from Page 1

Orange

- Orange-crowned warbler
- Flame-colored tanager

Yellow

- Goldfinch (three species)
- Golden eagle, golden plover, golden-cheeked warbler, golden-crowned kinglet, sparrow, golden-fronted woodpecker, golden-winged warbler
- Goldeneye (common, Barrow's)
- Gilded flicker (golden)
- Sulphur-bellied flycatcher (bright yellow)
- Prothonotary warbler (bright yellow robes of certain Catholic clergy at the Vatican)
- Yellow-green vireo
- Fulvous whistling-duck (yellowish-brown, from Latin)
- Olive warbler, olive sparrow (yellowish-green), olive-sided flycatcher
- Buff-collared night-jar (yellowish-brown), buff-bellied hummingbird, buff-breasted flycatcher
- Clay-colored robin, clay-colored sparrow (plain grayish brown)

Green

- Berylline hummingbird (bright green gemstone)

Blue

- Azure tanager
- Cerulean warbler (sky blue)
- Blue-gray gnatcatcher
- Tricolored heron (red, white, and blue)
- Painted bunting (blue, red, and green)
- Varied bunting (blue, red, and purple), thrush
- Lazuli bunting (blue gemstone, red, white, and blue)
- Indigo bunting (bluish purple)

Purple

- Purple gallinule, purple sandpiper, purple swamphen, purple martin, purple finch
- Violet-crowned hummingbird, violet-green swallow



American goldfinch. Photo by Terry Gray.



Lazuli bunting. Photo by Michael Morrison.



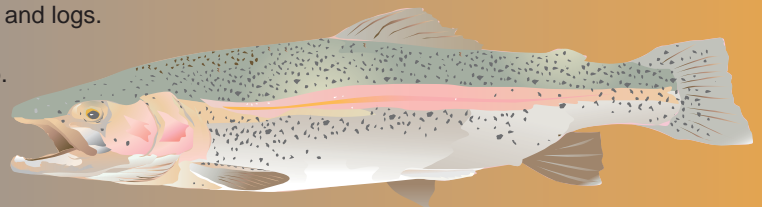
Violet-green swallow. Photo by Terry Gray.

Watchable Wildlife funds new fish camera!

Thanks to a grant funded by the Watchable Wildlife Program, the MK Nature Center (MKNC) in Boise has a new way to watch wildlife. The FishCam is located in the Alpine Lake (waterfall) that is the beginning of the MKNC stream. Although this "pond" is tiny, it displays the traits of a full blown ecosystem, complete with food webs, production, predation, decomposition, etc.

Look for:

- Rainbow and steelhead trout - spots everywhere and white fin tips;
- Cutthroat trout - these are Westslope cutthroats, big round spots, not so much on the head and belly, rosy cheeks, cutthroat slash only visible if they roll over for you;
- Two of Idaho's 6 native suckers, Largescale - they have large scales, and Bridgip - they don't have large scales and are typically smaller. They will be vacuuming algae from the gravel, rocks and logs.
- Occasionally a mink will swim through looking for a meal.
- Rarely, and mostly at night during the winter, a beaver might show up.



Check out the webcam at:

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/CMS/education/mknc/fishCam/>

Birding the Scenic Route.....

All of Idaho's 30 scenic byways provide extraordinary scenic beauty. Each byway has its own unique characteristics--some with historic significance, others with a chance to experience a bit of geography and culture, while some provide access to natural attractions and outdoor recreation. Now there is a new way to enjoy the byway....birding the byway!

Thanks to a grant from the Idaho Scenic Byways Program and the Idaho Transportation Department, Watchable Wildlife along with its partners has erected signs at 58 Idaho Birding Trail sites that are located along a scenic byway. You may just see one of these signs at your favorite wildlife management area, national wildlife refuge, or state park.

For more information about the Idaho Birding Trail, visit: www.idahobirdingtrail.org



From left to right: Idaho Birding Trail signs at City of Rocks, Celebration Park, and Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

SAVE THE DATE!



2010 auction winners with a radio collared elk calf.

Who: The Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a nonprofit organization celebrating twenty years of helping to protect and sustain Idaho's fishing, hunting and wildlife heritage.

What: The 2011 annual online auction will bring a host of exciting trips in Idaho's great outdoors, including wildlife experiences with biologists from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Successful bids will be rewarded with opportunities of a lifetime!

When: February 18-28, 2011

Where: online (more details coming in the winter edition of Windows to Wildlife--available January 2011)

Why: It is the Foundation's largest fundraiser, attracting anglers, hunters, hikers, campers and wildlife enthusiasts. Last year proceeds from the auction benefited the Watchable Wildlife Program!!



2010 auction winners floating the Salmon River.

Fall Wildlife Events

Avimor Bird Walks-

Avimor; 18454 N. McLeod Way; Boise, ID; (208) 921-1202 ; www.idahobirdingblog.com

Guided bird walks by Avimor resident and bird enthusiast Robert Mortensen, every second Saturday of each month. Kids are always welcome. Bring binoculars, dress for weather and wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots. There is a free drawing for prizes after each walk. Meet at the Avimor sales office below the big American flag.

Oct. 9: Big Sit! 6am-12pm

Nov. 20: 9-11am

Dec. 11: 9-11am

Birds of Prey Northwest-

PO Box 3507, Coeur d'Alene; (208) 245-1367; www.birdsofpreynorthwest.org/

December 6- Bald Eagle program and cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene, 1-3pm

Cruise to isolated quiet bays and observe our national symbol, the bald eagle in their natural habitat. Reservations required. Tickets: Adults: \$19.75, Senior Citizens (55+): \$17.75, Children 6-12: \$11.75, Children 5 & under: FREE. For tickets contact Coeur d'Alene Resort at 1-800-688-5253 or 208-765-2300 ext 21.

Boise Watershed-

11818 West Joplin Rd., Boise; (208) 489-1284 www.cityofboise.org/Bee/WaterShed/Home/index.aspx

The Boise WaterShed is open every 3rd Saturday of each month from 10 am - 2 pm as part of the Watershed Weekend series. Join us for an outdoor walking tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant at 1 pm. FREE admission! No pre-registration required unless indicated.

Oct. 16 -Green Halloween

At 10:00, meet some wild creatures in the theater with Zoo Boise! From 10:30-1:00, the exhibit hall will be transformed into a spooky workshop. Join the ReUse Market in crafting costume components from recycled materials. Have your face painted, and make spider, bat, and mummy crafts! Wear a costume or your "new" creation in the costume parade led by Eddy Trout at 11:30. Then prepare to be frightened on a haunted wastewater tour! Tours depart at 12:00 and 1:00. Limited to first 40 people, appropriate for ages 5 and up, closed-toe shoes required.

Nov. 20 – Mining Idaho's Past

Uncover Idaho's mining history with this program sponsored by the Idaho Humanities Council. At 10:30 Tom Blanchard will recount Idaho's mining history and how the impact of past political and environmental decisions remain with us today. At 11:15 performer John Thomsen will "rock" the watershed. Children will enjoy the "mining camp,"

the audience with a variety of instruments as he explores Idaho's folk songs during historic mining days. In addition, learn what local groups have done to restore mined portions of the Boise River where they can pan for gold with Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology staff and participate in cookie mining and rock painting.

Dec. 18- I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas

During the holiday season, Americans will send nearly 2 billion holiday cards, use more than 38,000 miles of ribbon and leave millions of Christmas trees on the curb. Christmas is the most wonderful - and most wasteful - time of the year. With a little effort and imagination, you can help reduce the environmental impact of the holiday season. Come to the Boise WaterShed and discover how to recycle old Christmas cards into new cards, sew a stocking or bag, and make ornaments and decorations from used, everyday household items. Note: No wastewater treatment plant tour today. Part 1 will be held at the Foothills Learning Center on December 11.

SCHOOL BREAK PROGRAMS

Drop in to these fun all-ages programs offered on school break days! In addition to the exhibit hall, special activities and crafts will take place from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, with a wastewater treatment plant tour at 12:00 pm. Tour limited to 40 people, closed-toe shoes required, no strollers. FREE admission! Community groups, home schools and Mom's clubs welcome! No pre-registration required. NEW: podcast tours of the amazing artwork are available! More information available on our web site.

Oct. 7: Boise River Life

Oct. 8: Wastewater: We Treat it Right!

Nov. 4: H2O Yeah!

Nov. 5: Water Conservation: Every Drop Counts

Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 22-24; 10am–12pm

Make beautiful leaf prints and Thanksgiving crafts for all ages!

Winter Break: Dec. 27-30; 10am-12pm

Enjoy holiday movies and winter-themed crafts for all ages.

Coeur d'Alene BLM Eagle Watch

(208) 769-5000;

www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/coeur_d_alene.html

Dec. 26- Jan 1; 10am-3pm

Join biologists at the Coeur d'Alene Lake - Wolf Lodge Bay wildlife viewing area to observe bald eagles feeding on the lake's spawned kokanee salmon. Attend staff presentations, learn from the eagle exhibits and watch hundreds of waterfowl.

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve

18 miles southwest of Arco, on Hwy. 20/26/93; (208) 527-1300 ; <http://www.nps.gov/crmo/>

Daily - Visitor Center: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (closed on Nov. 11 and 25) View exhibits and audio-visual presentations to learn more about your national monument. There are also publications on sale in our bookstore about the cultural and natural history of the park and the region.

Daily - Ranger guided Walks and Talks: Cave Walks @ 1 p.m., Patio Talks @ 3 p.m. thru 10/23 Explore a lava tube cave with a Ranger or join us for a short introductory presentation on the Visitor Center patio. Call or check out on-line event schedule for details: www.nps.gov/crmo/planyourvisit/events.htm

Deer Flat NWR

13751 Upper Embankment Rd. Nampa; (208) 467-9278; www.fws.gov/deerflat

Oct. 13-Making the Most of Your Outdoor Photos

The monthly Wild About Life Lecture Series presents a nature photography tutorial from 6pm-7pm. Bring your camera to explore the world of photography in nature with professional photographer Mike Shipman. Come and learn basic concepts of photography followed by a hands-on photo scavenger hunt where you can test your newly-learned skills.

Oct. 16- Weed Warriors!

Come Volunteer with Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge from 9-11am to remove invasive weeds and improve wildlife habitat. No registration required. Meet at the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center with water, gloves and a shovel if you have one!

Oct. 23- Creepy Critter Encounters

Free Halloween event for kids and kids at heart. Come in costume to learn about wildlife on a spooky hike, make crafts, and listen to scary stories. Find out about creepy creatures like bats, skunks, spiders and owls. Stay until dusk and hoot for owls and coyotes. Meet at the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. No registration required.

Nov. 6, Dec. 6. Jan 8- Cub + Girl Scout Day 1pm-3pm; Cub Scouts (Wolf, Bear, and Webelo packs) and Girl Scouts (Brownie and Junior troops) can earn their wildlife related badges in one fun-filled afternoon. Please register at least a week in advance.

Nov. 7- Introduction to Celebration Park
Celebration Park is Idaho's only archaeological park. Located along the Snake River, south of Melba, it is the site of at least 10,000 years of continuous habitation. Come learn about the area's rich history and geology from Tom Bicak, the Director of Canyon County Parks, Recreation and Waterways, and be introduced to the lifeways of the Indian cultures who spent time in this beautiful Idaho place.

Foothills Learning Center
3188 Sunset Peak Rd., Boise; (208) 493-2530
www.cityofboise.org/Bee/Foothills/index.aspx

Second Sat. Programs are from 10am to 2pm. All ages welcome! Free; no registration is required. Please leave pets at home, thanks!

Oct. 9 – Star Party with Boise Astronomical Society – EVENING PROGRAM! Please note this evening program is from 6:30 to 9:30 pm! Venture into the Foothills on this autumn evening and join the Boise Astronomical Society as they bring the stars down to earth. A formal presentation will begin at 6:30 and then we'll venture outside to gaze upward looking for constellations, planets, satellites and other heavenly bodies. If you arrive after dark, we ask that you dim your vehicle lights as you approach the building and bring a flashlight with a red filter.

Nov. 13 – Feed the Birds
For many, one of life's great joys is watching birds. Bring birds into your world with backyard feeders. We'll have materials and teachers to help you make several different feeders – from peanut butter and seeds to fruit feeders for the summer migrants. Activities will be ongoing from 10-2, with projects suitable for children and adults.

Dec. 11– I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas
Once again we open our doors for a day of creativity and celebration. We will offer the materials and know-how to make holiday ornaments, gift boxes and wrap, delicious aromas, thoughtful gifts, and more. Drop in any time between 10 am and 2 pm, or plan to spend the day with us.

MK Nature Center
600 S. Walnut St., Boise; (208) 334-2225; <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/education/mknc/>

Dec 4- Bird Seed Sale; 9am-4pm
The MK Nature Center will host its fourth annual bird seed sale with proceeds from this event to benefit educational programs at the Nature Center. Once again we will be partnering with Wild Birds Unlimited to bring you quality bird seed in assorted types of locally-preferred seed which will be available in small to large bags. The Nature Center's Gift shop will have many nature-themed holiday items for purchase as well. In keeping with the Idaho Dept. of Agriculture's efforts to stop the spread of noxious weeds, this year's sale features safe, noxious weed-free seed. For more information please contact Sue Dudley at 208-287-2900.

The World Center for Birds of Prey
5668 W. Flying Hawk Lane; (208) 362-8687
(208) 769-5000; www.peregrinefund.org

October (weekends)- Frequent Fliers
Beginning October 8th, Trish Nixon, Raptor Specialist, and Jim Willmarth, Curator of Birds, will be flying birds of prey outside, Friday – Sunday at 1:30 p.m. for four weekends in October. These outside flights are weather permitting. Admission: \$7 adults, \$6 seniors, \$5 youth.

Palouse Audubon Society-
www.palouseaudubon.org

You do not need to be a member to attend any of the field trips. Guests are always welcomed!

Oct. 9, 16, 23 & 30- Mann Lake Field Trip
The trips are sponsored by Palouse Audubon and Canyon Birders, and will focus on the fall migration of waterfowl and shorebirds through the region. Field trip leaders and participants are to meet at the Mann Lake boat ramp at 8:30 am. This is a great time of year to observe migrants at the lake. Observations at the lake are generally 2 hours in length - perfect for those who can't spare a whole day! Directions: THE URBAN ROUTE (Powers Avenue): From the north end of Lewiston, follow US 12 south into town, stay left at the first light and cross the Clearwater River on Memorial Bridge. The left lane directs you up 21st Street at the next light. Follow it up the hill, through the Lewiston Orchards until it turns into a 2-lane road. Turn left on Powers Avenue and follow it all the way to the grain towers and the main parking lot at the lake. ID DeLorme 54, A-1. Contact Terry Gray at (208) 882-1585 with any questions. You do not need to be an Audubon member to participate.

Golden Eagle Audubon Society-
www.goldeneagleaudubon.org

You do not need to be a member to attend any of the field trips or attend the monthly lectures. Visitors are always welcomed!

Oct. 26- Monthly Lecture: Radio-tracking hawks
7pm at the MK Nature Center (600 S Walnut, Boise)
Spike and Judy Baker just returned from a five-week trip to India and Bhutan. Come see pictures and hear stories of exotic lands including birds, elephants and rhinoceros in two national parks in Assam, India and birds, culture and scenery in the magical kingdom of Bhutan.

Oct. 31- Boise River Cleanup
We will walk downriver from the new bridge at Bown Crossing, birding as we go, and pick up litter on our way back. We usually finish around noon. Meet in the Greenbelt parking lot behind

the Tavern at Bown Crossing (near east end of Park Center Blvd.) Contact Pam Conley with questions (208-869-0337; pam_conley@q.com)

Dec. 7- Monthly Lecture: Great Gray Owls
7pm at the MK Nature Center (600 S Walnut, Boise)
Dr. Leon Powers will give a talk that will illustrate the mystical allure of the Great Gray Owl through some highlights of his two-decade study of the rare owls in the Donnelly-McCall area. The presentation will include a couple brief readings from his recent book on great grays, and an explanation for his changing its original title, "Quest for the Gray Ghost" to its current "Dead Owls Flying." For interested folks, copies of his book will be available for signing following the presentation.

Portneuf Valley Audubon Society-
www.pvauadubon.org

You do not need to be a member to attend any of the field trips or attend the monthly lectures. Visitors are always welcomed!

Oct. 21- Monthly Lecture: African Birds, Wildlife, and Adventure
7pm at the Idaho State University Plant Science Auditorium (Building 69 on ISU campus maps), Pocatello.
Tim Reynolds will share his experiences and photographs about Africa's amazing birds and wildlife.

Oct. 23- Springfield Pond Birding Bliss Field Trip
This is a good trip for spotting a wide variety of waterfowl species, raptors, a chance for owls, and a host of other species, from songbirds to some waders. Meet at 8 a.m. at the ISU Idaho Museum of Natural History Parking Lot.

This field trip location is tentative: there is a chance a different option – maybe Sandhill Cranes at Grays Lake NWR – will come up between now and October, so stay tuned. For more info, contact Chuck Trost, 233-4538.

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Windows to Wildlife is a quarterly publication of the Idaho Watchable Wildlife Committee and IDFG Conservation Sciences Program.

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