

The Pygmy Owl

The Newsletter of the
Spokane Audubon Society



January 9th Program: Birding in Peru,

with Lindell Haggin and Joyce Alonso



Rufous-crested Coquette, by Lindell Haggin

Join us January 9th for a presentation featuring Lindell and Joyce, who spent almost three weeks in Peru this past September. They'll share pictures from their trip, including a wide variety of birds and photos of some of the Inca cultural sites they visited.

2013 Spokane Audubon Society Field Trips

This list shows field trips planned by Spokane Audubon Society. Trips may be added with short notice so check the website often. Trips also may be canceled at any time due to bad weather, too few participants, or lack of a leader. Contact the leader for more information and to reserve a spot. If you're unable to register before the scheduled deadline yet want to attend, be sure to check with the leader to ensure that the trip is still on. Leaders are unpaid club volunteers and field trips are free. However, if you carpool with somebody, you will be expected to compensate the driver for your share of gas and vehicle use. You are also responsible for any park entry fees, camping fees, or motel bills. Starting times published below are when we leave, so arrive earlier than the posted hour. Participants need to provide their own binoculars, food and drink, adequate clothing, and transportation unless you find someone with whom to carpool.

Field Trip Levels

We provide a variety of trips to accommodate many birding skill levels. Birders of all levels are welcome on all trips. However, please bear in mind that some beginners may get frustrated or bored on trips designed for advanced birders, where much of the

birding is done by ear and the pace is very fast. Some advanced birders might find trips geared for beginning birders too basic and slow-paced. Some trips last five or six hours; some are 12 hours or longer. Read the trip descriptions carefully to see if a trip is right for you.

2013 Field Trip Schedule

January 12, 2013, Saturday
LC Valley Banana Belt Trip
Leader: Cindy McCormack
Limit: 3 vehicles

This trip is geared toward all levels of birders, but expect an all-day trip. The Lewiston/Clarkston (LC) Valley often has slightly more moderate temperatures in winter, which can make for some great winter birding. We will carpool down to the LC Valley from the Latah area Trading Co. parking lot unless otherwise arranged. Come prepared for winter weather; bring snacks, water, and lunch. Contact Cindy at nwbirder@gmail.com or call 939-4448 by January 9 for more information or to register for the trip.

Note: This trip will be dependent on weather and road conditions.

Target Species: Waterfowl (including Long-tailed Duck), roosting owls, wintering passerines, and Black-crowned Night-Herons.

February 9, 2013, Saturday
Snowy Owl Trip

Leaders: Joyce Alonso and Fran Haywood

This trip is for all levels of birders. We'll spend most of the day exploring the area around Reardan and Davenport. We will meet at Spokane's Coeur- d'Alene Park at 7:30 am. Contact Joyce Alonso (448-2447) by February 6 if you plan to attend.

Target Species: Rough-legged & Red-tailed Hawks, Prairie Falcon, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, N. Shrike, Snow Buntings,

February 24, 2013, Sunday
Scotchman's Winter Highlights

Leader: Jon Isacoff
Limit: 7 Participants

This is an all-day trip to the northeast corner of Bonner County and the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area, co-sponsored with Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and the Washington Ornithological Society (WOS). For details about the Friends and the region, see www.scotchmanpeaks.org. The trip will focus on waterfowl on Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho's largest and deepest lake, as well as upland winter birds and rarities in the Lightning Creek area. Be prepared to drive five hours round-trip and to walk on gravel roads about two miles. Bring **WARM** clothes as it can be brutally cold in this area in winter. Bring lunch, snacks, and water as there will be very limited services except in Sandpoint on the way to and from the trip. Tentatively, we will meet at Liberty Lake

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Spokane Audubon Society
P.O. Box 9820
Spokane, WA 99209-9820

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Officers

President

Kim Thorburn kthorburn@msn.com 465-3025

Vice President

Joyce Alonso jbalonso3@msn.com 448-2447

Treasurer

Lindell Haggin lindell4118@comcast.net 466-4118

Secretary

Ed Reynolds edndaisy@aol.com

Elected Board of Directors

Bob Cashen mjaycashen@aol.com
Melissa Cummins mcummins191@gmail.com
Cheri Ferguson cheri.l.ferguson@gmail.com
Howard Ferguson im4aves@gmail.com
Fran Haywood birders13@gmail.com
Brad Haywood birders13@gmail.com
Jan Reynolds edndaisy@aol.com

Committee Chairs

Field Trips

Jon Isacoff isacoff@gonzaga.edu

Programs

Kim Thorburn kthorburn@msn.com 465-3025

Education

Joyce Alonso jbalonso3@msn.com 448-2447

Lindell Haggin lindell4118@comcast.net 466-4118

Conservation

OPEN

Hospitality

Jan Strobeck jandeerpark@aol.com

Membership

Dave Plemons davep_nublado@me.com 413-1524

Publication

John English jhe230@yahoo.com 624-6256

Publicity

Kim Thorburn kthorburn@msn.com 465-3025

Pygmy Owl

Carmen Yount carmen@floreo.com 590-5295

Volunteer Coordinator

Joyce Alonso jbalonso3@msn.com 448-2447

Website

Alan McCoy spokanaudubon.org 448-3123

President's Message

by Kim Thorburn

Check out all of the field trips planned for 2013! Don't you feel the value of your Spokane Audubon membership when you receive your January field trip issue of *The Pygmy Owl*? There's lots of good birding in store.

All the bird watching fun would not be possible without our field trip chair Jon Isacoff and the field trip leaders. Thank you one and all. At our annual field trip planning retreat, it was obvious that these volunteers want to share the camaraderie of a good birding outing and expose our members to some lesser known bird watching locales.

Polish your optics, tune your ears, and prepare for a great year of Spokane Audubon field trips in 2013. Happy new year.

Sights & Sounds

Bird Sightings for the Inland Northwest by Cindy McCormack

Late November/Early December

We are definitely having another fantastic snowy year (not the cold, wet kind—the feathery, yellow-eyed kind). Snowy Owls are being seen all over the state, including downtown Spokane!

PACIFIC LOON

- Sandpoint City Beach
- Porcupine Bay (Lake Roosevelt)

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

- Sandpoint (TL), Sprague Lake (JI), Mill Canyon (JI, TL)

TRUMPETER SWAN

- Six Trumpeters were reported on Deep Lake, north of Northport (TD)

SURF SCOTER

- Spokane Premix pond (Thiermann Rd, Spokane Valley) (II)

BLACK SCOTER

- One remained on Spring Valley Reservoir through the end of November. (TG)

GYRFALCON (our largest falcon, a visitor from the Arctic—usually found in open areas in the winter)

- Near Soap Lake (23 NE & B NE Rds) (MY)
- Asotin County's Peola Rd. (KC)
- North of Wilbur (JI)

The program will be held at the
Riverview Retirement Community,
Village Community Building,

Social hour begins at 7 p.m. The program will start at 7:30 p.m.

Sights & Sounds, cont.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK

- Sprague Lake (southern side) (JI)

NORTHERN GOSHAWK (our largest accipiter, a winter visitor in the lowlands, especially in canyon-like areas)

- Hawk Creek Canyon (Lincoln Co.) (JI)
- Little Spokane Fish Hatchery (TL)

DUNLIN

- Very late for these birds in our area! Two were observed on a mud spit on Thompson Slough (Harrison) (CM).

GULLS!

- Bonaparte's Gull—late birds observed hunting on Thompson Slough, Thompson Lake, and the Harrison Marina!
- Glaucous Gull—seen at Colville Flats (TD) and on Lake Coeur d'Alene (DW, JC).
- Other Coeur d'Alene gulls taking advantage of the Kokanee bonanza have included Lesser Black-backed Gull, Thayer's Gull, Mew Gull, Herring Gull, California Gull, and Ring-billed Gull.

SNOWY OWL (a regular and irruptive winter bird from the Arctic)

- Recent sighting include Olympia, Ft. Stevens, Nisqually, Ballard, Sequim, Spokane, Lincoln County (West Plains), Winthrop, Rathdrum Prairie, near Kettle Falls, Coulee Hite Road, Wauconda, Pullman, Moscow-Genesee Rd, Bridgeport, Reardan, Lewiston, Asotin Co (Anatone Flats).

AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER

- Another bird located by Warren Walker while snowshoeing on Mt. Spokane!

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER

- A late bird, visiting a yard at the base of Mt. Spokane

WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER

- Mill Canyon (JI, TL)

STELLER'S JAY

- A bird regularly visiting the Reynold's south Spokane yard. (JR, ER)

BLUE JAY

- Pullman (MC), Odessa (AS/ES)

HERMIT THRUSH

- A late bird found in the picnic area of Steptoe with the Varied Thrushes. (CM)

BOHEMIAN WAXWING

- Several roving flocks have been reported, from Steptoe Butte, Wilbur, Mt. Spokane, Pullman, Moscow, Spokane South Hill.

HARRIS' SPARROW

- Lyons Ferry Park (MW)

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

- Hanging out in the Indian Meadows area of Coeur d'Alene.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW

- These pretty sparrows love to hang out in the weedy areas of open land (such as the West Plains, Peone Wetland). Reported

along Mondovi Rd., Peone Wetland, Spalding Site.

GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH

- Mill Canyon Road, above the canyon (JI, TL)
- Steptoe Butte

SNOW BUNTING

- West Plains—Old Kucks Rd (JI, TL)

PINE GROSBEAK

- Kiesling Rd (south of Spokane) (JI)
- Pend Oreille Co. (TL)
- Mt. Spokane (TL), East Foothills Drive area (TO), and near Mt. Spokane Rd on Madison Rd (TL)

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL

- Mt. Spokane at the Kit Carson Loop parking area (TL)

COMMON REDPOLL

- These delightful little birds continue to be observed throughout the region, in areas such as Spokane, Mead, Lincoln County (West Plains), Sandpoint, Pend Oreille Co., Moscow, Harrison, Coeur d'Alene, Turnbull/Cheney, and west Spokane.

HOARY REDPOLL

- The rare prize in any Common Redpoll flock! One has been located on Steptoe Butte (JI) and another in Mead (TL).

LESSER GOLDFINCH

- These birds appear to be slowly moving northward. They seem to be moving along the rivers (such as the Snake/Clearwater/southern Columbia), but have been regularly seen on the UI Campus in Moscow...

Of special note from sightings on the west (wet) side of the state (and vicinity!):

- **CITRINE WAGTAIL** in the Comox Valley, BC. This north Asia resident has attracted crowds of birders and I believe is the first confirmed bird for Canada—for more information see the Comox Valley Nature's website at <http://comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca/2012/11/rare-bird-alert>.

- **SUMMER TANAGER** visiting a Seattle feeder! (I certainly wouldn't mind having him in my yard!)

What a great month so far! I wonder what the rest of December will have in store...

Thanks (to everyone) for your reports! Joyce Alonso, Dan Audet, Richard Baltierra, Kevin Black, Jay Carlisle, Keith Carlson, Marlene Cashen, Mike Clarke, Jim Christiansen, Warren Current, Mike & MerryLynn Denny, Bob Derting, Ron Dexter, Tim Durnell, Greg Falco, Terry Gray, Mike Haldeman, Lisa Hardy, Brad & Fran Haywood, Mark Houston, Carrie Hugo, Jon Isacoff, Chris Janett, Lee Johnson, Russ Koppendrayer, Terry Little, Garrett MacDonald, tCindy McCormack, Brian Miller, Tim O'Brien, Grace & Ollie Oliver, Sue Orłowski, Terri Pieper, Ed & Jan Reynolds, Tim Smith, Erik Stauber, John Stuart, Charles Swift, Kim Thorburn, Warren Walker, Doug Ward, Diane Weber, Michael Woodruff, Matt Yawney.

Albertson's (just off I-90, Exit 296) at 7:00 am. Contact Jon Isacoff (isacoff@gonzaga.edu or 509-448-2629) by February 17 to reserve a spot.

Note: This trip is dependent on weather and road conditions.

Target Species: Common and Pacific Loons; Surf and White-winged Scoters; Long-tailed Duck; Northern Goshawk; Thayer's, Glaucous, Lesser Black-backed, and Mew Gulls; Northern Pygmy Owl; Pine Grosbeak; White-winged Crossbill; Common Redpoll. (Though not to be counted on,) Yellow-billed Loon and Iceland Gull are possible.

**March 16, 2013, Saturday
Bluebird Trip**

Leader: Marian Frobe

This is a family friendly half-day trip and a great way to greet spring. We will drive a route on Paradise Prairie to see returning favorite birds. We'll probably end up at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. The trip usually ends around 2 pm. Meet at Spokane's Coeur d'Alene Park at 7:00 am. Call leader Marian Frobe at 328-0621 by March 12 if you plan to attend.

Target Species: Migrant ducks and geese, raptors, woodpeckers, Say's Phoebe, Western Bluebird

**March 23, 2013, Saturday
Turnbull NWR Beginning Birder
Basics Trip**

Leader: Fran Haywood

This is a half-day driving and walking trip for all levels of birders. Meet at the refuge headquarters near Cheney at 7 am. Contact leader Fran Haywood, 484-8666, birders13@aol.com by March 16 if you plan to attend.

Note: A \$3 entrance fee is required.

Target Species: Breeding waterfowl; Tundra and Trumpeter Swans; Great Blue Heron; Red-tailed Hawk; woodpeckers; Pygmy, Red-breasted, and White-breasted Nuthatch; Western Bluebird; Song Sparrow; Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbird; Red Crossbill

**April 6, 2013, Saturday
Sagebrush Specialty Trip
Leader: Cindy McCormack**

This is a full-day trip to western Grant County open to all birders. The birds of the sage habitat are splendid and not to be

missed. Because the best observation time is near sunrise, we will have a very early departure at 5:30 am from Coulee City. We will probably start by birding Moses Coulee and its environs. Then the itinerary likely will include St Andrews, Banks Lake, Sun Lakes, etc. It is **COLD** at early morning in the sagebrush, so bring warm clothes. Bring food because there aren't many restaurants in the Moses Coulee. Also be advised that the trip will take full advantage of all rest stops, but there may be long intervals without any formal bathroom facilities. Contact Cindy McCormack at nwbirder@gmail.com or 939-4448 by April 1 to sign up or for more information.

Target Species: Loggerhead Shrike, Sage Thrasher, Savannah Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow

**April 18-23, 2013, Thursday-Tuesday
Point Reyes, California Field Trip**

Leader: Kim Thorburn

Limit: 6 Birders

This six-day trip is for intermediate and advanced birders. Kim Thorburn will provide lodging for up to six participants and lead field trips on Bolinas Lagoon and beach, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Bodega Bay. This region is a year-round birding hot spot, site of the filming of Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds," and home of elite birder and artist Keith Hansen. There is a variety of pelagic and other waterfowl, migrating shorebirds and warblers, and lots of land natives that we don't often see here. Participants will be responsible for their own air travel to Oakland and we'll split the cost of land transportation and food. We'll need to coordinate arrival and departure in Oakland. Contact Kim Thorburn by April 1 if you're interested in learning more. 465-3025, kthorburn@msn.com.

Target Species (examples): Acorn Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Wrentit, Allen's Hummingbird, Whimbrel, Snowy Plover, Western Gull, Common Murre, Red-shouldered Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Rufous-crowned Sparrow

**April 20, 2013, Saturday
Sprague Lake Field Trip
Leader: Fran Haywood**

This is an all-day trip to the Sprague Lake area, open to all birders. We will look for migrating and early resident species, espe-

cially ducks. We hope to find Swainson's Hawks, American White Pelicans and if we get lucky, Long-billed Curlew. We will meet at Spokane's Coeur d'Alene Park at 6:30 am. Contact Fran Haywood (484-8666, birders13@aol.com)

Target Species: Migrant ducks and geese, American White Pelican, Swainson's Hawk, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Caspian Tern, Say's Phoebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-crowned and Savannah Sparrows

**April 27, 2013, Saturday
West Plains Early Migrant Trip**

Leader: Alan McCoy

Limit: 15 Birders

This all-day trip is for all levels of birders. We will stop at Reardan's Audubon Lake where we will look for waterfowl and shorebirds. We will check out the Davenport Cemetery, which can be great for migrants. Then we will go north to the Little Falls Dam, follow the Spokane River upstream and finish up at the Indian Canyon Springs area. We will meet at 6:00 am at the Rosauer's parking lot in Browne's Addition (near 2nd Avenue and Sunset Highway) and plan to return about 6:00 pm. Contact leader Alan McCoy at 448-3123, 448-8861 or ahm2352@gmail.com by April 20 to reserve your place.

Target Species: Migrant ducks, raptors, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Bewick's Wren, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Red-necked Grebe, Calliope Hummingbird, Orange-crowned, Nashville and Yellow warblers, Say's Phoebe, Western and Mountain Bluebirds.

**May 4, 2013, Saturday
Douglas Creek/Waterville Plateau Trip**

Leader: Kim Thorburn

All levels of birders are welcome to join this all-day trip to Waterville Plateau birding hotspots. We will bird Douglas Creek (rough road access), the Waterville STP, and Badger Mtn. Contact Kim Thorburn at 465-3025 or kthorburn@msn.com by May 1.

Target species: A variety of migrating warblers, Lazuli Buntings, Rock and Canyon Wrens, and much more (Douglas Creek); all varieties of swallow along with shorebirds and waterfowl (Waterville STP); Warbling Vireos, several varieties of warbler and more (Badger Mtn.)

**May 6, 8, 10; Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Bird Identification Workshops**

**Leaders: Gary Blevins
and Kim Thorburn**

Novices and beginners, this is your chance. Two instructors will teach a series of three classes on beginning birding and bird identification by sight and sound. Workshops will be held at a site to be determined from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Slides and computer programs will be used to introduce you to many of the bird species commonly observed in the Spokane area. A \$20 donation to Spokane Audubon is requested. A field trip for workshop participants to Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge will be held on International Migratory Bird Day, May 12. For more information or to reserve your place for the workshop, contact Gary Blevins at (533-3661 or GaryB@spokanefalls.edu) by May 1.

**May 11, 2013, Saturday
Bird Identification Workshop
Field Trip to Turnbull NWR**

Leaders: Gary Blevins and Kim Thorburn

Come celebrate International Migratory Bird Day by birding. Although the trip is specifically designed for the Bird Identification Workshop participants, other birders are welcome. We will meet at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, near Cheney, in the parking lot across from Pine Lake at 7:00 am and bird the refuge until 2:00 pm. Contact leader Gary Blevins at (533-3661 or garyb@spokanefalls.edu) by May 4 to register for the trip.

Target Species: Wilson's Snipe, Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds, Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren, American Bittern, various waterfowl, Great Horned Owl, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cassin's Finches

**May 12, 2013, Saturday
Slavin Ranch Wetland Trip
Leader: Alan McCoy**

This is an annual trip to Slavin Ranch for Spokane Audubon. It is a half-day walking trip along a primitive trail through open Ponderosa pine scab rock country with many views of seasonal wetlands. All levels of birders are welcome. The Slavin Ranch is a Conservation Futures acquisition located about 10 miles south of downtown Spokane and a mile west of Hwy 195. We will start at the Slavin Ranch parking lot at 7:00 am and end about 1:00 Pm. Please call leader Alan McCoy at 448-3123 or

448-8861, ahm2352@gmail.com by May 5 if you plan to attend.

Target Species: Breeding ducks and geese, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, breeding Black Tern, woodpeckers, 6 swallow species, Eastern and Western Kingbird, Marsh Wren, Song Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat

**May 18, 2013, Saturday
Southern Pend Oreille County Trip
Leader: John Stuart
Limit: 3 Cars**

Join resident expert John Stuart on a beautiful excursion to southern Pend Oreille County. Some of the state's most enjoyable birding spots can be found here, including Calispell Lake, the crown jewel of Southern Pend Oreille County and an Important Bird Area. Other locations include the Kalispell Indian Reservation lands along the Pend Oreille River and perhaps a few "local surprises." Contact John Stuart by May 11 (509-447-2644 or ninebark@povn.com) if you plan to attend.

Target Species: Waterfowl; Ruffed Grouse; Black Tern; hummingbirds; woodpeckers; Hammond's, Dusky, Willow, and Pacific-Slope Flycatchers; Warbling, Cassin's, and Red-eyed Vireos; Swainson's Thrush; Gray Catbird; American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Townsend's, and MacGillivray's Warblers

**May 19, Sunday
Little Pend Oreille NWR Trip
Leader: Cindy McCormack**

Little Pend Oreille NWR in spring can be fantastic! This trip will be geared to all levels of birders. We will carpool north to the refuge (near Chewelah, WA) and explore the different habitats available in the refuge. We should be in for some great resident species, as well as some remaining migrating birds. Be prepared for an all day trip (food/water) and inclement weather (dress in layers!). Contact Cindy McCormack by May 16th at nwbirder@gmail.com or 939-4448 to sign up, for meeting times & location, and for more information.

Target Species: Waterfowl, woodpeckers, hummingbirds, flycatchers, bluebirds, thrushes, warblers, vireos, finches. (A great variety!)

**May 25, 2013, Saturday
Iller Creek Natural Area/
Dishman Hills Alliance Trip
Leader: Cindy McCormack**

This trip is for birders of all levels as well as local citizens who want to learn more about protecting our precious Dishman Hills ecosystem. On this trip, we will slowly walk some of the trails and see what is there. The Iller Creek Natural Area is famed for its abundance of breeding flycatchers, vireos, and warblers. Occasionally a moose makes a cameo appearance! Meet at the Iller Creek entrance in the cul-de-sac at the end of Holman Road. Contact Cindy McCormack at nwbirder@gmail.com or 939-4448 to sign up and for meeting time.

Target Species: Ruffed Grouse; Accipiters; woodpeckers; Hammond's, Dusky, Willow, and Pacific-Slope Flycatchers; Warbling and Cassin's Vireos; Swainson's Thrush; Gray Catbird; Bewick's Wren; Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Townsend's, and MacGillivray's Warblers; Spotted Towhee; Cassin's Finch; Red Crossbill

**May 26, 2013, Sunday
Mosquito Springs Trip
Leader: Kim Thorburn**

This trip is for birders of all levels. There will be some walking over rough terrain. Experience this little-known BLM shrub-steppe riparian area, brimming with arriving breeding birds. We will also check for sagebrush and grassland species. Contact Kim Thorburn, 465-3025 or kthorburn@msn.com by May 22 if you're interested.

Target species: Willow Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Warbling Vireo, Bullock's Oriole, Grasshopper Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Thrasher.

**June 2, 2013, Sunday
Little Spokane Natural Area Trip
Leader: Lindell Haggin**

All levels of birders are welcome to join us for a half-day walking trip along the Little Spokane River Natural Area. This is the peak of breeding season. Over 80 species have been recorded in this rich riparian, forest, and rock habitat. Meet at the Spokane River Boat Launch parking lot less than one mile north of Nine-Mile Dam on Rt. 291 at 6:30 am. Contact Lindell Haggin, 466-4118 or lindell4118@comcast.net by May 26 if you plan to attend.

Note: A WA Discover Pass is required for parking on this trip. Purchase online or at REI.

Target Species: Common and Hooded Merganser; Osprey; woodpeckers; Pacific-slope and Willow Flycatchers; Warbling, Cassin's and Red-eyed Vireos; White-breasted Nuthatch; Bewick's and House Wrens; Gray Catbird; Black-headed Grosbeak; Bullock's Oriole

**June 8, 2013, Saturday
Liberty Lake Trip**

Leader: Joyce Alonso and Brian Miller
This is a mostly easy walking half-day trip. Liberty Lake hosts some of the best habitat diversity in Spokane County, with breeding grebes on the lake, extensive wetlands and prairie, old second-growth Ponderosa pine, and some of the best wetbelt mixed conifer forest in the area. Contact Joyce Alonso (448-2447) by June 5 if you plan to attend.

Target Species: Red-necked Grebe; Wilson's Snipe; Virginia and Sora Rails; woodpeckers; Hammond's, Dusky, and Willow Flycatcher; Cassin's, Warbling, and Red-eyed Vireos; Marsh Wren; Yellow, MacGillivray's, Orange-crowned, Townsend's, and Nashville Warblers; American Redstart; Common Yellowthroat

**June 15, 2013, Saturday
Swanson Lakes Trip
Leader: Kim Thorburn**

This full-day trip for all levels of birders will yield a bounty of sagebrush specialties in the heart of Lincoln County shrub-steppe. The Lake Creek drainage, which includes the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area, has been nominated for an Important Bird Area, with documentation of over 60 species of concern. Contact Kim Thorburn at 465-3025 or kthorburn@msn.com by June 8.

Note: A WA Discover pass is required for some parking areas. Purchase online or at REI.

Target species: Loggerhead Shrikes, Sage Thrashers, lots of sparrows, Horned Larks, Mountain Bluebirds; pothole residents like Willow Flycatchers, Bullock's Orioles, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal. We'll try to locate some Swainson's Hawk nests and enjoy other raptors, as well.

**June 16, 2013, Sunday
Palisades/Indian Canyon Trip
Leader: Lindell Haggin**

All levels of birders are invited to explore the Indian Canyon area immediately west of town. Come outfitted with binoculars and field guides, water, and shoes or boots for walking one or two miles. We will meet at 6:30 am at the Rosauer's at 1808 W. 3rd Ave. The field trip will end at approximately 10:00 am. Contact Lindell Haggin (446-4118 or lindell4118@comcast.net) by June 10 if you plan to attend.

Target Species: Raptors, woodpeckers, White-throated Swifts, Western Woodpecker, Dusky and Hammond's Flycatchers, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos, breeding sparrows and finches, Black-headed Grosbeak

**June 21 to 24
Washington Ornithological
Society (WOS) Conference
Omak, WA**

See www.wos.org for more information

**June 22, 2013, Saturday
Mount Spokane Subalpine Birds Trip
Leader: Jim Hudlow**

This is a half-day hiking trip for all levels of birders. The grade is very gentle but we will walk four to six miles. Be prepared with plenty of snacks and water. You may retreat at any point. Mt. Spokane is the primary (and only publicly accessible) site for subalpine breeding birds in Spokane County, making this a popular and exciting annual event. Meet 7:00 am **SHARP** at Foothills Community Church, 11100 N. Peck Road. Contact Jim Hudlow (flyz4free@yahoo.com or 509-926-2186) by June 15 if you plan to attend.

Note: Discover Passes required for all vehicles in Mt. Spokane State Park. Purchase online or at REI.

Target Species: Dusky and Ruffed Grouse; Accipiters; Northern Pygmy Owl; woodpeckers; Hammond's Flycatcher; Warbling and Cassin's Vireos; Gray and Steller's Jays; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Swainson's, Hermit, and Varied Thrushes; Yellow-rumped and Townsend's Warblers; Fox Sparrow; Cassin's Finch; Red Crossbill

**June 28-June 30, 2013, Friday-Sunday
Field's Spring State Park Camping Trip
Leaders: Joyce Alonso and Fran Haywood**

Come camp out with Spokane Audubon birders for a multi-day birding extravaganza. This Blue Mountain paradise hosts a variety of montane songbirds and woodpeckers. Contact Fran Haywood (484-8666, birders13@aol.com) by June 21 if you plan to attend.

Note: There is a \$22/night fee for camping at Field's Spring State Park.

Target Species: Accipiters; owls, Williamson's Sapsucker, Hammond's and Dusky Flycatcher, Warbling and Cassin's Vireos, Gray and Steller's Jays, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Swainson's Thrush, Yellow-rumped and Townsend's Warblers, Cassin's Finch, Red Crossbill.

**July 13, 2013, Saturday
Little Spokane River Canoe Trip
Leader: Gary Blevins**

Enjoy an early morning float trip down the Little Spokane River designed for beginning, intermediate, and advanced birders. We usually see the common riparian bird species that breed along the river. Although it's helpful to have a kayak or canoe, we will also help match you with other folks who have boats. The trip usually takes about three hours. For more information or to reserve your place for this field trip, contact Gary Blevins (533-3661 or garyb@spokanefalls.edu) by July 6.

Target Species: Common and Hooded Merganser; Osprey; woodpeckers; Pacific-slope and Willow Flycatchers; Warbling, Cassin's and Red-eyed Vireos; White-breasted Nuthatch; Bewick's and House Wrens; Gray Catbird; Black-headed Grosbeak; Bullock's Oriole, Black-chinned and Calliope Hummingbirds; Cedar Waxwings.

**August 24th, 2013, Saturday
Biking & Birding
along the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes
Leader: Cindy McCormack**

Interested in covering lots of ground without a car? Or just combining birding & a little exercise? The wetlands along this section of the trail can be great for migrating shorebirds, cranes, pelicans, and waterfowl. Expect a fun, easy 10-20 mile ride on a paved flat trail for all level of birders. Bring your bicycle/helmet, lunch, water, snacks, and optics and meet at the Harrison Marina trailhead at 7:30 am. After

Spokane Audubon Membership Drive!

Invite your friends to join Spokane Audubon in January.
Each new member will receive a **free 2013 Spokane Audubon Calendar!**

the ride, we can sit at the marina and have an ice cream cone as a reward! Contact Cindy at nwbirder@gmail.com by August 17 for more information or for carpooling. (Adverse weather may force cancellation or rescheduling).

**August 31, 2013 Saturday
Summer Migrant Trip
Leader: Jon Isacoff
Limit: 3 Cars**

We'll check the area mudflats and migrant traps for migrating shorebirds and passerines, primarily in Lincoln County. Depending on conditions, we will either explore the Reardan-Davenport corridor and then down to Sprague, or go to famed Basset Park in Washtucna and then explore our way back via Sprague. This trip is an all-day affair and geared toward intermediate or advanced birders but beginners who enjoy the challenges of migrant birding are

welcome! Contact Jon at Isacoff@gonzaga.edu by August 20 if you plan to attend.

Target Species: All migrant shorebirds, flycatchers, vireos, warblers, and sparrows. This is a great time for rarities to show up.

**September 7, 2013 Saturday
Philleo Lake Special Access Trip
Leader: Ivan Lines**

Join Biologist Ivan Lines to see Philleo Lake up close as you've never seen it before! Philleo Lake is private property and Spokane Audubon Members have the privilege of this one-day access as a guest of Ivan who has permission to bring people onto the property. Early and mid-September is the peak time to see migrant shorebirds on the expansive mudflats of Philleo Lake. This is also the best location and time to see Great Egrets and Peregrine Falcons in Spokane County. Contact Ivan

Lines at ivanlines@gmail.com by September 1 to sign up.

Note: The ownership is changing hands. Access will be dependent on permission of the new owners.

Target Birds: Great Egret; Peregrine Falcon; Solitary Sandpiper; Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs; all peep species; Spotted, Pectoral and Stilt Sandpipers; Long-billed Dowitcher, Red-necked Phalarope

**October 26, 2013, Saturday
Grant County Late Fall Migrant Trip
Leader: Gary Blevins**

This is a beginning, intermediate and advanced birder-oriented trip to look for specialty birds, such as Arctic Gulls, Lapland Longspurs, and other hard-to-find and see northern visitors. There may be some down time, with little action in between bird sightings, but potential for rarities is high. It is a full-day trip from sunrise to

**Spokane Audubon Society
Membership Form**

Local Membership Dues:

Individual: \$20/year _____

Couple & Family: \$25/year _____

Student: \$10/year _____

Lifetime: \$300 _____

National Membership Dues: \$35/year _____

Individual + National Dues: \$55/year _____

Couple + National Dues: \$60/year _____

Your local membership provides you with *The Pygmy Owl* and supports your local chapter's many conservation and education activities. You will also be eligible for website privileges.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



Please make check payable to:
Spokane Audubon Society
Send this form and your check to:

Audubon Membership
Attn: Dave Plemons
1224 W. Riverside #1101
Spokane, WA 99201

Current members may renew memberships from our web site::

<http://spokaneaudubon.org>

Receiving duplicate newsletters? Errors or other changes needed on your mailing label? Contact Dave Plemons at davep_nublado@me.com, or 413-1524.



The Pygmy Owl
Spokane Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 9820
 Spokane, WA 99209-9820
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**January 9th Program:
 Birding in Peru,
 with Lindell Haggin and Joyce Alonso
 7:30 p.m.**

To:

The Spokane Audubon Society provides resources and services to educate people about birds, wildlife, and the importance of habitats, and to advocate and support public policies and actions that conserve and restore wildlife habitats.

Visit our website: <http://spokaneaudubon.org>

sunset. Contact Gary Blevins (533-3661 or garyb@spokanefalls.edu) by October 20 if you plan to attend.

Target Birds: Loons and grebes; scoters and rare wintering waterfowl; wintering raptors; Glaucous, Thayer's, and Glaucous-winged Gulls; Snowy Owl; Northern Shrike; Snow Bunting; Lapland Longspur; Gray-crowned Rosy Finch

November 23, 2013, Saturday

**Douglas Plateau Northern Visitors Trip
 Leader: Kim Thorburn**

The Waterville Plateau is a challenging but high-quality destination for rarities during the late fall and winter months. We will work the rolling steppe of the Plateau in search of unusual raptors, owls, and passerines and also bird along the Columbia River in hopes of finding rare Arctic Gulls and saltwater waterfowl, such as scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Pacific Loon. If attendees are interested, we will spend the night of November 22 in Brewster for an earlier start with the birds during this short daylight season. Contact Kim Thorburn (465-3025 or kthorburn@msn.com) by November 16 if you plan to attend.

Note: This trip will be dependent on weather and road conditions.

Target Birds: Loons and grebes; scoters and rare wintering waterfowl; wintering raptors; Glaucous, Thayer's, and Glaucous-winged Gulls; Snowy Owl; Northern Shrike; Snow Bunting; Lapland Longspur; Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. We will hunt for elusive rarities, including Gyrfalcon and Northern Hawk Owl.

**December 14, 2013, Saturday
 Winter Lake and Wetbelt Trip**

Leader: Joyce Alonso

This trip takes us around Beauty Bay on Lake Coeur d'Alene, where the Bald Eagles feeding on spawned-out salmon are always a sight to behold. Weather permitting, those interested may drive down to the Thompson Lake/Harrison region where a variety of birds winter in a slightly warmer zone. Probable particulars: 8:00 am start at Liberty Lake Albertson's parking lot. Contact Joyce Alonso (448-2447) by December 9 if you plan to attend.

Note: This trip will be dependent on weather and road conditions.

Target Species: Bald Eagles, several duck and grebe species, American Dipper, Pacific Wren, Pileated Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Tundra Swans, Northern Pygmy Owl

**December 29, 2013, Sunday
 2013 Spokane Christmas Bird Count**
 All SAS members as well as new birders are always welcome to join the Christmas count, which encompasses the Spokane Count Circle Center: 47° 43' N by 117° 25' W (approximately Division St. and Francis Avenue). Please contact Alan McCoy (509-448-3123) for information about the Spokane CBC.

SAS's next general meeting will be held
Weds., February 13
 7:30 p.m.

February Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, January 25
 Send material to
carmen@floreo.com