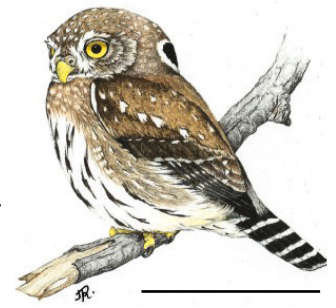


Volume 20
Issue 3
November 2012

The Pygmy Owl

The Newsletter of the
Spokane Audubon Society



November 14th Program:

Reproductive Ecology of the White-headed Woodpecker in Washington's Ponderosa Pine Forests, presented by Wildlife Biologist Jeff Kozma

In Washington, the White-headed Woodpecker is listed as a species of concern due to its association with old-growth Ponderosa Pine forests. Although White-headed Woodpeckers recently have been documented inhabiting early to mid-seral managed forests, information is limited regarding their reproductive success in these forests. For the last 10 years, Jeff Kozma, a wildlife biologist for the Yakama Nation, has been studying the reproductive biology of White-headed Woodpeckers in managed Ponderosa Pine forests of the eastern Cascades. Jeff will present highlights from his research including nest-site characteristics, reproductive success, and nestling provisioning (i.e., who feeds the kids and what are they feeding them). He will also be discussing briefly some preliminary results of a new project currently underway by Teresa Lorenz, a graduate student at the University of Idaho, who is investigating home range size and habitat use by White-headed Woodpeckers, using radio telemetry and colored leg bands. The telemetry results will change how we think of White-headed Woodpeckers in relation to old-growth and their use of managed forests.

Jeff Kozma received his B.S. Degree in Environmental Forest Biology from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse. He later received his M.S. Degree in wildlife science at Texas Tech University, where he studied the use of Chihuahuan Desert arroyos and adjacent uplands by migrant and breeding birds in southern New Mexico. After graduating, he began working as a wildlife biologist at the Yakima Training Center where he monitored Sage Grouse, did raptor and non-game bird surveys, and was involved with restoration of seeps, springs, and riparian areas. He is currently working as a wildlife Biologist for the Yakama Nation where he studies the reproductive biology of cavity-nesting birds.



Spokane Audubon's November program will be held at the
Riverview Retirement Community, Village Community Building,
2117 E. North Crescent Avenue (see page 8 for directions).

Please join us at 7 p.m. for refreshments and a brief business meeting.

The program will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Pygmy Owl

Volume 20, Issue 3 ~ November 2012

The Pygmy Owl, the newsletter of the Spokane Audubon Society, is published monthly, September through June.

Spokane Audubon Society
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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

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Ed Reynolds edndaisy@aol.com

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Cheri Ferguson cheri.l.ferguson@gmail.com
Howard Ferguson im4aves@gmail.com
Fran Haywood birders13@gmail.com
Brad Haywood birders13@gmail.com
Ivan Lines ivanlines@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_acer@msn.com 534-4404

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

It's hunting season. I see lots of hunters when I'm in the field. Often they'll stop to talk, perhaps mistaking me for a game warden in the Fish and Wildlife truck.

I'm not into guns or killing wildlife, but I have more in common with law-abiding hunters than not. We share wildlife stories and have a love for open spaces. We want both conserved and contribute time and effort to habitat conservation.

When I chat with hunters, I'm impressed by their knowledge about wildlife and their good observation skills. Recently, Bill stopped me at the end of a long, arduous day of waterfowl hunting and introduced himself. As he told me about his day and the places he'd been, he wondered what gallinaceous birds he'd flushed off a basalt ledge near a lake. He said they were about the size of pheasants (demonstrating with his hands) but the tails were too short. He appreciated my excitement when I surmised they were sage hens and thanked him for the information that I would include in my report.

It is mostly men whom I see during hunting season. I'm always thrilled when it's a dad or grandpa with a young hunter-in-training. Bill had a laconic but grinning young man along in his rig for whom he was clearly an admired mentor. I want our youth to grow up understanding wildlife and the splendor of spending time outdoors.

We non-hunter wildlife conservationists may not always agree with hunters about predators. We need to make our case to sportsman about getting the lead out of ammunition and fishing tackle. Nonetheless, hunters probably contribute more to the health of wildlife populations than we realize. Human impacts have led to wildlife population imbalances that hunter harvest can help to restore. They provide information for wildlife population censuses and specimens to monitor for disease. License fees help to support state fish and wildlife departments.

When it comes to wildlife conservation, hunters and other sportsmen are among our most important allies. We may have some points of disagreement but we have far more in common. It is from this common ground that we can work together to accomplish our over-arching goal: healthy wildlife populations and habitats.

Sights & Sounds

Bird Sightings for the Inland Northwest by Cindy McCormack

Water birds

Loons are really starting to arrive onto the area lakes—**PACIFIC LOONS** have been reported at Sprague Lake on the Lincoln Co. end (10/25-GF), Wanapum Dam (10/21-SD), and at the Vantage Boat Launch (10/10-SD).

Grebes of note: **RED-NECKED GREBE** on Cow Lake (10/25—GF) and **CLARK'S GREBE** at Ginkgo overlook (w/Western Grebes) (10/21-SD).

There have been many sightings of **CACKLING GEESE**, **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE**, **SNOW GEESE**, and **TUNDRA SWANS** throughout the area. A **TRUMPETER SWAN** was found at a pond on Hwy 231, south of Valley (10/19-TL).

Scoters seem to be the theme for October! All three scoters (**SURF**, **WHITE-WINGED**, & **BLACK SCOTERS**) were found on West Medical Lake! The Black Scoter was seen at the north end of the lake, while the others were at the south end. (10/25-FH, JAO, JR).

SURF SCOTERS were reported at the Spokane Premix pond (10/25-JI), at the Ginkgo overlook (Vantage) (10/21-SD), Wanapum State Park (10/21-SD), Soap Lake (10/17 & 20-MY) and Lake Lenore (10/17 & 20-MY), Blue Lake (10/17-MY), at 2 Rivers HMU (10/14-MLD), Jump-off Joe Lake in Stevens County (10/3-TD); **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** at Blue Lake (10/20 & 23-MY), Mill Canyon (10/23-JI), Deer Lake (10/12-TL); and a female **BLACK SCOTER** at Banks Lake (10/23-MY).

At least one **LONG-TAILED DUCK** was spotted on the Columbia near Wanapum (10/18-MY).

There was a **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** at Cow Lake, south of Sprague (10/12-JI).

Wading birds/Shorebirds

October's late shorebirds included:

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER Colville STP (10/23—WC, LD), Colville STP (10/23-WC)(10/20-TD), and on the southern part of Lind Coulee (10/4-MY).

DUNLIN at the Colville STP (10/23-WC, LD) (10/20-TD)(10/19-TL), Mann Lake (10/26-KC), small ponds near Cow Lake (10/25-GF).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS at Mann Lake (10/26—KC) Colville STP (10/19 & 12-TL), and the UI Dairy ponds (10/19-CS).

PECTORAL SANDPIPERS at Colville STP (10/20-TD)(10/19-TL).

A surprise guest on the east side of the state! MerryLynn Denny flushed a **GREEN HERON** when looking down at Mill Creek from the 13th Street bridge over Mill Creek. (10/10-MLD)

A **WILSON'S PLOVER** was found at Grayland Beach State Park just off Beach Trail #5 on Tuesday, Oct 2nd. This stout-billed plover was seen with a group of Snowy Plovers. (KS & AS)

A **WHITE-FACED IBIS** was reported at the Confluence of the Yakima and Columbia Rivers. (10/2-CSc).

Gulls

Start reviewing your gulls. We should be seeing the influx of large numbers of gulls soon!

October still had some lingering "black-headed" gulls:

West Medical Lake had ten **BONAPARTE GULLS** across from the Veterans Cemetery (10/24-FH, BH); nine at the Colville STP (10/23-WC, LD); one near Sentinel Bluffs, flying over gravel bars mid-river (10/21-SD); and at Waitt's Lake (10/19-TL).

A first-year **FRANKLIN'S GULL** was foraging at the Kootenai County Transfer Station with Ring-billed Gulls. Another first year **FRANKLIN'S GULL** was hanging out at the Ramsey Sports Complex on one of the softball fields in Coeur d'Alene (10/1-DW).

A first winter **THAYER'S GULL** was seen below the Wanapum Dam (10/10-SD).

Raptors

A **FERRUGINOUS HAWK** was found on the Old Sunset Hwy, just east of Davenport. There are also **RED-TAILED**, **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS** and a **PRAIRIE FALCON** using the same area. (10/24 & 25-CJ & TM). Another **FERRUGINOUS HAWK** (adult) was seen at Sprague Lake near the large haystack near the Adams boat launch. (Could this be the same bird that overwintered here last year?) (10/23-JI).

Late **OSPREY** have been lingering at Spring Valley Reservoir (10/24-TG) and over Mill Creek near Rook's Park (10/23—MMD).

A **LONG-EARED OWL** was heard hooting from the bushes about a mile east of Sprague on Old Sprague Hwy along the south side of road (10/12-JI).

Hummingbirds

These little powerhouses really seem to have settled in our area! **ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRDS** are visiting in Moscow (10/12-22-TG) and Colville (10/8-WC), Spokane Valley (10/6-TO), Stampede Pass (10/10-SD), Bennington Lake (9/29-MLD), College Place (9/29-MLD).

Woodpeckers

One of the area **WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKERS** made an appearance in Mill Canyon (10/23-JI).

Davenport Cemetery had a few unusual brief visitors this fall: A male **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER** and a **RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER** (9/30-JAc & CJ)!

A **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER** was also found in Spokane's Riverside State Park in the group camp area (9/26-FH & BH).

Corvids

BLUE JAYS are back in the area, with sightings reported in Moscow, ID (10/24-BH); Pullman (10/24-MC)(10/17-DW), Clarkston (10/3-SSC), Sprague Resort (10/3-JI), South Spokane County (9/30-GF).

Sights & Sounds, cont.

Passerines

This fall has been fantastic for sparrows! There have been frequent reports this year of different sparrows: **FOX SPARROWS**, **LINCOLN'S SPARROW**, late **CHIPPING** and **SAVANNAH SPARROWS**, **AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS**, **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS** mixed in with the **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS**. (Oh, my!) We have even had report of a winter adult **SWAMP SPARROW** along Stone Creek with several **SONG SPARROWS** in Walla Walla County (10/1-MLD)! **WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS** seem exceptionally common (relatively) this fall.

The very pretty-in-pink (so apropos for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month!) **GRAY-CROWNED ROSY FINCHES** have been seen on McFarlane Rd between Ladd and Coulee Hite Rd., Spokane Co. (10/24-JAc); on Steptoe Butte (10/23-SO)(10/21-MC); overhead, above the beginning of the summit road on Mt Spokane (10/18-TL).

LESSER GOLDFINCHES seem to be working their way north, with several found along Cedar Road, Colfax (10/23-SO) and at a backyard feeder in Moscow (10/14-TG).

A flyover **LAPLAND LONGSPUR** was reported near Sprague (10/12-JI) and flying with Horned Larks at Reardan (10/8-JI).

A Hayden, ID yard had an immature **CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER** (10/09-DW).

A **PALM WARBLER** was photographed in the cattails at the north Foothill Pond north of Moscow (10/8-TG).

Good Birding!

Cindy McCormack
939-4448 (text or call)
nwbirder@gmail.com

AS-Arn Slettebak; BH-Brad Haywood; CJ-Chris Janett; CS-Charles Swift; CSc-Carol Schultz; CT-Catherine Temple; DW-Doug Ward; FH-Fran Haywood; GF-Greg Falco; JAc-Jim Acton; JAo-Joyce Alonso; JI-Jon Isacoff; JR-Jan Reynolds; KS-Kathy Slettebak; LD-Lowell Dubbels; MC-Mike Clarke; MMD-Mike & MerryLynn Denny; MLD-MerryLynn Denny; MY-Matt Yawney; NT-Norma Trefry; SD-Scott Downes; SO-Sue Orłowski; TD-Tim Durnell; TG-Terry Gray; TL-Terry Little; TM-Tom Munson; TO-Tim O'Brien; WC-Warren Current.

Unsung Heroes of Spokane Audubon: Marlene & Bob Cashen



By Fran Haywood

This month, I want to highlight another very special couple. Marlene and Bob Cashen started coming to meetings a few years ago after moving from the Deep South. They are a couple who see a need and step in to fill it. Marlene has been handling our calendar sales for the last four years, and has done an incredible job. She lugs boxes of calendars to meetings and keeps great records of sales. She has also been covering the door prize drawings at meetings.

Marlene and Bob are both talented photographers. The proof is in the calendar. Check Marlene's Sage Thrasher in May, Bob's Eastern Kingbird in July and his Canyon Wren in Jan 2013. If you have an older calendar, look there too. Both have taken pictures to document rare sightings, including Black-backed Woodpecker and Red-breasted Sapsucker, (possible hybrid), in Davenport Cemetery, and White-throated Sparrow in Jim Acton's yard.

The most mind-blowing thing about Bob happened during a general meeting, when he stood up and volunteered to serve on the board of directors. This is a position that usually takes a little gentle arm twisting, and perhaps a guilt trip. It is a commitment of time. And very often board members find themselves doing extra grunt work unknown to the general membership, but necessary to keeping our organization functioning smoothly. In other words, it takes really dedicated people. Bob has proved to be that and more. He provides interesting and important points into every discussion. Without him and the other members of the board, we wouldn't have a Spokane Audubon Society.

So thank-you, Marlene and Bob. You are truly heroes of Spokane Audubon.

2013 Spokane Audubon Calendar Photo Feature, featuring photos by Marlene and Bob Cashen!

Fran mentioned the photographic talents of Bob and Marlene. Here is a preview of their work from the **2013 Spokane Audubon Calendar**.

Not only are Marlene and Bob talented photographers, they have been very generous with their work. In addition to their calendar photos, regular readers of *The Pygmy Owl* have been lucky enough to see many photo contributions from Marlene in the form of photos from meetings and field trips. It is always a treat to see their work in print.

We look forward to seeing more work from the Cashens!



Sage Thrasher, by Marlene Cashen



Eastern Kingbird, by Bob Cashen

**2013 Calendars
make great holiday gifts!**

\$10/per calendar

Calendars are available at meetings and online through spokaneaudubon.org (using PayPal)

To order by mail, send check to

Spokane Audubon Society
15418 Little Spokane Drive
Spokane, WA 99208.

Make checks payable to
Spokane Audubon

Shipping charges apply for all mail/online orders:

- 1 calendar: \$10 + \$2 s&H = \$12
- 2 calendars: \$20 + \$3 s&H = \$23
- 3 calendars: \$30 + \$4 s&H = \$34
- 4 calendars: \$40 + \$5 s&H = \$45



Audubon members celebrated the official completion of the Great Washington State Birding Trail during the fall ACOW Oct. 4 hosted by Kitsap Audubon. Photo by David Gluckman.

Audubon National President Marks Completion of Washington Birding Trail

“The Great Washington State Birding Trail is officially open and ready for birders!” proclaimed National Audubon President David Yarnold to 90 chapter members from around the state during the Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) in Poulsbo Oct. 4.

Yarnold saluted the 600 volunteers who worked with Director Christi Norman to create the seven loops covering 3,000 miles within two million acres of protected habitat, supporting nearly 350 species. The decade-long achievement was funded by \$1.5 million from private and public grants, plus individual and chapter donations.

Along with full-color paper maps, birders can now access each route via the new “app” for iPhone and iPad, and an e-book. Signs are being installed to mark the 375 local sites.

Birds’ flyways are the glue that unites the Audubon Society today, President Yarnold emphasized during his ACOW keynote talk. Washington’s lands and waters lie squarely on the Pacific Flyway, from Alaska to Patagonia, with many Important Bird Areas included on the Great Washington State Birding Trail.

Poulsbo Mayor Becky Erickson cut the ribbon for the last trail route, the Puget Loop; similar ceremonies are planned around the state.

Lindell Haggin is the Spokane Audubon Society representative to ACOW.

December newsletter deadline:
It’s early because of Thanksgiving!

Friday, November 16

Send material to:
carmen@floreo.com

SAS Field Trips: November – December

November 17, 2012, Saturday

Douglas Plateau Northern Visitors Trip

Leader: Kim Thorburn

The Waterville Plateau is a challenging but huge quality destination for rarities during the late fall and winter months. We’ll work the rolling steppe of the Plateau in search of the unusual raptors, owls, and passerines and also head down to the Columbia River in search of 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 16 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 10 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 hope for elusive rarities, including Gyrfalcon and Northern Hawk Owl

December 8, 2012 Saturday

Eagle Watch 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: 8:00am start at Liberty Lake Albertson’s parking lot. Contact Joyce Alonso (448-2447) by December 3 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

**2012 Christmas Bird Count
Information Available in December
Please Plan to Participate
It’s free this year!**

Attention, Birders!

*Need some coffee,
or a pastry pick-me-up?*

For birders on both official and unofficial expeditions: When taking advantage of the civic “facilities” in the mini-park on the main street of Davenport, you might want to stroll just a few steps down the side street to the newly re-opened *Sawyer’s Artisan Bakery*. In addition to coffee and no-calorie doughnuts (honest!), they now have a lunch menu.

They welcome all birders...

... no matter how scruffy-looking.

The December General Meeting
 will be held on
Wednesday, December 12th, at 7:30 p.m.
 Join us to discuss
 preparations for the
Christmas Bird Count!

**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
1817 S. Regal
Spokane, WA 99223

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_acer@msn.com, or 534-4404.



The Pygmy Owl
Spokane Audubon Society
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November 14th Program
 "Reproductive Ecology of the
 White-headed Woodpecker in Washington's
 Ponderosa Pine Forests"
 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>

Directions to the General Meeting:

*Riverview Retirement Community, Village Community Building
 2117 E. North Crescent Avenue*

To get to Riverview Retirement Community:

From West Spokane & South Hill

- I-90 East to Exit 281 toward US-2 E/US-395 N/Newport/Colville
- Follow US-2 E/US-395 N to E. Mission Ave.
- Turn Right at E. Mission Ave.
- Turn Left at E. Upriver Drive

From Spokane Valley

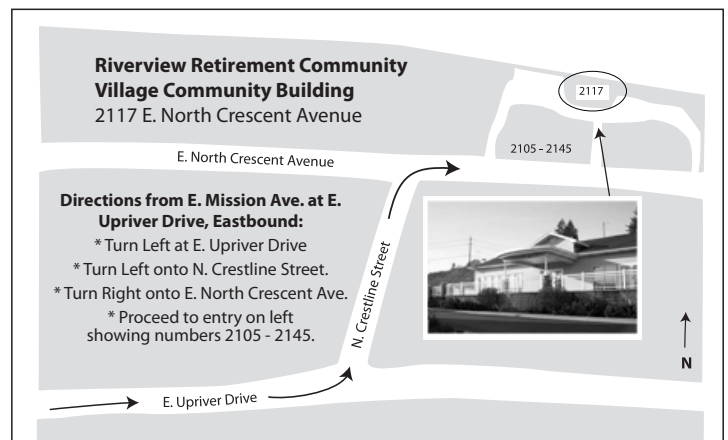
- I-90 West to Exit 282A
- Follow N. Hamilton St. to E. Mission Ave.
- Turn Right at E. Mission Ave.
- Turn Left at E. Upriver Drive

From North Spokane

- Take US-395 S to E. Mission Ave.
- Turn Left at E. Mission Ave.
- Turn Left at E. Upriver Drive

Once you're on E. Upriver Drive (see map below):

- Follow E. Upriver Drive to N. Crestline Street
- Turn Left at N. Crestline Street
- Turn Right on E. North Crescent Drive
- Proceed to entry on left showing numbers 2105-2145



Limited parking is available by the Village Community Building. Overflow parking is along E. North Crescent Ave.