

Volume 23
Issue 3
November 2015

The Pygmy Owl

The Newsletter of the
Spokane Audubon Society



November 11th Program:

Fascinating Stories of Natural History and the People That Live Along Side Them,

featuring TV Presenter, Biologist, Natural History Guide
and Teacher, Hazen Audel

A natural communicator, Hazen enjoys sharing his love of nature and adventure through *The Wild Classroom*, a non-profit online web series offering teachers and students quality, natural history educational videos for use in the classroom and home. Hazen also loves sharing his passion for nature hands

on, directly and personally. He has been a high school biology teacher for over 10 years. He also has worked as a wilderness instructor and guide for organisations such as Outward Bound Outdoor School, Boulder Outdoor Survival School, and since



he graduated from high school, has been organizing and leading his own guided trips to such places as the Amazon, Central America and the South Pacific.

Hazen has recently finished filming, *Primal Survivor*, a major new series for the National Geographic channel. It documents his adventures living with and working alongside indigenous people in some of the most remote places in the world. This is due for broadcast in early 2016, following the success of the original groundbreaking *Survive the Tribe* series last year.

Born and raised in Spokane, Washington, Hazen is a Kootenai and Salish Native American and Greek by descent. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and went on to post graduate studies at the University of Hawaii. He also has a Master's degree in teaching from Whitworth University.

Information and photo Jo Sarsby Management.

*Spokane Audubon's November program will be held at the
Riverview Retirement Community, Village Community Building
(Directions on page 8.)*

Please join us at 7 p.m. for refreshments and the gift shop.

The program will begin at about 7:30 p.m., after announcements.

Spokane Audubon's Holiday Gift/Swap Shop at the November Meeting

Do you have quality bird or nature-related items that you don't need but someone else might appreciate or use as a gift?

Bring them to the November 11th meeting, along with a little cash so you can participate, and place your items on our \$1, \$3, or \$5 dollar tables.

Show up a little early for the best choices!

We'll have fun, perhaps solve a shopping dilemma, and raise a little cash for our organization. (Last year this event raised ~ \$125 for Spokane Audubon's general fund.)

Calendar "Reading" November 12th, 7:00 p.m. at Auntie's Bookstore

There will be a calendar "reading" on Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 pm on the second floor at Auntie's Bookstore.

Come to see the beautiful photos from the *2016 Birds of Eastern Washington* on the big screen. Learn more about each of the birds and hear the photographers talk about their experiences.

It will be a fun evening and you will have the opportunity to buy this outstanding calendar. All photos were taken by members of Spokane Audubon Society.

For more information about purchasing Spokane Audubon calendars, see page 6.

The Pygmy Owl

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The Audubon Bird Guide App is now FREE!

National Audubon Society has announced that it has released an updated version of the Audubon Bird Guide app and it's now FREE to bird lovers nationwide.

The Audubon Bird Guide App is available for iOS (iPhone), Android and Amazon Kindle.

With 821 species profiles and 3200-plus world-renowned bird photos, Audubon's award-winning app instantly turns any mobile device into the most trusted field guide in North America.

With the Audubon Bird Guide, you can:

- Identify 821 species with in-depth descriptions, including information on appearance, habitat, behavior, and more.
- Explore a gallery of more than 3,200 images from the world-renowned VIREO, Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University's world-wide collection of bird photography.
- Listen to up to eight hours of the exceptional sounds of your favorite birds, differentiated by region and season.
- Access robust seasonal and migratory range maps.
- Browse species in a gallery view and filter by shape, region and color, aiding quick identification.
- Use "Find Birds with eBird" to locate birds seen recently around you, drawing on the continuously updated database from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and eBird.
- Post, keep lists, and share sightings with friends and followers with Audubon NatureShare's easy and user-friendly interface.

To download the Audubon Bird Guide, go to:

www.audubon.org/apps

★ In order to avoid printing and mailing ★
over Thanksgiving week, the deadline
for the November issue is
★ **Thursday, November 12th** ★

Please send any materials for the newsletter to

carmen@floreo.com

Sights & Sounds

Bird Sightings for the Inland Northwest, compiled by Jon Isacoff

Summer does not want to end. But, alas, most of our breeding migrant birds have taken off nonetheless. Fall migration brought two new records for Lincoln County, Washington—Anna's Hummingbird and Indigo Bunting—two great finds! Some of the usual fall goodies are starting to arrive, as have the first Shrikes and Rough-legged Hawks who will be with us for the winter. Let us hope they're followed by their finchy friends.

Especially rare sightings are in bold italic.

ROSS'S GOOSE: Peone (10/5-TL); Reardan (10/13-JI)

SURF SCOTER: Sprague (10/15-TL and 10/17-JI); Rock Lake (10/15-TL)

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Washtucna (9/5-MLD and MD)

SANDHILL CRANE: Cow Lake (9/4-TL)

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER: (9/21-MY)

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: Soap Lake (9/21-MY) Reardan (10/6-JI); Sprague Lake (10/15-TL)

SANDERLING: Reardan (9/4-TL)

ARCTIC TERN: Soap Lake (9/14-MY)

COMMON TERN: Sprague (9/3-NT); Reardan (9/4-TL); Soap Lake (9/14-MY); Newman Lake (9/17-TL)

PARASITIC JAEGER: Soap Lake (9/14-MY)

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD: Davenport (9/6-JA and CJ); Moscow (9/8-CS); Hayden (9/15 to 10/8-DW); Paradise Ridge (10/1-KD)

BLUE JAY: Viola (10/8-NM); Sandpoint (10/17 to 10/18)

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE: Rare in Columbia Basin – Washtucna (10/10-RT)

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE: Rare in Columbia Basin – Hatton (10/10-RT)

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: West Plains (10/3-TL); Selkirk Crest (10/4-CL); Steptoe Butte (10/10-RB); Sprague Lake (10/15-TL)

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Hayden (9/15-DW)

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Spokane (9/14-KT);

Colville (9/15-WC); Moscow (9/22-BB and 10/2 to 10/10-RH); Sandpoint (10/8 to 10/17-RDC)

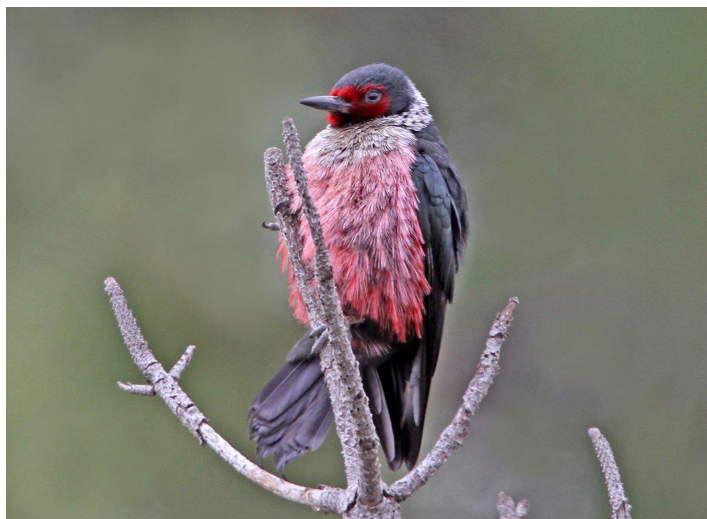
HARRIS'S SPARROW: Potlatch (10/18-CL)

INDIGO BUNTING: Sprague (8/28-TL)

PINE GROSBEAK: Mt. Spokane (9/17-TL); Selkirk Crest (10/4-CL)

Observers: JA-Jim Acton; DB-Don Baker; MB-Missy Baker; RB-R.J. Baltierra; MBa-Maria Barone; MaB-Matt Bartels; DBd-Donna Bradford; TB-Tom Bragg; DB-Donna Bragg; BB-Ben Bright; CC-Corinne Cameron; DC- Del Cameron; MaC-Marlene Cashen; MC-Mike Clarke; Stacy Crist (SC); RDC-Rich Del Carlo; WC-Warren Current; KD-Kas Dumroese; PD-Peter Dunwidie; GF-Greg Falco; MF-Marian Frobe; RF-Russell Frobe; MF-Mike Fulton; JG-Joshua Glant; JH-John Hanna; LH-Lisa Hardy; FH-Fran Haywood; RH-Ray Hoff; DH-Dave Holick; MI-Michael Irving; CJ-Chris Jannet; JI-Jon Isacoff; DJ-Dick Johnson; SJ-Steve Joyce; BK-Bob Kemp; RK-Russ Koppendrayer; TL-Terry Little; AL-Angela Lotrario; TL-Thomas Light; CL-Carl Lundblad; TM-Tom Mansfield; MFM-Mary Frances Mathis; AM-Alan McCoy; EM-Eliot Miller; NM-Nancy Miller; TO-Tim O'Brien; JP-Jonathan Pafford; JR-Jethro Runco; AR-Adrian Rus; MS-Mike Scott; BS-Brad Sondahl; CS-Charles Swift; RT-Rick Taylor; NT-Norma Trefry; KT-Kim Thorburn; DW-Doug Ward; TW-Tina Wynnecoop; MY-Matt Yawney; WY-Will Young

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*Don't forget to purchase your
2016 Spokane Audubon Calendar!*



Lewis's Woodpecker, by Buck Domitrovich

Details on page 6.

Tutorial: Using eBird to Find Out Where The Birds Are Now

by Carmen Yount

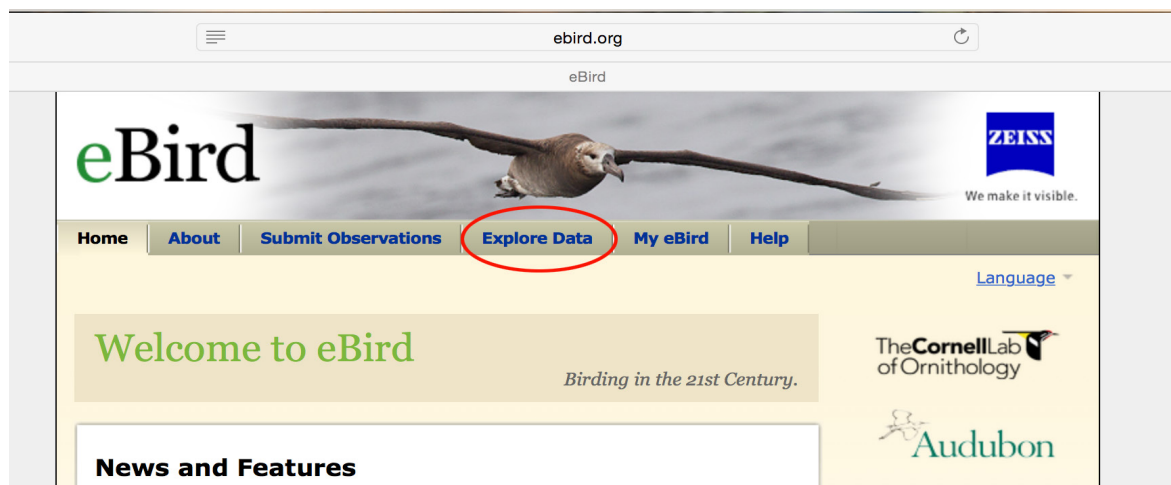
eBird, the online checklist program, was launched in 2002 as a joint effort by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. The intent of eBird is to encourage birders to record their personal lists. Data from individual birders are stored in a database that can be used by researchers to study presence/absence of sensitive species and changes in bird populations over time. Ultimately, the success of eBird depends on participation of citizen scientists to keep their own lists, county or regional lists, or participating in more formal studies like the Sagebrush Songbird Survey.

I asked a few of Spokane Audubon's most active birders to comment on the way they use eBird. Lindell Haggin, birder, accomplished photographer and Spokane Audubon's treasurer, says, "I have become much more consistent in my reporting since I got the e-bird app (which is free) for my iPhone. The app makes it quite easy to enter data regardless of where you are. eBird is a good place to check before traveling to see what can be seen, and where."

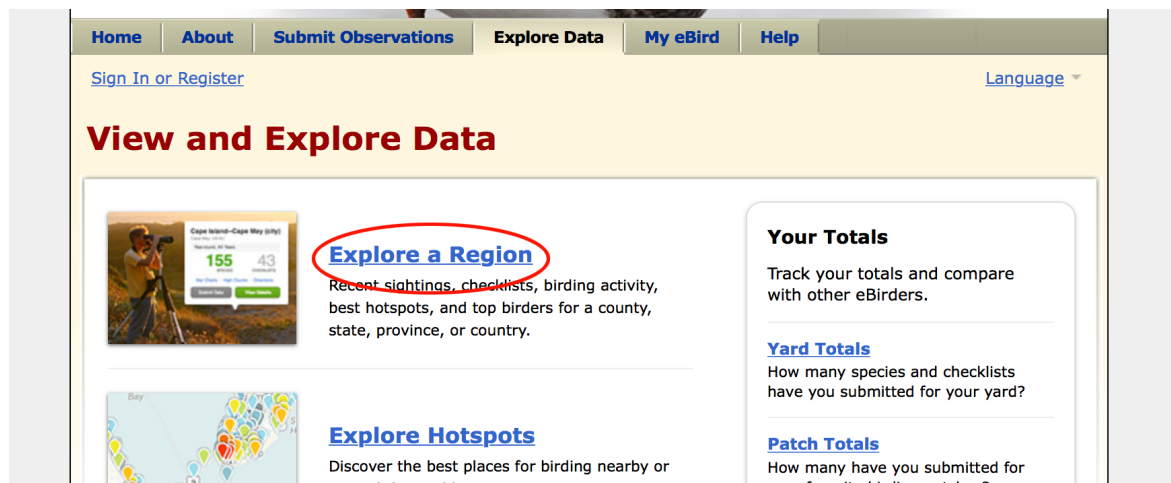
Lindell's comment about checking eBird to find out where the birds are before you head out into the field is an important one. The ultimate goal behind eBird may be to encourage birders to record their own observations, but it also allows birders who may have limited time in the field to find out who's here right now and where they're being seen.

Note: This tutorial was documented using a laptop computer. Instructions for mobile applications will be different.

It is remarkably easy to find recent sightings by date, by lister or by geographic location. Start by going to www.ebird.org. To start looking for data, click on the "Explore Data" tab:



Choose "Explore a Region," the first of four options for looking at eBird data. You also have the option of searching for hotspots, species maps, and bar charts (to find out what birds to expect throughout the year in a region or location).



For the purpose of this tutorial we're going to look at the region of Spokane. At the top of the "Explore a Region" screen there should be a search field (with an image of a magnifying glass in it). Click in that field and type "Spokane." An option for "Spokane, Washington, United States" should appear. Click where it says "Spokane, Washington, United States."

Your next screen should be an overview of recent activity for Spokane, listed by species (left side) and recent lists by lister (right side). If you scroll down this page, you'll see top listers and top hotspots.

Spokane [Change Location](#)
Washington, US

All Years [Set](#)

Overview Hotspots Recent Visits

281 Species | 15,134 Checklists Updated ~5 hr(s) ago.

Last Seen First Seen High Counts Bar Charts [Show All Details](#)

SPECIES NAME	COUNT	DATE	BY
1 California Quail	2	23 Oct 2015	Jon Isacoff
2 Red-tailed Hawk	1	23 Oct 2015	Jon Isacoff
3 Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	23 Oct 2015	Jon Isacoff
4 Northern Flicker	3	23 Oct 2015	Jon Isacoff
5 Pileated Woodpecker	1	23 Oct 2015	Jon Isacoff

Now it's a matter of deciding whether you're looking for a species, sighting date, or location. For instance, if I want to check out recent sightings, I'll click on the "Recent Visits" tab:

Spokane [Change Location](#)
Washington, US

All Years [Set](#)

Overview Hotspots **Recent Visits**

281 Species | 15,134 Checklists Updated ~5 hr(s) ago.

As I'm writing this, I see lists recorded up until Friday, October 23rd for locations like Stevens Creek Natural Area, West Medical Lake and Ferris High School/Hazel Creek.

Spokane [Change Location](#)
Washington, US

Overview Hotspots **Recent Visits**

Checklists submitted within the last hour are not shown.

OBSERVER	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	SPECIES
Jon Isacoff	23 Oct 2015	08:26	Stevens Creek NA	22
Tim O'Brien	22 Oct 2015	14:20	SPO - W. Medical Lake south end	11
Jon Isacoff	22 Oct 2015	14:02	SC-Ferris HS/Hazel Creek	19

Using eBird, continued.

If I click on the date for Jon Isacoff's October 23rd Stevens Creek Natural Area list, I'll see his checklist for that trip, along with the date and time, the distance he walked and the amount of time he spent birding.

Checklist S25516264

Location Stevens Creek NA, Spokane County, Washington, US (Map)

Date and Effort Fri Oct 23, 2015 8:26 AM

Protocol: Traveling
Party Size: 1
Duration: 1 hour(s), 45 minute(s)
Distance: 3.0 mile(s)
Observers: Jon Isacoff

Species 22 species total

2	California Quail
1	Red-tailed Hawk (calurus/alascensis)
1	Northern Pygmy-Owl
2	Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)

As an added bonus (not seen in this screen shot), he noted in this list that he saw a Pine Grosbeak, the first sighting at that location!

Jon, our *Sights & Sounds* compiler, says, "I use eBird because it does two great things at once: it sorts and compiles all of my sightings and lists for me for free. And the data inputted into eBird goes into a huge database—the largest of its kind in the world—of sightings that scientists use for research to further bird conservation. So eBird is a win-win; individual users get a free listing program and researchers get data on long-term, large-scale bird trends!"

Another name whose lists you'll see frequently in our region is Tim O'Brien. Tim encourages all birders to use eBird: "eBird is very easy to use either from your home PC or your mobile phone. I no longer have to keep checklists on paper as I can real-time enter what I am seeing while in the field. There is an eBird app for iPhone users and Bird Log is available for android users.

"eBird keeps your life lists for you. Your sightings can be organized by county for the county listers or you can go as big as world regions.

"Exploring the data is fun. You can see when the first of a species was recorded in a specific place for the year or you can see who has submitted the most checklists and who has the most species seen in a county, state, and so on. And eBird only gets better with more data being submitted by birders."

Tim's recent list (as of this writing) was a 20-minute visit to West Medical Lake, where he saw Green-winged Teals, Bald Eagles and a Belted Kingfisher, among others.

Some of Spokane Audubon's most skilled and enthusiastic birders use eBird for their reporting. The rest of us can't go wrong following in their footsteps for our birding adventures. Who knows? Maybe you'll be inspired to create an account and start recording your own lists!

This article is presented in response to requests from a couple of members.

Calendars make great Holiday Gifts! 2016 Spokane Audubon Society Calendar: Birds of Eastern Washington



American White Pelican, by Chuck Kerkerling

Calendars cost \$10 each, and are available for purchase at general meetings, through mail order or through the website, spokaneaudubon.org (using PayPal).

Note: Shipping charges apply for all mail/online orders:

1 calendar: \$10 + \$3 s&H = \$13

2 calendars: \$20 + \$4 s&H = \$24

3 - 6 calendars: \$30 + \$7 s&H = \$37

Contact Spokane Audubon for shipping costs for 7+ calendars.

To order by mail, send check to:

Spokane Audubon Society

15418 Little Spokane Drive

Spokane, WA 99208

Make checks payable to *Spokane Audubon*.

Spokane Audubon Field Trips November & December

November 21, 2015, 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. We will spend the night of November 20 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 15 if you plan to attend.

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

December 12, 2015, 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 Kokanee are always a sight to behold. Weather permitting; those interested may drive down to Thompson Lake/Harrison region where a variety of birds winter in a slightly warmer zone. Probable particulars: 8:00 a.m. start at Liberty Lake Albertson's parking lot. Contact Joyce Alonso (448-2447) by December 6 if you plan to attend.

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

December 27, 2015, Sunday
Christmas Bird Count
Leader: Alan McCoy

More information coming in December!

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
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November 11th Program:
 Fascinating Stories of Natural History
 and the People that Live Along Side Them,
 featuring Hazen Audel
 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.

