

The Pygmy Owl



Volume 30
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Feb. 2022

The Newsletter of the
Spokane Audubon Society

February 9, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

This meeting is only via Zoom on-line since pandemic conditions and prevention restrictions continue to keep us from meeting in person. To join the Zoom meeting

(Meeting ID: 811 3149 6415, Passcode: 393338), link to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81131496415?pwd=a3ovUmpDMXExWDJvbTB3bjhsRTdEUT09>

Yard Bird Safety

presented by Jim Cubie



Retired long-time national environmental policy expert and active birder, Jim Cubie, has developed a series of resources to address bird-window collisions and other yard bird safety issues.

After a study reported in *Science* showed a 30% drop in our bird populations, Cubie committed himself to fighting further decline. The study authors recommended preventing window collisions and planting native foliage. Starting with his bird club in Green Valley, Arizona, Cubie developed ways to feed birds with native plants and to protect birds from window collisions. Working with a local extension agent he developed free native plant landscape plans for new homes in his development (available at <https://birdfriendlyyards.net/freepans/>). He installed all approved collision prevention systems and displayed options in his sunroom so club members and neighbors could decide which they wanted.

As a local conservation leader, Cubie found that the information at national websites was not what local clubs and homeowners needed. To address these problems, he developed "A Consumer Guide to Bird Window Collision Prevention," a series of resources available at <https://birdfriendlyyards.net/consumer-guide/>. Dr. Daniel Klem, a leading bird window collision expert, has called this an "impressive resource". It uses photos to compare collision prevention systems to a clear window. It also compares the cost and

effectiveness of the systems. It offers detailed Do-It-Yourself directions for all the systems.

Cubie made a video summary version of the Consumer Guide, "How to Choose a Bird Window Collision Prevention System," which can be directly downloaded at <https://birdfriendlyyards.net/protectbirds/>. It is also on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/HqtGueKoCcc>. The one-page "Quick Tips" (<https://birdfriendlyyards.net/quick-tips/>) gives the reader advice on what system to use based on what the reader is most interested in – cost, effect on vision, ease of installation or effectiveness.

Because of the popularity of the Window Alert decals, which do not work, Cubie researched and wrote "Window Alert: Bad for Birds" (<https://birdfriendlyyards.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Summary-Window-Alert-Clubs-Final.pdf>). It explains why consumers should not buy a WindowAlert type decal product. Dr. Martin Rossler of the University of Vienna has praised it as "very clear, correct and important." Educating consumers about the ineffectiveness of Window Alert is very important because about 50% of consumers who finally decide to prevent window collisions purchase this dangerous product.

To help local clubs promote window collision prevention, Cubie also offers "8 Tools to Promote Bird Window Collision Prevention". The tools were developed over 4 years of promoting window collision prevention in his club and neighborhood (<https://birdfriendlyyards.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/8-tools-to-sell-window-strike-prevention.pdf>).

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Membership Report

by Alan McCoy

Update of Members' Status December 21, 2021 through January 20, 2022:

Welcome and thanks to our **new members**:

Individual:

Cortney Litwin, Serena Carlson, Hal Robins, Christi Peele, Barbara Whitney

Family:

David Jensen, Shenandoah Marr, Linda & Ed Joy

Many thanks to our **returning members**:

Individual:

Scott Hall, Sally English, Evelyn Florio, Mary Marsh

Family:

Ann Hurst & Charles Latimer, Earl & Marilyn Elias, Jackie & John Kittel, Mike & Lynn Noel, Alice Moravec, Doris & Rodney Butler

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John & Amy Robertson, Chris Loggers & Kathy Ahlenslager, Ladd Bjerneby

If you change your email address, please send your new email address to me, Alan McCoy, at ahm2352@gmail.com and I will make sure you get the Pygmy Owl in your email inbox. Another way to get the Pygmy Owl is to go to our website: <https://www.audubonspokane.org/the-pygmy-owl>



Great Horned Owl
© Theo Goodwin

Yard Bird Safety (continued from page 1)

“Install Window Strike Prevention” is Cubie’s video that shows a simple quick way to install a system that meets the 2” standard on an entire sunroom in 30 minutes. Because he was working on both native plants and window collisions, he found that they are inter-related. If a yard is not bird-safe, no number of native plants will support a sustainable bird population. It can be found at <https://birdfriendlyyards.net/birdfriendlybirdsaf/>.

On his blog Cubie has also provided an analysis describing how planting native for birds is different than a typical native plant program. <https://birdfriendlyyards.net/2021/06/27/differentstrategy/> To address the bird deaths caused by feeders he has posted Protect the Birds You Love to Feed <https://birdfriendlyyards.net/2021/07/23/protect-the-birds-you-love-to-feed/> and “Feeders not safe at 30 feet” <https://birdfriendlyyards.net/2021/12/13/30not-safe/>.

Cubie also operates a listserv <https://groups.google.com/g/stopbirdcollisions> which he welcomes you to subscribe to. Email him at jimcubie1@gmail.com.

Cubie has a long history in environmental policy. After graduation from law school, he worked on nuclear safety for Ralph Nader. He developed the energy and environmental policy for Ted Kennedy’s presidential campaign. On the committee which funds many federal agencies, he provided the early funding for the NSF and EPA global climate change programs. He later became the Chief Counsel for the Senate Agriculture Committee where one of his chief responsibilities was farm related conservation policy. His most significant accomplishment was the creation and funding of the 3-million-acre Wetland Reserve Program, the largest wetland restoration program in our history, funded by the Department of Agriculture. Since his work in the Senate, Cubie developed and directed programs for a non-profit addressing farm-related environmental problems. The innovative program, using crop insurance to induce better farming practices, was approved by the Department of Agriculture and is now in operation on a pilot basis.



Acopian Bird Saver



The Bird Screen Company



EasyUp Solar Shade Screens

Field Notes

Bird Sightings for the Inland Northwest, compiled by Jon Isacoff

Well, 2022 is here. We've had a deep freeze, lots of snow, and then rain and mild temperatures. The winter doesn't seem to know what it wants to be. Redpolls continue to be seen regularly throughout the region, always nice. Bohemian Waxwings are having an average showing. There's still plenty of winter left for other winter finches and interesting birds to be seen, so as always, keep eyes and ears out! Especially rare birds are in all caps.

Red-breasted Merganser: Beauty Bay (1/3-eBird);
North Idaho College Beach (1/9-JI)

HARLEQUIN DUCK: Little Spokane River (12/22-NE)

Anna's Hummingbird: Nine Mile Falls (12/26-eBird);
Kendrick (1/1-GL); Spokane Valley (1/11-MC); Colville
(1/16-DB)

Lesser Black-backed Gull: North Idaho College Beach
(12/21-TL)

Glaucous Gull: North Idaho College Beach (12/21-TL)

Pacific Loon: Bonner's Ferry (12/21-eBird)

Snowy Owl: West Plains (1/1-MS); Davenport
(1/8-eBird)

Blue Jay: Bonner's Ferry (1/10-JR)

Hermit Thrush: Blue Creek Bay (1/9-JI)

Pine Grosbeak: Elmira (1/5-DR)

Gray-crowned Rosy-finch: Davenport (1/15-eBird)

White-winged Crossbill: Mt. Spokane Foothills
(12/28-TL)

HOARY REDPOLL: Bonner's Ferry (1/15-JI)

Lesser Goldfinch: Paradise Prairie (1/1-AM); North
Spokane (1/3-MS); West Spokane (1/8-JP); Saltese
Flats (1/11-TO)

Harris's Sparrow: Spokane Valley (1/3-TV)

White-throated Sparrow: Kaniksu Shores (1/9-RDC);
Bonner's Ferry (1/15-SE and JR); Little Spokane Fish
Hatchery (1/15-TL)



Harlequin Duck - Male
© Ian Davies



Harlequin Duck - Female
© Chris Thopmas

Observers: RB-R.J. Baltierra; DB-Donna Bragg; BB-Ben Bright; Marlene Cashen; FC-Forest Corcoran; RC-River Corcoran; WC-Warren Current; RDC-Rich Del Carlo; KD-Kas Dumroese; SE-Shannon Ehlers; Jacob Elonen; NE-Norm Engeland; DG-Don Goodwin; CG-Cierra Gove; LH-Lindell Haggin; JH-John Hanna; CH-Cameron Heusser; I-Jon Isacoff; SJ-Steve Joyce; BK-Bob Kemp; GL-Greg Lambeth; TL-Terry Little; AM-Alan McCoy; CM-Curtis Mahon; MM-Mason Maron; BM-Ben Meredyk; NM-Nancy Miller; WM-Will Merg; TO-Tim O'Brien; JP-Jim Patten NP-Neil Paprocki; DR-Diana Roberts; JR-Jethro Runco; SS-Sandy Schreven; MS-Mark Selle; KS-Katie Sorenson; CS-Charles Swift; NT-Norma Trefry; AT-Andrew Thomas; DW-Doug Ward; MW -Michael Woodruff; TV-Terry VanHoozer

Sleeping Birds

By Lisa Langelier

During spring we welcome the Say's phoebe, a grayish-brown flycatcher with a light orange belly and black tail. It favors open dryland habitats and is not afraid of humans, often nesting on buildings. Our phoebes like to sleep on our porches -- on an electrical outlet, a door frame, a barbecue grill, or a protected wire. If we go out on the back porch at dark, we frequently disturb their slumber. After the young fledge, we may have several hanging out at night on these protected perches. It makes me wonder where other birds sleep.

All birds are inactive for some period of their day. Where they sleep depends on the season and species. Some shelter in tree nooks, on the ground, in hedges, in covered nests, in ground burrows, on branches, in snags, on water. Many birds roost in tree cavities to conserve heat. During winter mornings, I often see nuthatches emerging from a bird box that I can see from my kitchen window. Three nuthatch species live year-round in my neighborhood – red-breasted, white-breasted, and pygmy. White-breasted nuthatches tend to sleep alone in tree holes, often made by downy woodpeckers. During severe weather they may sleep with others. According to Alexander F. Skutch, author of the book *Birds Asleep*, they may defecate in the overnight cavity, but remove their droppings in the morning.

Pygmy nuthatches tend to be more social and stay in family groups all year. During cold months the family may be joined by other pygmy nuthatch families. One man watched as a chattering group of pygmies entered a hole in a large pine tree in the Colorado Rockies. He estimated 100 nuthatches in this dorm. This strategy of huddling together in tree cavities is not without danger as birds deep in the pile may suffocate, get buried alive, or get soiled by the excrement of those above them, reducing the ability of their feathers to retain heat.

An animal behaviorist, Dennis Lendrem, studying duck flocks, noticed that they opened their eyes and

peeked around about once every two to six seconds. He noted that birds within small flocks peek more as do those in less protected positions within the flock. On land, birds can switch from sleeping with one or both hemispheres of the brain at a time depending on conditions. Some birds sleep with half of their brain awake. They close one eye, keeping the other open and alert to potential threats.

I wonder if that might be where the term "half asleep" comes from. While using this 'unihemispheric' slow wave sleep or USWS, the eye connected to the awake hemisphere is open and alert for danger.

But what about birds that fly long distances? Do they sleep while they fly? A team of researchers studied great frigatebirds, flying over the open ocean for 10 days. Using electroencephalogram recordings, they determined that the birds can sleep with one hemisphere of the brain at a time or with both hemispheres at the same time.

Hummingbirds, with their high metabolisms, enter a state of torpor during cold nights, dropping their internal temperature almost low enough to match the ambient air temperature. Several people in our Audubon chapter area report Anna's hummingbirds visiting their feeders this winter. One friend reveals that an Anna's hummingbird sleeps in her greenhouse in Colville on many winter nights.

Much remains unknown about the sleeping habits of birds. I look forward to the return of our Say's phoebes, and maybe I'll learn more.



Sleeping with one eye open
© Jim Arterburn

25th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

Be part of a global birding event Feb. 18-21

By Madonna Luers

The 25th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is Feb. 18 – 21, and you can be a part of the world coming together for the love of birds.

Over these four days you can spend time in your favorite birding place – at home or at another bird habitat -- watching and counting as many birds as you can find, and reporting them to the GBBC data collection. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before their annual spring migrations.

Launched in 1997 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the GBBC was the first online citizen or community-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real time. Birds Canada joined the project in 2009 to provide an expanded capacity to support participation in Canada.

In 2013, the GBBC became a global project when data was entered into eBird, the world's largest biodiversity-related citizen-community science project. You can watch bird observation lists roll in online from around the world, with each submitted checklist becoming a glowing light on the GBBC bird sightings map, including your own.

Participating is easy, fun to do alone or with others, and can be done anywhere that you find birds. First, decide where you will watch birds. Then watch birds for 15 minutes or more, at least once over the four days, February 18-21.

After you make a count of all the birds you see or hear within your planned time/location, use one of these tools for sharing your bird sightings:

- If you are a beginning birder and new to the count, try using the free, easy-to-use Merlin Bird ID application on your cell phone to enter your bird list (see instructions at <https://www.birdcount.org/merlin-bird-id-app/>)
- If you are already using eBird to track your birding activity, the free eBird Mobile app is a fast way to enter your data (see <https://www.birdcount.org/ebird-mobile-app/>)
- If you prefer to enter your sightings on a computer, perhaps after making a list while on a hike



or watching your feeders, you can do so at <https://www.birdcount.org/ebird-on-computer/>

- If you are participating as a group, see instructions at <https://www.birdcount.org/group-counts/>

You can start entering bird lists at midnight local time on the first day of the count, anywhere in the world. Data entry remains open until March 1, but the information you enter should only be from the four days of the Great Backyard Bird Count.

You can also submit photos of birds that you see during your count at <https://www.birdcount.org/learn/photos/>.

For all the details on this project to connect to birds, nature, and each other, see www.birdcount.org.

Bird-Friendly Coffee

by Shenandoah Marr

Many of us enjoy a cup of fresh-brewed coffee as a valuable part of our morning routine. Have you ever thought about the impact that your morning cup has on biodiversity, farmers and the environment? Coffee is an important agricultural commodity, particularly for the developing countries that grow most coffee beans. The environmental impact of such a large crop is significant.

Likely originating in Ethiopia, coffee is now grown in about 50 countries along the equatorial zone. Coffee plants thrive in higher altitudes under warm, wet and shady conditions. Prior to the 1970's, most coffee was grown under a diverse forest canopy, supporting a variety of bird species. Realizing the high economic value of coffee, scientists developed hybrid varieties to grow in full sun. Sun-grown coffee produces higher yields and more frequent harvests than shade-grown. Enticed by money, many coffee farmers cut their shade trees and switched to more profitable sun-grown varieties. Sun-grown coffee requires use of high amounts of pesticides, necessary to maintain production in the face of disease and parasites. Between 1970 and 1990, 50% of shade coffee farms were deforested into sun coffee farms, with devastating effects on bird populations. In 2018, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology published that bird populations have declined by 28% in the U.S. and Canada since 1970, with habitat loss being the primary driver.



Smithsonian Bird Friendly Farm
courtesy Birds and Beans

In 1996, the Smithsonian Institute's Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) gathered environmentalists, farmers, and coffee companies to address the problem of unsustainable coffee. The result was the

Smithsonian Certified Bird Friendly (SCBF) certification. Coffees with the SCBF label are grown on farms that provide forested habitat for birds, are certified organic and guarantee 100% product purity. Farms become certified by third-party inspectors who use criteria established by the SMBC. Most brands carrying the Smithsonian Bird Friendly label are also Fair Trade Certified.

What about coffee labeled "shade grown"?

When the SMBC launched Bird Friendly coffee, "shade-grown" became a product of slick marketing. The term is not regulated and tells you little about the actual conditions of the coffee farm. Shade grown can simply mean that coffee plants are grown under shade such as banana plants on a once forested plantation.



Coffee Plantation

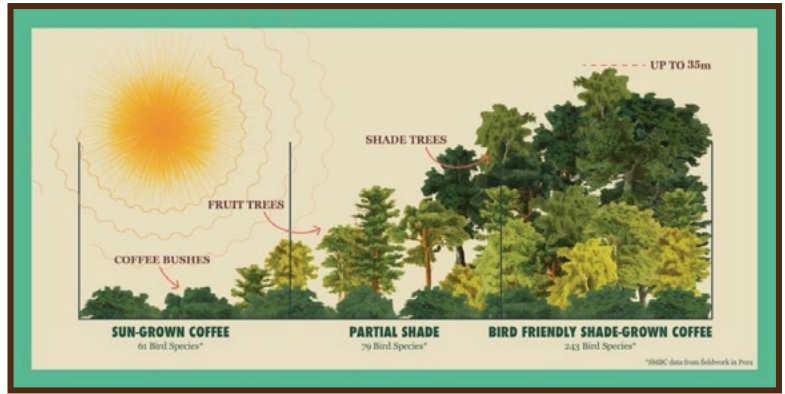
What if my favorite roaster does not carry SCBF coffee?

Certification is an arduous and expensive process. Some family farms do grow beans in conditions meeting SCBF criteria but lack certification. If your favorite coffee is not certified, contact the roaster and ask questions about the origin of the beans. Look for "relationship" roasters – those who buy from the same farms or co-ops year after year, and only after they have visited the farms. Some relationship roasters assist farmers in gaining certification, helping them earn a higher price.

SCBF coffee only accounts for about 1% of the total coffee beans sold. As bird lovers, it is up to us

to change this. Certified Bird Friendly coffee does cost more than conventional coffee. However, by spending a few more cents per cup, you can know that you are helping to protect wildlife habitat, preserving carbon capturing forests, and ensuring that workers are getting a fair wage. SCBF coffee beans are sold locally at Natural Grocers (Birds and Beans brand) or a list of retailers is available at

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/buy-bird-friendly-coffee-online>



Valentine's Day

Mary Jokela

Sweet Valentine's Day! Chocolate just might be a hallmark of this and other sweet traditions-- irresistible. And it accounts for more than \$20 billion per year in US sales alone.

Cocoa beans, chocolate's key ingredient, grow in tropical regions; roughly two-thirds are concentrated in West Africa's Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, where tropical forests are being replaced by cocoa crops. Cote d'Ivoire has lost more than 85 percent of its forest cover since 1960, mainly to keep up with high demand for cocoa. This crop is often cultivated through monocropping, which depletes the soil and leaves crops susceptible to disease and insect infestation. And even more pesticides and fungicides are polluting air and water.

This tragic deforestation destroys critical wildlife habitat—displacing species like forest elephants, chimpanzees, and pygmy hippos—and releases greenhouse gases. Worse still, egregious human rights abuses are often linked to cocoa production.

But consumers can choose produce sustainably sourced. By their choices they show global brands that they want products safe for forests, people and wildlife. Within reach is shade-grown cocoa, thriving amongst diverse crops and trees, boosting carbon sequestration, and water regulation, providing habitat for wildlife including birds, butterflies and

bats. This shade-grown cocoa agroforestry also can enhance cocoa farmers' livelihoods because growing multiple crops diversifies farmer income and improves food security.

The National Wildlife Federation has worked with other NGOs to rank global chocolate brands based on their social and environmental performance. Consider these three reported organic brands, sustainably sourced:

Endangered Species Chocolate (Oregon based)
<http://www.chocolatebar.com>

Equal Exchange <https://shop.equalexchange.coop/collections/chocolate>

Divine Chocolate <http://www.divinechocolate.com>

Main Chocolate Pollinator: Chocolate Midge © Ento Nation





Ring-Billed Gulls

BIRD OF THE WEEK

American Bird Conservancy



Ring-Billed Gulls
© Kathryn-Carlson

The widespread Ring-billed Gull is a familiar sight across most of North America. In adult plumage, this mid-sized gull is pure white with a pale gray back and wings (called the “mantle”), and black wingtips dotted with white. Its eyes, legs, and bill are yellow, the latter with the namesake black ring near the tip. A thin ring of red encircles each eye. During the winter, this gull shows dark brown streaking on its head and neck, and the red eye ring turns black.

The Ring-billed Gull belongs to the family Laridae, a group of predominantly coastal bird species that includes other gulls such as the Laughing Gull, terns (including the Royal Tern, and the Black Skimmer). Like other members of its family, this gull is highly gregarious, with nesting colonies and feeding flocks sometimes reaching thousands of individuals.

Although many people call these birds and their relatives “seagulls,” the Ring-billed Gull often defies that stereotype.

Ocean Optional

Although some Ring-billed Gulls live near coastlines, many spend the majority of their lives along inland waterways. This gull takes to fresh water as easily as to salt, and individuals can go their entire lives without dipping a foot in the sea. The “Ringbill” breeds on islands in rivers, lakes, and marshes, from the

prairies of Canada south to central California, and in the Great Lakes region, the Canadian Maritimes, and northern New England. Winter finds the gulls migrating to places with open water, often to the East and West Coasts, as well as to lakes and rivers of the south-central United States, into Mexico and the Caribbean.

Magnetic Migrant

The Ring-billed Gull is a mid- to long-distance migrant, moving south by day in large flocks, navigating by following physical landmarks, including major river valleys and coastlines. As is likely the case in many migratory bird species, this bird is also able to use Earth’s magnetic field to orient itself — basically having a built-in compass that guides it in the right direction as it migrates. Researchers have found that even two-day-old Ring-billed Gull chicks possess this ability. Some Ring-billed Gull populations are resident (nonmigratory), particularly those found near and around the Great Lakes.

Fast Food Gull

Like the American Crow and Common Raven, the Ring-billed Gull is an opportunistic feeder and scavenger. Many call this bird the “fast food” or “french fry” gull, as it’s often spotted hanging around restaurant dumpsters in search of a meal. It also frequents

landfills, parking lots, lawns, and agricultural fields, especially when tractors and other farm vehicles stir up worms and other invertebrates. In addition, this intrepid gull readily steals food from other birds and even unwary people. The Ring-billed Gull's varied diet doesn't stop at leftovers: Foraging on foot, in flight, or while sitting on the water's surface, it also feeds on fish, insects, crabs, bird nestlings and eggs, grain, and small rodents.

Model Parents

The Ring-billed Gull nests in large colonies, sometimes alongside other gull or tern species. Colonies typically are located on low-lying islands in freshwater lakes or marshes, places that provide protection from terrestrial predators.

Ring-billed Gulls are mostly monogamous, with pairs forming after the birds arrive at their breeding grounds — usually in the same colony where they hatched. Once mated, the breeding pair cooperates in defending territory, building a nest, incubating eggs, and feeding and raising their young. The Ring-billed Gull's nest is a large, bulky assemblage of twigs, leaves, mosses, lichens, and other vegetation, built in a scrape on the ground. There, the female lays her clutch of two to four light-colored, brown-spotted eggs. Within a few days of hatching, the chicks begin walking around the nest area. After about five weeks, they can fly.

As juveniles, Ring-billed Gulls have streaky brown plumage. They go through several more plumages before attaining full adult coloration in their third year. This multi-year plumage transformation, seen in other gulls as well, allows young birds time to learn the foraging skills they will need to successfully provision their own mate and young, which usually happens after reaching adult plumage.



Multi-year Plumage Transformation
© Mitch Waite Group



Ring-Billed Gull
© Mary Hindle

Spokane Christmas Bird Count 2021

A Brief Report by Alan McCoy

It was about 11° and cloudy when we started out a little before 8 am on January 2nd and my hands were colder than I expected. But my birding buddy Sandy Sollie always comes prepared so she gave me an extra pair of hand warmers to put in my mittens. Even though birds were hard to find in my area (west central Spokane), for the count circle as a whole we had above average numbers of individual birds (20,413 this year vs 18,500 avg) as well as a higher-than-average species count (82 this year vs 78 avg). And to top it off, we found 9 rare birds, including 3 never before seen on the Spokane CBC.

A first-year male Harlequin duck was found earlier in December playing (more likely hunting for food) in the rapids of the kayak take-out in the Little Spokane River. This cooperative bird stayed around and agreed to be photographed by Brenda Day, a member of Bill Siems' group in the Nine Mile Falls area. She said she took at least 4000 photos (well, maybe not that many) of the bird and the one she sent in is a fine photograph indeed.



Barred Owl
by Alicia O'Neill-Mertz

time of year in the case of the blackbird. In addition to these four rarities, the valley team headed by Tim O'Brien spotted 5 unusual species. They found a Peregrine Falcon and three Lesser Goldfinches, neither of which have ever been seen on a Spokane CBC. In addition, the Central Pre-mix Pond was again the location for a couple of rarities – a White-winged Scoter and a Greater Scaup. All of the valley group rarities are documented on eBird instead of the usual rare bird form used in previous years.

One of the more unusual sights for me, and for Kim Thorburn in her Five Mile area, were large flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds packed into the crowns of ponderosa pines in a feeding frenzy. At first glance we saw just a few blackbirds fly into the treetop. Then looking more closely, we found dozens of birds flicking around from branch to branch, presumably gorging on seeds. Moments later they would all blast out of the tree, swirl around for a short while and gather together to invade another pine. What fun! It almost made me forget my hands that had become cold again because I had somehow lost the hand warmers. It's a good thing that my head is attached.

For detailed information of the 2021 Spokane Christmas Bird Count, please visit our website: <https://www.audubonspokane.org/spokane-christmas-bird-count>. Also, you can get details about the Cheney CBC here: <https://www.audubonspokane.org/cheney-christmas-bird-count>.

The count is from December 14 to January 5; the count takes the year date for the December in which it occurs.



Harlequin Duck - 1st year male
by Brenda Day

Alicia O'Neill-Mertz found a Barred Owl nearby in the Painted Rocks area and, as you can see, managed to get a fantastic portrait of the bird. This is the first Barred Owl ever for the Spokane CBC! Don Goodwin's South Hill team found a Yellow-headed Blackbird and a Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker. Both of these birds have been seen in past years on our count, but they are still rare for our area or for this

Pygmy Owl Contributions

Spokane Audubon Society members who want to contribute to the Pygmy Owl newsletter can submit articles on, and photos of, birds and bird conservation issues to info@spokaneaudubon.org for publishing consideration.

The newsletter deadline is the 20th of the month for the next month's edition.

Details of the field trips will be found on our website <https://www.audubonspokane.org/upcoming-events>.



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

The Spokane Audubon Society advocates for birds and their habitats in the Inland Northwest and connects people with nature.

Visit our website:

<https://audubonspokane.org>

Spokane Audubon Society Membership Form

Annual Membership and Donation:

Student (under 21): \$10 per year _____

Individual: \$20 per year _____

Family: \$30 per year _____

Supporting: \$50 per year _____

Contributing: \$100 per year _____

Lifetime: \$500 _____

Other: _____

Annual memberships provide ongoing support for our many conservation and educational activities.

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: Alan McCoy
615 W Paradise Rd
Spokane WA 99224

Join us, or renew your membership, online at our website:

<https://www.audubonspokane.org>.

Click "Support Us" or "Join Us" We accept PayPal, credit/debit cards or Apple Pay.

Receiving duplicate newsletters? Errors or other changes to your email address?

Contact Alan McCoy at ahm2352@gmail.com or (509) 999-9512.