

Volume 20
Issue 8
April 2013

The Pygmy Owl

The Newsletter of the
Spokane Audubon Society



April 10th Program:

For the Love of Ants: Diversity in Superorganism, with Entomologist Laurel Hansen

Ants arose amidst the dinosaurs about a hundred million years ago and have multiplied and evolved into over 15,000 species, each of which has a unique life history and vital roles in their respective ecosystems. Ants share with many other Hymenoptera the altruistic behavior where individuals sacrifice their own reproductive abilities to assist their queens to reproduce. Workers are female and the male role in the colony becomes minor once the queen has mated.

Diversity among ant species reveals that some become totally agricultural, rearing specific fungal gardens; some become slave-makers, enslaving another species; some become pastoral by rearing other insects for food; some become builders, weaving not only a place to rear brood, but also outbuildings to house 'live-stock'. Ecologically ants are recyclers of plant and animal material and turn over more soil than earthworms. Other ants harvest seeds, store honey, guard their homes, form cemetery squads for their dead, hunt and prey upon other insects, use tools to build nests, provide lice control for specific animals, become important food sources for other animals, particularly birds, and have an amazing communication network within their own colony.

Ants are one of the first insects young children notice, yet this group of insects is poorly studied and much remains a mystery. Ants entertain and educate us as we witness them through music, literature, art, folklore, movies, advertisements, and toys. To many people, ants are exotic, strange, foreign, and fearsome. The diversity and strange habits of some of these ants will be presented and their role in ecology will be examined.

Laurel Hansen received her B.A. from Eastern Washington University in Natural Science and her M.S. and Ph. D. from Washington State University in Entomology. She taught elementary school and middle school before joining the faculty at Spokane Falls Community College, where she has taught for 45 years. Courses include General Biology, Invertebrate Zoology, Environmental Science, and Insects and People. Laurel has traveled to many countries in Central and South America, including the Galapagos, and also completed research on ants in Guam. Laurel is active in educational and training programs for urban pest management through professional organizations, Master Gardener programs and the pest management industry. She contributes to trade journals, publishes research, and has authored two books on ants and several extension bulletins.



Spokane Audubon's April program will be held at the *Riverview Retirement Community, Village Community Building*. Please join us at 7 p.m. for refreshments and friendly conversation.

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

*It's time for the
2014 Spokane Audubon Calendar Contest!
Contest guidelines on pg. 4.*

The Pygmy Owl

Volume 20, Issue 8 ~ April 2013

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

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Owl illustrations on pg. 1 and pg. 8 © Jan Reynolds.



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Letter from the Editor

Dear Fellow Auduboners,

If this issue of *The Pygmy Owl* had a theme, it would be **opportunity**. Spring is springing and we're all looking for opportunities to go outside. We've got a wide variety of field trips coming up in the next couple of months, and for those of you itching to travel a bit or explore another kind of activity, there are a couple of bird festivals around the state and a butterflying field trip coming up in May!

We've got other opportunities as well, closer to home, opportunities to volunteer. Joyce Alonso put together a list of short- and longer-term opportunities with several community environmental organizations, along with upcoming opportunities within our own club. Check out that list on pages six and seven.

Volunteering has become an important part of my life over the last year, bestowing benefits that I could not have foreseen. Last year at about this time, I started trekking out to the West Valley Outdoor Learning Center once a week to work with their raptors. Most of what I do as a raptor docent is scut work; I pick up mute, scrub walls and food mats, haul water, and prepare mice, rats and quail (aka *dinner*).

I could not love it more. The first time Kiwi, the one-winged Red-tailed Hawk, rested her good wing on my shoulder to steady herself, I nearly swooned. Even though at least 75% of what volunteers do at the OLC isn't the first thing we think of when we think of "fun," the other 25% is *so amazing* that it more than makes up for the not-as-fun stuff.

And here's the kicker: not only do I get to spend time with the birds, but I'm meeting and working with some of the most amazing people I've ever met, from experienced raptor handlers and wildlife biologists to high school students, an ultramarathoner, a high school biology student teacher and a sign-language interpreter. We never would have met were it not for our shared interest in the raptors.

I encourage everyone to take a look at Joyce's list, and find a project that suits you. Not only will you help meet an important need, you'll have a lot of fun and meet some amazing people along the way!

May Newsletter Deadline:

Friday, April 19

Send material to

carmen@floreo.com

Spokane Audubon Society Field Trip Reports

Bluebird Field Trip: March 16, 2013

by Marian Frobe

There were 12 of us this year, including two very enthusiastic young girls. The weather was good. We didn't get rained or snowed on, though it was colder than some of us thought it was going to be. We stopped at the pond east of the Pullman Highway, as usual, and the Wood Ducks were not there. However, as we were going into the pond area, Genevieve spotted a Bald Eagle nest in the tree across the stream. One was sitting on the nest and one was in the tree close by. A Belted Kingfisher was in residence at the pond, plus some really cooperative Song Sparrows. Paradise Prairie in general gave us fairly decent looks at most of the ducks, many American Robins, quite a number of Western Bluebirds, Tundra Swans, nuthatches and chickadees. We had one Horned Lark and one Red Crossbill. Birders in the back car saw some swallows when we were pulling onto the Cheney-Spokane Road; but, being in a place where I couldn't turn around easily, we just hoped for more later; of course, that never happened! We saw several flocks of displaying Wild Turkeys and several Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, and at least 3 more Bald Eagles. Two of those eagles were perched on the ground across Phileo Lake, one an adult and one an immature. One or two of our favorite stops seem to have been taken over by Common Ravens, unfortunately.

On our way to Turnbull NWR, just past Cossalman Lake, we found a Northern Shrike. The Refuge didn't yield anything new, although it was a welcome bathroom stop. From Turnbull we went our separate ways. Most of us had long finished our lunch by then, so we didn't spend much time there as it had taken us longer than usual to do this route. I had counted 40 species; but there were a few more that we heard only, or that only one person saw. Thanks to everyone who joined me.

Choose Your 2013 Green Big Day:

April 1 - May 31, 2013

Looking for an opportunity to go birding *and* go for a walk... or a bike ride... or do some paddling? Try a green Big Day!

The Green Big Day is a grass roots effort to promote green birding. Individuals or teams can participate. On a single day between April 1 and May 31, the individuals or teams use non-carbon consuming transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, kayaking, combination) to count as many species and birds as they can.

Participants can post their results at <http://greenbigday.org>.

Beginning Bird Walk at Turnbull: March 17, 2013

by Fran Haywood

Ah spring, always an adventure, just like birding. We started at the wildlife refuge with bright sunshine and 15 degrees cold. Brrr! The headquarters area was birdy, but they were all on the very top of the trees, making dark silhouettes in the glare. Thankfully they were singing, and we noted Western Bluebirds, House Finches, and Red Crossbills. Then a flock of Tree Swallows started feeding over the classroom building. Not a bad start, just standing in the parking lot, and a lesson in the importance of birding by ear.

We hiked out to Cheever Lake to see the swans. Everyone was thrilled and amazed that they were here, so close to home. The lone man in our group, Paul, who brought his wife and daughter, spotted a White-breasted Nuthatch and named many of the duck species while also finding several other birds for the group. Joining Paul's family were LeVonne and Vicki, Loni with her 6 year old daughter, Annika, who had her own child size binoculars and spotting scope that Mom helped her to use, and 6 members of a group called "Meetup-Ms. Adventures." These gals get together to try new outdoor adventures. The group included Janine, Karin, Kathleen, Sheron, Stephanie, and JoAnne.

We ambled around the Pine Lakes, took a break for snacks and carpoled around the driving loop. Duck species included: Mallard, Pintail, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Red-head, Green-winged Teal, and Ring-necked Duck. We also spotted Coot and a Pied-billed Grebe.

As we walked out to Cheever Lake, Western Meadowlarks were singing everywhere. One showed us how he staked his territory, by singing from perches in a circle around us, really showing off. Killdeer were calling, flying and strutting around and finally, Western Bluebirds showed themselves in full sun at eye level.

We added Song Sparrow, Marsh Wren, Great-blue Heron and a nice flock of Violet-Green Swallows that were feeding on an insects lifting from the lake, putting them practically at our feet. Several flocks of Pygmy Nuthatch were excitedly calling.

Everyone seemed to have fun, from the youngest to the oldest, and the day ended with a spectacular pair of Wood Ducks. This leader extends thanks to a terrific group with sharp eyes and ears and an appreciation of the marvels of Turnbull despite the chill.

*Cindy is on an adventure this month;
Sights & Sounds will return in May.*

2014 Spokane Audubon Calendar Photograph Contest Guidelines

Deadline: Friday, May 31

Eligibility Requirements

- Spokane Audubon Society member in good standing
- Electronically submits up to three 9.25"-wide and 6.75"-height digital photographs. The photographs shall not have the © symbol with the photographer's name or other inserted script.
- If photographer has photograph(s) selected, he/she maintains copyright and agrees to provide perpetual use of the photograph(s) to Spokane Audubon Society for the calendar and other promotional and educational purposes.

Call for Entries

- Photographers may submit entries starting May 1. The deadline is Friday, May 31.
- *No entries will be accepted after the deadline.*
- Unselected photographs from previous years will not be automatically submitted. The photographer may resubmit photos not previously selected for use.

Judging and Selection

- Selection will be made by a panel of three to five impartial judges, at least one of whom is a Spokane Audubon Society board member or committee chair. It is preferred that some panel members have moderately advanced bird identification skills and experience with bird photography.
- Photographers who submit entries cannot be judges.
- The bird must be focus of the photograph. Preference is given to unusual species and hard-to-see species or behaviors.
- Judging criteria are photo composition and quality. Submissions must comply with the size requirement.
- The panel will select 14 photographs for each calendar month and additional photographs that might be used in smaller form on the date pages.
- Following selection, entrants will be notified of the decisions.

Publication

- Each photograph will be published with the common name of the bird species and © with the name of the photographer.

SAS Field Trips, April & May

**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 1st 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 1st 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, especially 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@gmail.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'll stop at Reardan's Audubon Lake to look for waterfowl and shorebirds. We'll 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 20th 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.)

NOTE: Field Trip Schedule Change

The following field trip, originally scheduled for Saturday, May 12, **HAS BEEN CHANGED** to:

May 5, 2013, Sunday
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 April 28th if you plan to attend.

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 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 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at a site to be determined. 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 11. 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 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

Volunteer: YOU can make a difference!

by Joyce Alonso

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 nwbirdergmail.com or 939-4448 to sign up, for meeting times and 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 nwbirdergmail.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



Other Events of Interest to SAS Members:

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

April 26 - 28, 2013

<http://www.shorebirdfestival.com> for details

Leavenworth Spring BirdFest

May 16 - 19, 2013

<http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com> for details

Little Spokane Butterfly Walk

Saturday, May 25, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Bring a sack lunch, cameras, nets and close focusing binoculars to enjoy this 4-6 hour outing. Contact John Baumann (327-4827, or jpb6_18_56@yahoo.com) for details.

Many have said that "it takes a village to educate a child." I'd like to add: *It will take ALL of us to protect and preserve our planet, beginning in our own backyard of Eastern Washington.* If you're looking for opportunities to get involved, here are some suggestions as to how you and your family/friends/co-workers/neighbors can help this spring. (Companions aren't necessary, just a bit more fun...or you might meet some new ones.)

Most of these activities are done in collaboration with various community partner organizations.

**WA Department of Fish/Wildlife,
Bureau Land Mgmt, Spokane Audubon
partnership for Grouse Lek Monitoring:
March through May, 2013.**

Assist with data collection at a grouse lek in Lincoln County. Need basic birding skills, binoculars, outdoor gear for cold + boots. Training provided; some expenses reimbursed. Contact Kim Thorburn by e-mail at kthorburn@msn.com SOON!

**Inland Northwest Land Trust:
Saturday, April 13, from 10am to 1pm.**

Tree-planting on a conservation easement near Spangle. Contact Brooke at bnickolson@inlandnwlandtrust.org or 328-2939.

**Dishman Hills Conservancy
Earth Day 2013 Service Project:**

Sunday, April 21, from noon to 4pm (check-in at 11:5am)

Help build trails, plant and thin trees, remove litter, etc. Contact: www.dishmanhills.org for specifics.

**Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge Community Work Party:
Saturday, May 11th, from 9 to noon. Potluck to follow.**

Help plant new trees, build fences, etc. Contact: Sandy Rancourt at 235-723 or sandy_rancourt@fws.gov for more information.

Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area: two possibilities

1. Fence Repair—Have muscles, fence building capabilities? Can you lift 25 lbs? Up to 4 volunteers per session needed by mutual scheduling between May 20th and June 29th. to repair and replace fence damaged by a 2012 fire. Contact Mike Finch, mikefinch@dfw.wa.gov to sign up.
2. Citizen Science initiative to conduct long-term Ecological Integrity Monitoring on Swanson Lake Wildlife Area site(s). You need a digital camera or a smart phone, plus transportation to the Wildlife area. You will receive training. Contact: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/>.

Spokane Audubon Volunteer Opportunities:

Volunteers are sought for a variety of opportunities, many requiring just your cheerful, willing presence:

1. Help staff booths/hand out info at local fairs, etc. Example. May 18th at the Turnbull NWR 2nd Annual Floods, Flowers, and Feathers Festival;
2. help the education team with presentations at local schools and clubs;
3. consider serving as Spokane Audubon's program coordinator;
4. become a board member (about a 2-hour time commitment for 9 months). (No penalty for meetings missed for good cause!)

I'm sure I've missed something. If YOU know about a worthy project, please let us know... soon! Look for more suggestions in the next issue.

Consider volunteering. It's good for you and good for our community. Remember:

If not you... then who?

Join us on May 8th
for a program featuring

Jami Ostby-Marsh, education director at the West Valley Outdoor Learning Center.

Jami will speak about the role
live raptors play in the OLC's
environmental education programs.

*The May program will feature
a special visitor
from the mews of the OLC!*

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.



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April 10th Program:
**For the Love of Ants:
 Diversity in Superorganism,**
 with Entymologist Laurel Hansen
 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>

The Big Year Event at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge

THE BIG YEAR EVENT

**Share your Turnbull
 National Wildlife Refuge
 wildlife observations with
 others by participating in
 The Big Year event!**



Inspired by the informal birding contest featured in Mark Obmascik's book, *The Big Year*, Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge is hosting **The Big Year Event**.

Refuge visitors earn chances to win prizes simply by reporting their Turnbull wildlife sightings using a convenient, easy-to-use, online observation form. The primary focus of the year-long event is participation—connecting people with nature—so anyone who submits an observation has a chance of winning one of the many prizes given away monthly. The more observations you submit, the more chances you have of winning a prize. And it's more than just birds... any wildlife observation can be submitted.

The event also features a report on its website to provide visitors a list of what's being observed on the refuge. Go to the Visitor Activities page on the Turnbull website (www.fws.gov/refuge/turnbull) to participate, or pick up The Big Year Event flyer available at the Turnbull Visitor Use Area Entrance Kiosk.

This event was made possible by the US Fish & Wildlife Service's *Connecting People With Nature Program*, with additional funding from the Friends of Turnbull NWR non-profit organization.