

The Pygmy Owl

Volume 31
Issue 8
Apr 2023

The Newsletter of the
Spokane Audubon Society



April 12, 2023 7:00 p.m.

This meeting will be a “hybrid” – you can attend in-person at the Finch Arboretum, 3404 W Woodland Blvd. (off Sunset Hwy., just west of downtown Spokane), in the Ponderosa Room of the Woodland Center, or you can attend virtually on-line via Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89338529945?pwd=b29FWVZLeGE2b0EwU2NCUkhhbURhdz09>

Meeting ID: 893 3852 9945 Passcode: 366961 See our hybrid meeting protocol on page 7.

Helping Birds of Prey

presented by the WSU Raptor Club

Washington State University (WSU) veterinary science and zoology students in the WSU Raptor Club will bring a couple of Red-tailed Hawks and a Northern Saw-whet Owl to help tell the story about the role of birds of prey in ecosystems and the threats they face in the wild.



Sawyer the Sawwhet Owl (WSU)

The birds are part of a collection of about a dozen injured and non-releasable “educational ambassadors” at the Stauber Raptor Facility on the WSU campus in Pullman, WA. The facility and the club were founded in 1981 by Dr. Erik Stauber, a former WSU professor and veterinarian, who specialized in raptors, plus a group of volunteers, after an injured Red-tailed Hawk was brought to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and deemed

non-releasable. Named “Charlie,” the male Redtail had been hit by a car and suffered shoulder injuries that rendered him unable to fly. He died in 2014 at the age of 33, making him the oldest-documented Red-tailed Hawk.

Despite federal and state protections, many raptors continue to suffer because of deliberate or incidental human activities. These birds frequently are shot or

poisoned, injured by power lines, and struck by vehicles. Also, their natural habitats are often at risk.

The club is dedicated to raptor conservation and educating the public about these magnificent birds. Student club members and other volunteers take care of the hawks, falcons, owls and eagles under the supervision of veterinarians in the Wildlife and Exotics Ward at the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. They provide rehabilitation care and shelter to sick and injured raptors with the goal of returning them to the wild. When a raptor cannot be released because of extensive injuries, it sometimes becomes part of the team that provides educational programs for schools and groups like ours.

Brenda, the dark morph Red-tailed Hawk (WSU)



Dakota, Red-tailed Hawk (WSU)



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

Spokane Audubon Society

P.O. Box 9820

Spokane, WA 99209-9820

Owl illustrations on pg. 1, 11 and 12 © Jan Reynolds.



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Madonna Luers

Membership Report

by Alan McCoy

Update of Members' Status February 21, 2023 through March 20, 2023:

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

Individual: Dian Torphy, Steve Matsko, Bonnie Mandel, Karen Hood, Elizabeth Fitzgerald

Family: Jacquelynn Kuhn, Peggy O'Connell, Jeffrey Colburn

Many thanks to our **returning members**:

Individual: Julie Wittwer, Richard Waldt, Theodora Sallee, Lois Strand

Family: Pamela Smith, Richard & Sandy Sollie, Rich & Sharon Leon, Charlene & Jerry Michael, Jim Hudlow

Supporting: Thomas Anderson, Marianne & Mahlon Dalley, Chris & Wilma Flanagan, Roger Rouleau

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>.



Spotted Towhee

© Alan McCoy

Field Notes

Bird Sightings for the Inland Northwest, compiled by Jon Isacoff

Finally, something that looks and feels more or less like Spring is here! It's been a long, snowy late winter, which seems to either have had dampening or no effect on bird activity. Overall, however, winter and early spring have been slow so far, so this month's report is on the thin side. That said, we should near peak waterfowl migration by the time this is sent out. Already some passerines such as swallows and Savannah Sparrows have begun to show up in the region. Below are the noteworthy sightings:

Greater White-fronted Goose: Bonner's Ferry (3/15-SE)

Snow Goose: Cave Lake (2/23-RB)

Blue-winged Teal: Saltese Flats (3/15-TO)

Long-tailed Duck: Pringle Park/Hope (3/10-eBird)

Anna's Hummingbird: Spokane Valley (3/5-MC)

Short-billed Gull: Nine Mile Recreation Area (3/5-TO)

Glaucous Gull: Harrison (3/7-eBird)

Blue Jay: Bonner's Ferry (3/15-JR)

Lesser Goldfinch: Paradise Prairie (3/9-AM)

White-Throated Sparrow: Colfax (2/23-eBird);
Wawawai County Park (3/5-BM); Pullman
(3/15-eBird)

Harris's Sparrow: University of Idaho (3/7-CS)

Fox Sparrow: Pullman (2/28-eBird)



Blue-winged Teal
© Jay McGowan



Long-tailed Ducks
© Jay Ovsiovitch



Blue Jay
© Danial Jauvin

Observers: RB-R.J. Baltierra; RyB-Ryan Bart; DB-Donna Bragg; BB-Ben Bright; MC-Marlene Cashen; JC-Jeffrey Colburn; FC-Forest Corcoran; RC-River Corcoran; WC-Warren Current; RDC-Rich Del Carlo; KD-Kas Dumroese; TD-Tim Durnell; SE-Shannon Ehlers; Jacob Elonen; CG-Cierra Gove; LH-Lindell Haggin; JH-John Hanna; CH-Cameron Heusser; JI-Jon Isacoff; SJ-Steve Joyce; BK-Bob Kemp; DK-Dave Koehler; GL-Greg Lambeth; TL-Terry Little; CiM-Cindy McCormick; CM-Curtis Mahon; MM-Mason Maron; AM-Alan McCoy; BM-Ben Meredyk; NM-Nancy Miller; WM-Will Merg; TO-Tim O'Brien; NP-Neil Paprocki; JR-Jethro Runco; SS-Sandy Schreven; CS-Charles Swift; NT-Norma Trefry; AT-Andrew Thomas; DW-Doug Ward; JW-John Wolff; MW-Michael Woodruff

2024 Spokane Audubon Calendar Photograph Contest Guidelines

Submission Period: April 15 – May 15, 2023

Submit photos to: calendarspokaneaudubon@gmail.com

Requirements

- All photographs must be submitted by a Spokane Audubon Society member in good standing (i.e., a current member).
- A maximum of four photographs per person can be submitted.
- Photographs must be submitted electronically via email to calendarspokaneaudubon@gmail.com
- Each photograph must be submitted in jpeg format, be in landscape orientation with dimensions of 9.25” wide by 6.75” high, have a resolution of at least 300 pixels per inch, and be no larger than 10MB in size.
- Submitted photographs shall not have the © symbol with the photographer’s name or other inserted script.
- For images selected for the calendar, the photographer 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.
- All photos must be of wild birds and must be taken in Eastern Washington (east of Cascades) or Northern Idaho. Please include the species name(s) and location where each photograph was taken.

Call for Entries

Photographers may submit entries starting Friday, April 15th. The deadline is Sunday, May 15th. **No entries will be accepted after that date.**

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. At least some panel members will have moderately advanced bird identification skills and experience with bird photography.
- Photographers who submit entries will not be judges.
- The bird in a natural setting must be the focus of the photograph. Preference is given to interesting behaviors, unusual or hard-to-see species, and eye-catching compositions. Habitat and artificial features should not overpower nor draw attention away from the bird(s).
- Judging criteria are photo composition, technical excellence, artistic merit, and overall impact. Normal processing is allowed but over-processed or altered photos will be rejected.
- Submissions must comply with the specified size requirements.
- Following selection, all 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.

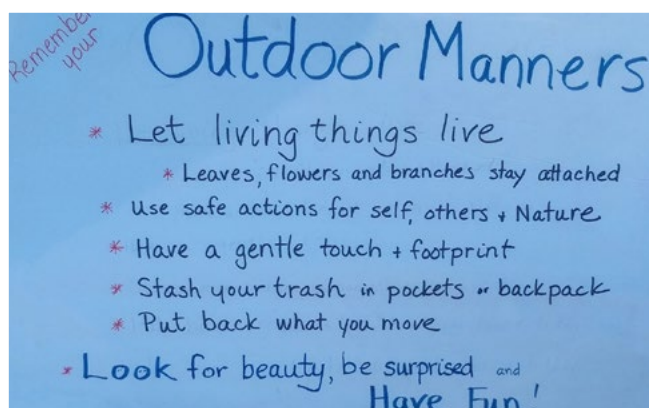
Special Note: Photographers whose images are selected for the calendar may need to provide a TIFF version of the photograph for printing purposes.

Please note the new email address

calendarspokaneaudubon@gmail.com

Think Like a Bird

by Wanda Peters



On a wintry, cold Saturday in February, nine adults and one 10-year-old bravely set out on a “think like a bird” walk. We met in the parking lot of the 291 Lake Spokane boat launch where a Great Blue Heron was greeting us right off the dock. The main purpose of this outing was not to see and identify birds, but to try to gain a different perspective and look at the habitat along the Spokane River from a bird’s point of view. It wasn’t easy to leave our inclination to name or want to name the birds we saw. To help us think like a bird, we each got a calendar picture of a local bird with information on what it needed for food, nest building and habitat. We set out on our walk looking not only for birds but for food, nesting places and materials and cover. Of course, since we weren’t looking, more birds than expected appeared; a Northern Shrike, Black-capped Chickadees, Nuthatches, Bald Eagles, (one immature), Mallards, Common Mergansers (and later a Hooded), Belted Kingfishers, and more.

Not only did we need to find the food we needed to survive and enough of it, but we needed to make it past some of the many challenges facing birds as they go about their lives. This part took some imagination, but for the most part everyone was able to avoid the fierce predator (a stuffed kitty), power lines (ropes between trees), crashing into windows (a frame with plastic) and the temptation of the colorful plastic trash. We took time to just listen, to watch and observe. There was discussion, storytelling, sharing of information, and laughter (some got to be rather competitive in getting food).

As we wrapped up the walk with a bit of what it was like to Think Like a Bird, some commented about becoming more aware, more observant, with gratitude for the public land that is protected from development, and for the chance to be outside with others.

Back from the walk, and joining a photographer with a large camera, a few of us got to witness two Belted Kingfishers doing what we presumed to be their courtship behaviors. It was a nature moment that we felt privileged and honored to witness. It may not have been “prime birding time” but it was certainly prime time to enjoy the beauty of a winter day, the company of others and to “Think Like a Bird”

Belted Kingfisher
© Sharon Lindsay



Hooded Mergansers
© Bea Harrison



Native Plants for Birds: It's A Different Strategy

by Jim Cubie

jimcubie@birdfriendlyyards.com

I am a strong supporter of native plants for birds. The native plant promotion system we developed in our club has been very successful – 45% of members have planted native plants. It is also at this site: <https://ornithologycenter.com/freeplans/> [Doug Tallamy warns that native plants can create “ecological traps.”](#) Doug calls on those of us who love native plants to protect the birds and insects we attract to our yards. The “central point is all we need to emphasize; it makes no sense to landscape ecologically if you are going to kill birds through window strikes. So, the goal has to be to tie the two areas of conservation together. Protect your windows, control cats AND use keystone plants.

However, building a bird friendly yard with native plants is different than planting native generally.

The worst decision you can make in your yard for birds is to remove native trees and shrubs and plant a pollinator garden.



Gray Catbird

© Michael J. Hopiak

It comes down to this:

- If you are planting for birds, the goal must be to provide the maximum amount of native green foliage. (Biomass)
- If you do not start with a yard that is safe for birds, the native plants will not increase bird populations.

- We cannot stem the drastic declines in bird populations (30% since 1970's) unless we both reduce bird deaths and add to the bird population. “You can't fill the tub unless you plug the drain.”

It's About Biomass

Native plants are so important to birds because, as Doug Tallamy has shown, they provide far more food for birds than introduced foliage. As Doug wrote me in an email, “all people want to talk about is pollinators. Birds need the native trees and shrubs which provide the biomass they need.”

The primary food that adult birds feed their young are Lepidoptera— moth and butterfly larvae. These larvae eat leaves. Since trees and shrubs provide far more leaves than garden plants, they provide far more food for nestlings. (Bird parents must find 8,000 insects to fledge a nest, and more yet to feed the juvenile birds.) Even hummers acquire half of their food eating insects. (Meat eating predators and some seed eating birds are not dependent on insects to feed their young.)

The scientific basis for the advocacy of planting native to increase the bird population is found in the research of Desiree Narango, who makes this point as follows:

Given that the majority of terrestrial birds rely on insects as a primary food source for reproduction and survival, the persistence of insectivorous bird populations is inextricably linked to insect conservation.

Narango's research shows that increasing the native portion of woody vegetation to 70% provides enough food so that two more nestlings survive per nest. Two more nestlings per nest can make a big difference because it can make possible a sustainable population (i.e. stop decline). This is the case because, as noted above, native plant biomass provides much more food the parents to feed their young. Garden plants, by way of comparison, create very little biomass. That is why Narango's research was based on the measurement of woody vegetation.

Nestling survival determines whether bird populations rise or fall. Providing native berries from introduced sources for adult birds to eat is valuable. However, if more nestlings are not surviving, the berries will not increase bird populations. As Narango notes:

Therefore, our study suggests that nonnative plants do not provide enough arthropod prey during reproduction to sustain bird populations, making any post reproductive benefits from the production of fruit or seed irrelevant

A Dangerous Yard is Not Bird Friendly

Planting native for birds is different for a second reason. If your yard is not safe for birds, increasing native vegetation will not increase the bird population. As Dr. Tallamy has stated: “(The) “central point we all need to emphasize: it makes no sense to landscape ecologically if you are going to kill birds through window strikes. So the goal has to be to tie the two areas of conservation together. Protect your windows, control cats AND use keystone plants. The reason is that windows are part of your yards. Home windows kill an average of two birds per year – and about twice that number if one feeds birds. In the feeding range of a pair of chickadees there may be 10 or more homes. Thus the deaths caused by windows in the feeding range of a pair of chickadees may be about 20 birds. Narango’s research shows that Increasing native plants provides enough food so that two more nestlings survive per nest. If the windows in the yard are killing from 20 birds in a bird’s feeding range, adding two more nestlings in a yard cannot increase bird populations. Of course, cat predation is even worse. Also, more vegetation will attract more birds to the vicinity of a home, resulting in more window collision deaths.

The basic message is this:

- To increase bird life, **bird parents must feed their nestlings 1000’s of insects.** — only native trees and shrubs provide that food.
- A yard that is dangerous for birds is not bird friendly.
- If you do not prevent bird deaths caused by windows and cats, native plants will not increase bird populations.

Hybrid Presentation Protocol

We want to include everyone in our meetings, whether you are attending in person or via Zoom.

Our location this month is at Finch Arboretum. We must be out of the room by 9 pm and it will take about 15-30 minutes for us to pack up our equipment and to clean up the room. Thus, our presentation will be from 7:00 to 8:30 pm to allow us to respect their schedule.

Whether you are attending in person or via Zoom, we ask that you arrive 10-15 minutes early (about 6:45 pm). This will allow for our Zoomers to get admitted to the meeting by the Zoom host, and for everyone to have a chance to “meet and greet” each other.

For those in the room please mute your phone to avoid possible feedback with our audio equipment.

Some of our speakers want to hold all questions to the end of the presentation, while others don’t. When those in the room have a question, please just raise your hand. Our speaker will call on you. The speaker will repeat your question into their lapel microphone so that Zoomers can hear your question as well as the speaker’s answer.

When a Zoomer wants to ask a question, either use the chat feature or unmute yourself and “raise your hand” Zoom style and wait for our Zoom host to call on you.

If you cannot hear someone, please speak up to let us know.

Please be patient with us as we learn how to host a successful hybrid meeting.

Your feedback is welcome. Please let us know what worked and what didn’t so that we can improve your experience at our programs.

2023 Annual Meeting and Board Elections

Our annual meeting, as outlined in the Spokane Audubon Society bylaws, is usually in May. In addition to our monthly program, we will vote for our board of directors and officers. Directors and officers serve a two-year term. If interested in being considered for a board position, please send an email indicating your interest to spokaneaudubon@gmail.com. Include your name and contact information. The preliminary slate of officers and board members follows:

President: Alan McCoy
Vice President: Lisa Langelier
Treasurer: Jenny Emerson
Secretary: Madonna Luers

Directors: Bob Cashen, Marlene Cashen, Bea Harrison, Jim Harrison, and Gary Lee. Potential new board members include Mike Borysewicz and Tina Penny.

Mike is interested in serving to promote bird conservation and education in the region. He recently retired from the Forest Service where he served as a district wildlife biologist on the Colville National Forest. He also worked on forests in Western Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

Tina would like to serve on the board to do more for an organization that she is passionate about. Her background includes avid birder, hiker, raptor docent, bird of prey rescuer, environmental educator, National Park Ranger, Natural Resource Specialist Ranger, and Air Force veteran.

All 11 of these members will be on the slate for election this year, plus any others who may be nominated before the meeting. Our bylaws require that we have “no fewer than eight board members, which shall include all SAS elected officers and additional elected directors.”

On May 10, 2023, members of SAS will vote for these positions. Nominations also will be considered from members attending the May meeting.

If you are a member and are unable to attend and want to vote, you may send a written proxy to spokaneaudubon@gmail.com or to PO Box 9820 Spokane, WA 99209-9820.

Calendar Creator Needed

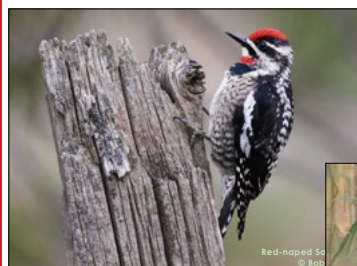
by Lisa Langelier

For the past five years Joanne Powell has created our annual calendar, featuring the wonderful photographs taken by our Spokane Audubon Society members. She will continue to serve as editor of our newsletter, The Pygmy Owl, but wants to retire from calendar creation.

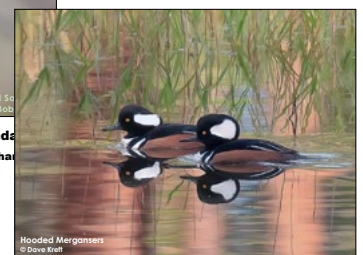
We are looking for a volunteer who may be interested in filling this role. The work requires 2-3 hours a week starting in May, when photographers submit their images, and continues until the final edits are made in July or August.

The previous calendars have been created in Adobe InDesign. There are templates for many parts of the calendar, but the ability to handle the new photos, both small and large, is critical. Attention to detail is one of the most important skills as a calendar has many moving parts (number grid, photo input, forms to keep track of the entries, etc.). A more detailed analysis will be provided, with step-by-step information when needed.

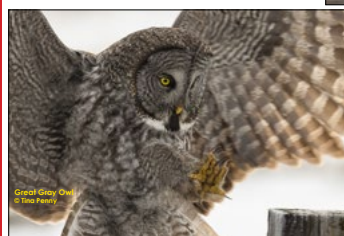
If you are interested in helping with this important task or would like more information about it, please contact Lisa Langelier at calendarspokaneaudubon@gmail.com



2021 Spokane Audubon Society Calendar
Birds of Eastern Washington and the Idaho Panhandle



Hooded Mergansers
© Dave Klett



Great Gray Owl
© Tina Penny

2023 Spokane Audubon Society Calendar
Birds of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho

Save-A-Bird Training

by Bea Harrison and Tina Penny



A training day was held for new and existing Save-A-Bird members on Saturday Feb 11, 2023, at the West Valley School District Outdoor Learning Center. Eighteen new and existing members attended, including the instructors, Bea Harrison and Tina Penny.

Bea and Tina gave slideshows that informed the group on how Save-a-Bird got started, our goals, and protocol. We talked about the importance of helping the caller over the phone, without making a trip to a vet or WSU ourselves. We also went over proper bird capture and handling techniques, laws protecting birds, supplies needed and the importance of communicating with each other and recording our data.

Tina brought out Stanley, the Harris Hawk that lives at Outdoor Learning Center and demonstrated some techniques for large bird capture. She also demonstrated how to build a baby Great-Horned Owl temporary nest box and demonstrated how to attach it to a tree. Supplies and cardboard pet carriers were handed out.

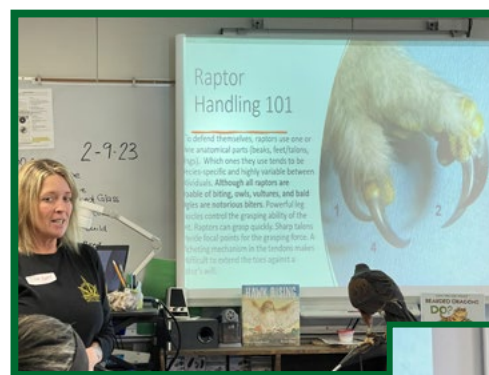
As an added bonus, this get-together allowed some networking that resulted in streamlining our operation to make it easier for everyone to have access to instructions, maps, and contact information for members, veterinarians, and other experts. Some of the new volunteers enthusiastically agreed to help modernize the process. As a result, Save-a-Bird now has an online form for members to use, that generates an

interactive map and spreadsheet and an online Google Docs folder to house important information and instructions.

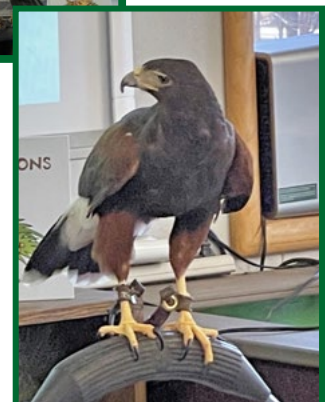
Another training day for team volunteers new to birding is planned for April 1s; it will focus on identifying local birds. Basic bird identification helps team members determine what species a reporting party actually is seeing as in need of help, which can determine whether action is taken since the team does not handle non-native birds like starlings, English sparrows, or pigeons. Knowing the species also helps the volunteer prepare to handle a bird on site and to make arrangements with veterinarians or wildlife rehabilitators.

Team member Barbara Lawson made arrangements for a tour of the WSU Wildlife and Exotics Ward on the Pullman campus on April 14 so that our volunteers can see how birds they transport to them are handled by veterinarians and students. Planning for a convoy of car-poolers to make the trip from Spokane to Pullman for the tour is underway.

Baby owl season should start any minute now and the wind is really blowing outside, so hopefully we are ready to hit the ground running.



Tina Penny
© Bea Harrison



Stanley
© Bea Harrison

Citizen Science Data Employed in Washington State Project

by Bea Harrison

Using data collected by local volunteers, Washington State wildland managers have created a plan to conserve native bumblebees. The Xerces Society, in partnership with state and federal wildlife agencies, is taking action to manage lands to ensure that bumblebees can thrive. Bumblebees are essential pollinators for both wild and cultivated plants.

Washington is the first state to implement a statewide conservation plan using the data collected by the Pacific Northwest Bumblebee Atlas.

Several Spokane Audubon members participated in gathering data for this effort. Government agencies who are coordinating with the Xerces Society on this effort include the US Bureau of Land Management Oregon, Washington State Offices, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the US Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Land managers now will be able to use information gathered by this citizen science endeavor to take action to benefit eight species of bumblebees, in areas identified by the project. These actions will improve habitat that bumblebees rely on for foraging, nesting, and over-wintering.

Insects, including bumblebees are declining worldwide. The vast majority of bats, birds, and freshwater fish depend on insects for food. Causes for insect decline are not totally understood, but insecticides, especially the widely-used group of neonicotinoid pesticides are deadly to bees and other insects and birds.

By protecting bumblebees, we also will be protecting these other animals. Click here for more information: <https://xerces.org/blog/washington-state-becomes-first-to-adopt-statewide-strategy-to-protect-bumble-bees>



Photo by Bea Harrison

SAS Outreach is popular!

Spokane Audubon Society (SAS) often is asked to be part of community outreach and education events to raise environmental awareness. We're so popular, in fact, that sometimes we have to turn down invitations to participate.

This Spring we'll be helping with several Earth Day events – Reardan High School Science Program's field trips to the Reardan Audubon Lakes Wildlife Area on April 21, the Hope for Creation Conference at St John's Episcopal Cathedral on April 22, and the grand opening of the Doris Morrison Learning Center at Saltese Flats on April 22.

We're also considering participation in an Arbor Day celebration at Finch Arboretum on April 29 and the 50th anniversary of Spokane Expo's Environmental Stewardship in 2024.

We can use volunteers for all these and other events. In fact, the board recently discussed the need for an ongoing Volunteer Coordinator. Please contact President Alan McCoy at ahm2352@gmail.com or 509-999-9512 about your interest in helping out.



Attract Birds, Not Bears

By Madonna Luers



The “Birder’s Guide to Understanding Bears” presentation at our meeting last month by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) bear and cougar specialist Rich Beausoleil was full of good information about black bears and how we birders who live in “bear country” (most of Washington!) can help prevent problems with them.

Rich left us with a supply of “BearWise” bulletins that we’ll be distributing at several upcoming outreach events. Since black bears are coming out of their winter hibernation dens now and are looking for food, here are some things to consider from those bulletins and Rich’s presentation:

Bird feeders are bear magnets. So many calories, so little work, so easy to find. Teaching bears to rely on people for food creates big problems with no easy solutions.

Bird seed to a bear is like fast food to us – so many more quick and easy calories than their natural wild food like grass and berries – that they are easily drawn to bird feeders where too often they can become a potentially dangerous problem.

Bears go into hibernation dens in October and come out by April, so if you feel strongly about maintaining bird feeding stations, stick with those winter months only and **don’t feed year-round**. If you feed birds when bears are active, pick up fallen seed and bring feeders in daily before dark and store bird feed inside or in a bear-resistant container.

You don’t have to choose between watching birds and being BearWise. Just think outside the bird feeder, and you’ll discover how easy it is to invite birds without attracting bears.

Instead of bird feeders, create and maintain a natural oasis for birds with plants that provide natural bird food like sunflowers, coneflowers, asters, marigolds, and tubular flowers that produce nectar.

Most fruit, nut and berry-producing plants will attract bears, so avoid planting them if bears are common in your area. Even if bears are only occasional visitors, plant well away from the house, pick fruit quickly (before ripe and falling to the ground), and consider electric fencing around them.

Providing fresh water for drinking and bathing is more attractive to birds than food and avoids potential bear problems.

Providing safe places for birds to nest, like leaving snags or setting up nest boxes, attracts birds, not bears.

One of the benefits of kicking the bird feeder habit at is that a more natural habitat will attract a much greater diversity of species year-round. Eliminating bird feeders also eliminates problems with cats, snakes, skunks, mice, rats, raccoons, and birds of prey; it also reduces the spread of diseases between feeder birds.

Those of us who also have dogs need to remember that drawing bears to our property through bird feeders, unsecured garbage, pet food left outside, or other attractants can result in conflicts with our dogs. Many dogs will bark at or chase a bear, which will feel threatened or cornered if it can’t escape up a tree. If a bear turns on a dog, the dog may run back to you with a bear on its tail. More than half of bear incidents with people in Washington involve a dog. Over half of those incidents resulted in human injury and almost half resulted in a dog being injured or killed.



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.



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

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