

Volume 23
Issue 9
May 2016

The Pygmy Owl

The Newsletter of the
Spokane Audubon Society



May 11th Program:
Twenty Days in Sabah,
featuring Spokane Audubon's Ann Brinly



**2017 Spokane Audubon
Calendar Photo Contest**

Submission period begins May 1.
See page 4 for complete guidelines.



*California Quail, from the
2014 calendar, by Lindell Haggin*

Join us on May 11th for a presentation by Ann Brinly about her trip to Borneo. In October 2015, Ann had the opportunity to spend some time in Sabah (in the northern part of the country). In the sweltering rainforest and up on the cool ridges of Mt Kinabalu, her group was able to see nearly 300 species of birds, along with many mammals—including Orangutans and Pygmy Elephant—and reptiles. Many of these creatures have no counterpart here in the Western Hemisphere, which made for an exciting and educational journey.

The first bird moment Ann remembers was as a six-year-old walking to school in rural Tennessee, when she was enraptured by the bright yellow goldfinch feeding in the fields along her route. It was not until the late 1990's and a trip to Concan, Texas that she got hooked on birding. Since then she has been able to travel to several parts of our country and some foreign countries to enjoy the birds and all the rest nature has to offer.

Ann spent several years in Texas, volunteering at the local nature center and tracking Attwater's Prairie Chickens in nearby Galveston County. While here in Eastern Washington, she has spent time at Swanson Lakes tracking Sage-Grouse and Sharp-tailed Grouse and doing lek surveys. She has also been involved in the Sage-brush Songbird Survey with SAS and the Waterfowl Survey at Reardon ponds.

Photos courtesy of Ann Brinly.

*The May 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 friendly conversation.

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

Announcements:

Note the following ***NEW*** Dates for
upcoming field trips:

May 7, 2016, Saturday

West Plains Early Migrant Trip

Leader: Alan McCoy

May 15, 2016, Saturday

Slavin Ranch Wetland Trip

Leader: Alan McCoy

June 20 - June 22, 2016

Monday - Wednesday

Conconully State Park Camping Trip

Leaders: Jim & Bea Harrison

See pages 5 - 7 for details.

5th Annual Flower, Floods and Feathers Festival, Turnbull NWR

in combination with the
City of Cheney's Mayfest

Saturday, May 14

See page 2 for details.

The Pygmy Owl

Volume 23, Issue 9 ~ May 2016

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

Spokane Audubon Society
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Owl illustrations on pg. 1 and pg. 8 © Jan Reynolds.



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Alan McCoy spokaneaudubon.org



**5th Annual
Floods, Flowers & Feathers
Saturday, May 14
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Cost: FREE**

Turnbull will be hosting its 5th Annual Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival in combination with the City of Cheney Mayfest.

Enjoy spring by experiencing and learning about the exceptional wildlife, habitats, and geology of the unique Channeled Scablands landscape. Come join the fun in downtown Cheney and at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge.

* Please note that the majority of our partners who had information and activity booths at the Refuge in previous years, will now be located in downtown Cheney.*

Several activities requiring natural habitats and open space will be hosted on the refuge including nature hikes, bird walks, songbird banding, tours, live raptors, aquatic invertebrates and more. (Activities by Spokane Audubon or featuring SAS members include bird walks with Marian Frobe or Fran Haywood, a photography walk with Chuck Kerkering, and the ever popular "Find that Bird" scavenger hunt.)

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/FFF-Festival> (Turnbull NWR page) for event schedules and information.

Some activities require reservations. Contact Friends of Turnbull (online at <http://www.fotnwr.org/fff2016activities.html>) to reserve your spot.

Plan on taking a walk on the "wild" side, and come join us for a wonderful spring day outdoors in this remarkable environment.

The deadline for June's Pygmy Owl is

Thursday, May 26st

Please send any content to

carmen@floreo.com

Sights & Sounds

Bird Sightings for the Inland Northwest, compiled by Jon Isacoff

Spring is here and it came early and hot! Migrant arrivals are as much as two weeks ahead of schedule, particularly the barrage of early hummingbirds. As of this writing the first warblers and flycatchers are coming in. Bugs are hatching everywhere, making lovely food for the insectivores. The next month is the big push!

SNOW GOOSE: Calispell Lake (4/8-TL); Philleo Lake (4/10-JI); Sprague (4/12-JI); Willow Lake (4/16-SJ)

ROSS'S GOOSE: Calispell Lake (4/8-TL); Sprague (4/12-JI); Reardan (4/19-JI)

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: Spokane (4/6-JI); Cheney (4/10-JI); Sprague (4/12-JI and 4/14-TL)

TRUMPETER SWAN: Valley (3/25-JI and TL); Calispell Lake (4/8-TL);

EURASIAN WIGEON: Newman Lake (3/22-SJ and 3/26-TL); Rock Lake (4/1-RB); Swanson Lakes (3/23-CL); Slavin Ranch (4/6-JI); Calispell Lake (4/8-TL)

HARLEQUIN DUCK: Coeur D'Alene (4/17-WY)

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: Spokane (3/21-JF)

GYRFALCON: Sheep Lake (4/14- fide Fran Haywood)

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Early reports: Dusty (3/29-TL); Calispell Lake (4/8-TL); Philleo Lake (4/10-JI); Swanson Lakes (4/12-TW); Sprague (4/12-JI); Eloika Lake (4/17-TL); Cheney (4/18-SS)

AMERICAN AVOCET: Early reports: Cow Lake (4/14-TL); Eloika Lake (4/17-TL)

DUNLIN: Davenport (3/22-JI); Swanson Lakes (3/23-CL and 4/7-GB); Sheep Lake (4/3-RB)

BLACK-CHINNED X CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD HYBRID: Moscow (4/8-BB)

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: Very early reports: Spokane (4/2-TW); Spokane (4/5-DH); Colville (4/7-WC); Viola (4/8-NM); Sandpoint (4/9-RDC)

RUFIOUS HUMMINBIRD: Very early reports: Cheney (4/9-GF); Sandpoint (4/10-RDC); Colville (4/13-JoA)

WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER: Springdale (3/25-TL)

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER: Springdale (3/25-TL)

FOX SPARROW: Davenport (4/9-CM)

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Coeur D'Alene (3/18-WN)

Observers: JA-Jim Acton; JoA-Joel Anderson; DB-Don Baker; MB-Missy Baker; RB-R.J. Baltierra; MaB-Matt Bartels; GB-Gary Bletsch; TB-Tom Bragg; DB-Donna Bragg; BB-Ben Bright; Janet Callen (JC); MaC-Marlene Cashen; MC-Mike Clarke; Stacy Crist (SC); WC-Warren Current; RDC-Rich Del Carlo; MD-Mike Denny; MLD-MerryLynn Denny; KD-Kas Dumroese; PE-Patrick Ellsworth; GF-Greg Falco; MF-Marian Frobe; RF-Russell Frobe; JF-Joe Fulton; JG-Joshua Glant; JH-John Hanna; LH-Lisa Hardy; FH-Fran Haywood; BH-Bettie Hoff; DH-Dave Holick; MI-Michael Irving; JI-Jon Isacoff; ; CJ-Chris Jannet; CJ-Craig Johnson; SJ-Steve Joyce; BK-Bob Kemp; RK-Russ Koppendrayer; CL-Christopher Lindsey; JL-Joshua Little; TL-Terry Little; TL-Thomas Light; CL-Carl Lundblad; TM-Tom Mansfield; CM-Cindy McCormack; AM-Alan McCoy; EM-Eliot Miller; NM-Nancy Miller; WN-Walker Noe; PO-Peter Olsoy; TO-Tim O'Brien; JP-Jonathan Pafford; MP-Mary Porter; JR-Jethro Runco; TS-Todd Sahl; SS-Shane Sater; MS-Mike Scott; CS-Charles Swift; RT-Rick Taylor; NT-Norma Trefry; KT-Kim Thorburn; TW-TC Walker; DW-Doug Ward; JW-Jane Westervelt; TW-Tina Wynnecoop; MY-Matt Yawney; WY-Will Young

Spring & Summer Citizen Science

eBird.org: Record your sightings in the international database for bird sightings. If scientists want to work with "big data," more is *always* better. (Remember when your English teacher advised you to write more than you'll need because it's easier to trim than to expand? Same principle!)

Nestwatch.org: NestWatch is a nationwide monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive. The database is intended to be used to study the current condition of breeding bird populations and how they may be changing over time as a result of climate change, habitat degradation and loss, expansion of urban areas, and the introduction of non-native plants and animals.

2017 Spokane Audubon Calendar Photograph Contest Guidelines

Submission Period: May 1 - May 31, 2016

**Beginning May 1, submit photos to:
*spokaneauduboncalendar@yahoo.com***



*Northern Pygmy Owl, from the 2015 calendar,
by Tom Munson*

Eligibility Requirements

- Spokane Audubon Society member in good standing
- Submit electronically 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 Sunday, May 1. The deadline is Tuesday, 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 the 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.



*Black-necked Stilts, from the 2016 calendar,
by Bea Harrison*

**Field Trip Report:
Beginning Birders Walk At Turnbull,
March 26, 2016**

by Fran Haywood

Doris and Red Butler, Dr Charlene DeHaven and Charles (whose last name I can't remember, but he drove up from Moscow!), Delores Schiorndt, Martha Haynes and I met at Turnbull NWR headquarters.

As the field trip began, we got to watch a badger digging for groundhogs in the meadow, while Tree Swallows vacuumed insects from the sky and Western Bluebirds and Red-winged Blackbirds sang and perched nearby, along with the introduced Collared Doves.

It was a great start to a beautiful, sunny day. While we walked trails, we were treated to two different young moose, several chipmunks, and tree squirrels.

Oh wait, this was a birding walk!

We did see several species of duck: Mallard, Ring-necked, American Wigeon, Gadwall and Redhead, also Pied-billed Grebe and American Coot.

A pair of Trumpeter Swans were on Middle Pine Lake, and we spotted six on Blackhorse from the boardwalk.

Black-capped Chickadees, Song Sparrows, Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches sang and gave us great looks, unlike the Marsh Wrens, who sang from every cattail patch but refused to show themselves.

Red-shafted Flickers were noisy and visible, and a couple of Red-tailed Hawks floated by.

Along the Keppel Peninsula trail a pair of Red Crossbills flew into a tree just above us and showed off their strange bills and the lovely colors of red and ochre.

We broke up at noon and on the way out I spotted a Hairy Woodpecker drilling for lunch. Delores emailed that they had spotted a pair of Hooded Mergansers in the first pond on the right after exiting the driving loop.

It was a nice relaxing day with terrific people, all of whom I hope to see in the future.

Looking for an easy way to help out?

Become a mailing volunteer!

Spokane Audubon is looking for two or three people to help with the mailing of the newsletter. Seal and label ~200 newsletters, group them by zip code and run them to the post office. If we have three volunteers, each person only has to do it three or four times a year.

Contact Carmen (carmen@floreo.com) if you're interested.

SAS Field Trips, May & June

*** NOTE DATE CHANGE***

May 7, 2016, Saturday

West Plains Early Migrant Trip

Leader: Alan McCoy

Limit: 15 Birders

This all-day trip is for all levels of birders. We will stop at Reardan's Audubon Lake where we will 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'll meet at 6:00 a.m. at the Rosauer's parking lot in Browne's Addition (near 2nd Avenue and Sunset Highway) and plan to return about 6:00 p.m. Contact leader Alan McCoy at 448-3123, 448-8861 or ahm2352@gmail.com by April 25 to reserve your place.

** This field trip was originally scheduled for April 30th.*

May 9, 11, 13

Monday, Wednesday, Friday evenings

Bird Identification Workshop

Leaders: Gary Blevins and Kim Thorburn

OK, 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 14. For more information or to reserve your place for the workshop, contact Gary Blevins at (533-3661 or GaryB@spokanefalls.edu) by April 25.

May 14, 2016, 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 a.m. and bird the refuge until 2:00 p.m. Contact leader Gary Blevins at (533-3661 or garyb@spokanefalls.edu) by May 1 to register for the trip.

*** NOTE DATE CHANGE***
May 15, 2016, 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 a.m. and end about 1:00 p.m. Please call leader Alan McCoy at 448-3123 or 448-8861, ahm2352@gmail.com by May 10 if you plan to attend.

** This field trip was originally scheduled for May 14th.*

May 21, 2016, Saturday
Peone Prairie Wetlands Trip
Leaders: Ann Brinly, Jim and Bea Harrison

This half-day trip will focus on visiting several hot spots in the Peone Prairie wetlands area. Meet at 7:00 a.m. SHARP at Feryn Conservation parking area. Contact Ann Brinly, agbmaelstrom@gmail.com by May 14 to sign up.

May 22, 2016, Sunday
Mosquito Springs Trip
Leader: Kim Thorburn

This trip is for birders of all levels. It is a half-day walking trip 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 18 if you're interested.

May 28, 2016, 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 22.

Wanted: Newsletter Editor

Produce ten, eight-page newsletters a year, September through June. Be popular *and* earn karma points.

Contact Carmen (carmen@floreo.com) to learn more!

May 29, 2016, Sunday
Little Spokane Natural Area Trip
Leader: Bea and Jim Harrison

All levels of birders are welcome to join us for a half-day walking trip along the Little Spokane River Natural Area. This is the peak of breeding season. Over 80 species have been recorded in this rich riparian, forest, and rock habitat. Meet at the Spokane River Boat Launch parking lot less than one mile north of Nine-Mile Dam on Rt. 291 at 6:30 a.m. Contact Jim Harrison at 830-719-1765 by May 25 if you plan to attend.

Note: A WA Discover Pass is required for parking on this trip. Purchase online or at REI.

June 4, 2016, Saturday
Liberty Lake Trip
Leader: TBD

This is a mostly easy walking half-day trip. Liberty Lake hosts some of the best habitat diversity in Spokane County, with breeding grebes on the lake, extensive wetlands and prairie, old second-growth Ponderosa pine, and some of the best wetbelt mixed conifer forest in the area. Contact Joyce Alonso (448-2447) by May 31 if you plan to attend.

June 5, 2016, Sunday
Mount Spokane Subalpine Birds Trip
Leader: Jim Hudlow

This is a half-day hiking trip for all levels of birders. The grade is very gentle, but we will walk four to six miles. Be prepared with plenty of snacks and water. You may retreat at any point. Mt. Spokane is the primary (and only publicly accessible) site for subalpine breeding birds in Spokane County, making this a popular and exciting annual event. Meet 7:00 a.m. SHARP at Foothills Community Church, 11100 N. Peck Road. Contact Jim Hudlow (flyz4free@yahoo.com or 509-926-2186) by June 1 if you plan to attend.

Note: Discover Passes required for all vehicles in Mt. Spokane State Park. Purchase online or at REI.

June 11, 2016, Saturday
Iller Creek Trip
Leader: Gary Lee

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 Gary Lee at *bird_fan@aol.com* or 389-5474 to sign up and for meeting time.

**June 12, 2016, Sunday
Palisades/Indian Canyon Trip
Leader: Lindell Haggin**

All levels of birders are invited to explore the Indian Canyon area immediately west of town. We will be walking one or two miles. We will meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Rosauer's at 1808 W. 3rd Ave. The field trip will end at approximately 11:00 a.m. Contact Lindell Haggin (446-4118 or *lindell4118@comcast.net*) by June 7 if you plan to attend.

*** NOTE DATE CHANGE*
June 20 - June 22, 2016
Monday - Wednesday**

**Conconully State Park Camping Trip
Leaders: Jim and Bea Harrison**

Camp at Conconully State Park. We will be birding the east Cascade Range above Conconully and the Okanogan Valley.

Last year we had 100 species of birds in two days, but this area recently burned, so we will be investigating how the area and the birding has changed. Watch the SAS website for more info this spring. Call Jim Harrison at 830-313-0610.

** The camping trip was originally scheduled for June 16th - 19th (Thurs - Sun).*



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**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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Non-Profit
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May 11th Program:
Twenty Days in Sabah,
featuring Ann Brinly
 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.

