

The Pygmy Owl

Volume 28
Issue 9
May 2020

The Newsletter of the
Spokane Audubon Society



The May 13, 2020 meeting of the Spokane Audubon Society is cancelled due to continuing concerns about the spread of coronavirus. The May meeting is when elections are conducted for board members whose terms are expiring, but the vote will be postponed to the chapter's next scheduled meeting, September 9, 2020.

COVID-19: Birds can help us through this. Here's how.

Spring migration is underway and many of us are homebound. How do we respond?

In these unsettled times, connecting with the steady rhythms of the natural world feels more important than ever. After all, studies have consistently shown that being outdoors can improve our mental health. But for many of us, the options are now limited. Springtime birding trips are canceled, visits to local parks feel risky, and, in some harder-hit cities, even casual walks are rare. For the first time in many of our lives, birds are on the move and we're not.

So, how do we respond? At ABC, we're promoting the idea of Bird Therapy and encouraging everyone to spend a few minutes observing birds each day. The idea is simple: Birds bring balance to our lives, and if we can't go to them, we'll let them come to us.

How Do I Participate?

It's easy: Just bird. Since many of us are restricted to our homes right now, we'll focus on watching from porches, yards, or even through windows. Take photos or notes of what you're seeing and share with our community. You can do this on social media by using the hashtag #BirdTherapy or by simply leaving comments at the bottom of this blog post.

Every week, ABC staff will contribute ideas on how people can not only appreciate birds but do something to help our feathered friends.

Bird Therapy is for everyone, regardless of age and birding skill. The only prerequisite is a desire to connect with the birds and share with others.

Why Bird Therapy?

As many birders can attest, birds just make us feel better. By paying close attention to their presence, we wake to the present moment, letting go of stress and other worries. When things are tumultuous, they remind us of the natural world's enduring power, providing a source of joy and stability. And, during periods of isolation — like now — they connect us.

The Pygmy Owl

Volume 28 Issue 9 May 2020

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 and pg. 8 © Jan Reynolds.



Officers

President

Alan McCoy ahm2352@gmail.com

Vice President

Lisa Langelier langelier.lisa@gmail.com

Treasurer

Lindell Haggin lindell4118@comcast.net

Secretary

Madonna Luers madwoodmel@centurylink.net

Elected Board of Directors

Bob Cashen mjaycashen@aol.com
Marlene Cashen mjaycashen@aol.com
Mary Jokela bmjokela@msn.com
Gary Lee bird_fan@aol.com
Jenny Michaels jemichaels@ieeee.org

Committee Chairs

Field Trips

Alan McCoy ahm2352@gmail.com

Programs

Gary Lee bird_fan@aol.com

Education

Joyce Alonso jalonso3@msn.com
Lindell Haggin lindell4118@comcast.net

Conservation

Greg Gordon fightingbull63@gmail.com

Hospitality

Jan Strobeck jandeerpark@aol.com

Membership

Alan McCoy ahm2352@gmail.com

Publicity

Madonna Luers madwoodmel@centurylink.net

Pygmy Owl

Joanne Powell jopowell39@aol.com

Volunteer Coordinator

Website

Jenny Michaels jemichaels@ieeee.org

June Pygmy Owl
Deadline May 20th

Bird Therapy Tips

There's no right way to do Bird Therapy. We all relate differently to birds and will find ourselves in different circumstances. Still, keeping a few things in mind can help make the most of this exercise.

Don't rush: Before beginning, sit quietly for a few minutes. Observe your breathing. Watch the thoughts that come and go. Relax. When you start observing birds, be patient. These aren't ordinary times and typical timetables don't apply.

Stay positive: Being at home is difficult, but it isn't without silver linings. As life slows down, we have a chance to observe things we typically overlook. As plane and car travel become less frequent, it's easier to listen to birds. And, as spring arrives, so do millions of birds.

Listen: We're typically guided by our sense of sight, and it's easy to ignore the full range of sounds our ears provide. Take a minute to close your eyes and listen to the sounds that surround you.

Share: During these trying times, we need each other, and we want to hear from you. Please take a moment to share what you're seeing: Your photo or observations may brighten someone else's day. Conversely, check this blog and ABC's Facebook and Twitter accounts regularly to find out what others are seeing.

Enjoy: Birds have inspired humans for thousands of years. This spring, we could really use their inspiration. Take a look outside and let them lift your spirits.

Membership Report

by Alan McCoy

Update of Members' Status March 20 through April 20, 2020:

Welcome to our new member: David Kreft
Many thanks to our returning members: Sue Orłowski, Patricia Ediger, Hank Nelson, Stephanie Lambert and Lisa Langelier.

You can help us reduce our costs and energy use and save paper by switching to our electronic, full-color publication. Please send your 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>.

Field Notes

Bird Sightings for the Inland Northwest, compiled by Jon Isacoff

Spring is here and migration is in full swing. During the next 3-4 weeks, millions of migrating songbirds will pass through our region. A small portion will remain to breed in our local forests, wetlands, and sage steppe. Sunrise is again filled with the amazing sounds of bird songs. If this all sounds too good to be true, well... with the virus situation dominating the world, birds and birding are about the best thing going! As this is written, the first hummingbird, vireo, flycatcher, and warbler species have already arrived at some breeding locations. Keep eyes and ears out; more are on the way! Congratulations to RJ Baltierra for locating a rare WHITE-WINGED DOVE at Central Ferry on April 8!

Greater White-fronted Goose: Greer Centennial Park (3/22-CL); Peone Prairie (3/23-TL); Rock Lake (4/8-TL)

Long-tailed Duck: Sprague (3/20-JI)

Red-breasted Merganser: Sunnyside Road (3/21-TL); Heyburn SP (3/23-JI); Denton Slough (3/29-TL); Eloika Lake (4/16-TL)

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Central Ferry (4/8-RB)

Mew Gull: Saltese Wetlands (3/28-JI)

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Wawawai Canyon (4/17-PO and KS)

Northern Goshawk: University of Idaho Experimental Forest (4/12-CL); Potato Hill (4/12-JE and NP); Mill Canyon (4/18-JE);

White-headed Woodpecker: Mill Canyon (4/17-TL); Swawilla Basin (4/17-MW)

Black-backed Woodpecker: Little Pend Oreille NWR (4/2-TL); Farragut State Park (4/13-JE)

Blue Jay: Sandpoint (3/22-eBird); Bonner's Ferry (3/25-JR); Pullman (4/2-SM); Lenville (4/15-SC); Fernan (4/17-DY); University of Idaho (4/19-EH)

Pine Grosbeak: Hole in the Ground (3/22-JI); Smith Creek (3/31-JR); University of Idaho (4/17-CL); Paradise Ridge (4/17-NP)

Lesser Goldfinch: Spokane Valley (3/21-MC); Lincoln (3/26-JI); Seven Bays (3/27-TL); Spokane (4/10-MW)

White-throated Sparrow: Pullman (3/26-PO and KS)

Harris's Sparrow: Conservation Park (4/2-ST)

Observers: RB-R.J. Baltierra; BB-Ben Bright; MaC-Marlene Cashen; SC-Stacy Crist; WC-Warren Current; RDC-Rich Del Carlo; KD-Kas Dumroese; TD-Tim Durnell; SE-Shannon Ehlers; JoE-Johnna Eilers; JE-Jacob Elonen; FF-Fred Forssell; MF-Marian Frobe; LH-Lindell Haggin; BH-Bea Harrison; EH-Evan Hilpman; JI-Jon Isacoff; SJ-Steve Joyce; BK-Bob Kemp; DK-David Kreft; GL-Greg Lambeth; TLa-Terry Lane; TL-Terry Little; CoL-Courtney Litwin; CL-Carl Lundblad; BL-Becky Lyle; CM-Curtis Mahon; BM-Ben Meredyk; AM-Alan McCoy; JM-Jennifer Michaels; NM-Nancy Miller; SM-Stuart Muller; TO-Tim O'Brien; PO-Peter Olsoy; NP-Neil Paprocki; JR-Jethro Runco; MS-Mike Scott; SS-Sandy Schreven; BS-Bill Siems; KS-Katie Sorenson; CS-Charles Swift; ST-Susan Treu; DW-Doug Ward; JW-John Wolff; MW-Michael Woodruff; DY-David Yake; MY-Matt Yawney



White-winged Dove
© Ted Bradford

Revised 2021 Spokane Audubon Calendar Photograph Contest Guidelines

2021 Spokane Audubon Calendar Photograph Contest Guidelines

Submission Period: April 15 – May 15, 2020

Submit photos to: sauduboncalendar@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 can be submitted per person.
- Photographs must be submitted electronically via email to sauduboncalendar@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 or Northern Idaho. Please include the species name(s) and location where each photograph was taken.

Call for Entries

Photographers may submit entries starting on Monday, April 15th. The deadline is Friday, 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 or committee chair. 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, 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.

Jenny Michaels

by Madonna Luers

Jenny Michaels has been on the Spokane Audubon board since January 2019, having joined the chapter when she moved to the Spokane area in 2016. However, she's participated in chapter summer field trips every year since 2013, when she and her husband were in the area to visit his family and find their retirement home in Deer Park.

"I was a member of the Atlanta Audubon chapter so when we moved, I wanted to join the local chapter here to meet other birders and learn about local birding spots," she said.

Born in Nashville, Tennessee in 1955, Jenny spent most of her childhood in Ashland, Kentucky. She earned her degree in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech in Atlanta and got her first job in Richland, Washington, at the Hanford Engineering Development Laboratory, working in the area of ultrasonic nondestructive testing to help keep nuclear breeder reactors safe. She got to know more of Washington state then during her free time, backpacking, hiking and cross-country skiing in the Cascade Mountains, including climbing Mt. Saint Helens the year before it erupted.

She met her husband Tom, also an engineer, at Hanford. When she decided to return to school for graduate work, he followed her to Ithaca, New York, where she earned Master's and Ph.D. degrees in theoretical and applied mechanics from Cornell University. They started a company together there, designing equipment for automated ultrasonic testing of industrial components, and continued that work in the Boston area. Jenny shifted from industry to academia in 2002 when she returned to her undergraduate alma mater, Georgia Tech, as a faculty member until her retirement in 2016.

"I've always loved the outdoors and thought of myself as a nature person," she said; "but until I started birding, I didn't appreciate habitats and ecosystems and the bigger picture. Birding teaches you how to observe not only birds, but everything else."

That birding start came in 1998 when she was on a camping safari in Botswana in southern Africa. "There were two birders on that trip and they pointed out the birds whenever there weren't other animals to look at," she recalled. "I was amazed that there were people who would rather look at birds than mammals. It was my first exposure to serious birding, including keeping a list of birds that you see."

Since then she's watched for birds (and kept lists) wherever she's lived. She's also traveled extensively to see birds, both on dedicated birding trips to Alaska, Kansas, Belize, Panama, Trinidad, Kenya and Ecuador, but mostly as side excursions to family and business trips before she retired, including Australia, China, Taiwan, India, Zimbabwe, South Africa, South Korea, England, Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Italy and Iceland, as well as numerous destinations in the United States and Canada.

Some of her most memorable birding experiences have been with her nephew, Stratton Hatfield, with whom she's birded since he was eight years old. He was born and raised in Africa, being the child of missionaries doing human-needs work in sub-Saharan Africa. Jenny was able to visit Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana and Kenya a number of times while visiting family, and, of course, birding was always a focus, at least for her and Stratton.

"There was a very short period of time when he was in awe of my birding skills," she recalled with a laugh. "I told him that one day he'd be much better than I", and he'd say 'Oh no, Aunt Jenny!' Now he's one of the world's top birders, working on his Ph.D. at Wageningen University in the Netherlands on Martial Eagle ecology in the Maasai Mara region of Kenya. He's an eBird reviewer for Kenya and has guided several trips in Africa, including one I took with him to Kenya."

(cont on page 6

Both she and Stratton consider their start to birding to be when they stopped for lunch in Botswana in an open-air restaurant where a bright-colored little bird kept hopping around. They were both quite thrilled to identify it as an Acacia Pied Barbet.

But perhaps more memorable was one of her first birding experiences in Massachusetts. She was just back from that Botswana trip, realizing that she knew more about birds there than in her own backyard, when she got her first decent pair of binoculars and a bird book. In the woodlands she quickly saw and heard chickadees, nuthatches and other small birds, but then heard an incredibly beautiful flute-like song from an unseen bird. She remembers trying to chase down the songster in the woods without success. Haunted by the sound, she got a bird song CD, identified it as a Wood Thrush, and finally was able to see it.

“The best part of that was figuring things out on my own,” Jenny said. “My favorite type of birding to this day is forest birding, and I’m currently enamored with observing the Brown Creepers in my Deer Park backyard. But I love all the thrushes, especially when they sing.”



Wood Thrush singing
© John Petruzzi

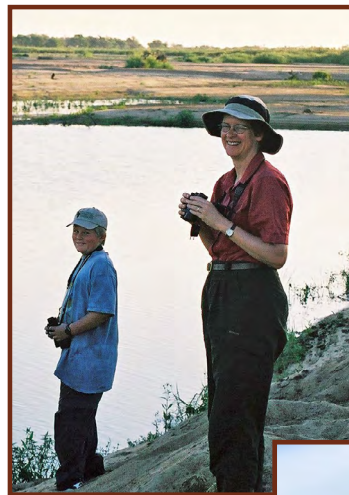
Memorable, too, is the Spokane Audubon trip to Texas in February, 2017, her last birding trip with her husband, who died in 2018. “Tom never considered himself a real birder,” she said, “but he had a good eye and a good memory. He frequently would come up with the correct ID before I could. And he was always happy to go on birding trips as long as he

didn’t have to stand around too much looking at the LBJs (little brown jobs).”

Jenny’s tips for new birders are to get good binoculars, practice using them in your backyard, and go birding by yourself, at least some of the time. “While it’s good to go birding with others, you should also go birding alone. You’ll likely see more birds with others, but you learn the best when you have to figure them out for yourself.”

She says the most obvious important issues for the future of birds and birdwatching are habitat loss and climate change. “But these are caused by too many people who do not know, love, and appreciate the natural world,” she said. “So I really think that the biggest issue is that not enough people are engaged with nature.”

Although Jenny modestly claims that she’s still trying to figure out what she hopes to contribute on the SAS board, her management of the chapter website, Facebook page, e-mail, and query response is indeed helping engage more people with birds and nature.



Jenny and Stratton
Zimbabwe 2002



Jenny and Stratton
Netherlands 2019

Spring babies usually don't need your help

It's hard to resist "rescuing" a baby bird, bunny or other young wildlife that ends up on your lawn, driveway or porch at this time of year. When a baby seems helpless or abandoned, it seems that you should scoop it up and take care of it.

The key word here is "seems".

Most wild babies that end up being brought to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) licensed, volunteer wildlife rehabilitators are NOT helpless or abandoned. In fact, most "rescuers" unwittingly stole the young animal from its parents, who may have even witnessed the well-intentioned abduction.

Every Spring hundreds of baby birds, deer fawns, and other young wildlife meet this fate. It can be harmful to the young animals and costly to volunteer rehabilitators when they most need to concentrate limited resources on truly orphaned or injured wildlife.

Young wild animals are often left alone for hours while their parents gather food. Young birds commonly leave the nest before they are fully-feathered and are fed on the ground by their parents for a day or two until they are able to fly. Doe deer leave their fawns alone to avoid drawing predators with their own stronger body scent.

These wild babies are being tended by their parents in ways that are best for their survival and for retaining their natural wild behaviors. If they lose their wild behavior under human care, they usually can't be truly rehabilitated for release back into the wild and often must be euthanized.

More often than not, just leaving a young animal alone affords it the best chance for survival.

But one of the most significant ways you can help them is to confine cats, dogs and other pets that might injure them.

One of the most common causes of injuries to wildlife, especially birds, that are legitimately in need of rehabilitator care, is attacks by cats.

One of the few situations in which almost anyone can also help is when very young, completely un-feathered birds have fallen out of the nest and are on the ground directly in harm's way (like a driveway). If you can find the nearby nest and safely reach it, simply pick up the nestling with a gloved hand and put it back in the nest. Contrary to popular belief, the parent birds will not reject their young because it's been handled by humans.

If you can't find the nest, place the bird in a nearby tree or shrub, or on a shaded portion of a roof, out of the way of cats, dogs, and children. You can even make a "nest" for it with a small box filled with leaves, paper towels, or soft cloth; place the nestling in the box and place the box in a tree or shrub or otherwise protected from rain and sun. If you watch from a distance, you'll likely eventually witness the parent birds tending to their lost-and-found young.

Wild animals of any age that show obvious signs of illness or injury such as bleeding, vomiting, panting, shivering, or that are just lethargic and make no effort to escape your approach, may indeed be in need of care. That's when you should enlist the help of a local WDFW-licensed volunteer rehabilitator (found by county at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/rehabilitation>). If you can reach a rehabilitator close by, they may be able to advise you on whether and how you should attempt to pick up the animal and transport it to them for care.



**Photos by
Ann Elliot and
Central Jersey
Wildlife**

The Sky on His Back

Submitted by Lisa Langelier

Henry David Thoreau was right, “The bluebird carries the sky on his back.” Wildlife comes in many shapes and sizes, feathered, and furred, but their colors resound. The Latin names of critters reveal much about their physical appearance. Common names describe a rainbow of color in our wild world. With spring in our hearts, we say goodbye to the drab and dreary days of winter and welcome more wild colors.

Consider the color red as a straightforward adjective – red squirrel and red-backed vole, or integrate the color into the whole name – redpoll, redstart. However, the many shades of red open a new world of names - ruby-throated hummingbird, gray crowned rosy-finch, and reddish egret. Near red hues follow – flammulated owl, ferruginous hawk, ruddy duck, and vermilion flycatcher. What about rufous hummingbird, clay-colored robin, roseate spoonbill, and cinnamon teal? The name, western tanager, does not tell you much about this beautiful bird but you know something about his red cousins by their names - scarlet tanager, flame-colored tanager, and hepatic tanager. Verging on red but moving closer to brown are the bay-breasted warbler and chestnut collared longspur. Fulvous whistling-duck sounds better than dull, brownish-yellow whistling duck, right.

Some names specify lack of color - pallid bat, two or more colors - pied-billed grebe and variegated patterns of color – harlequin duck. Names of two vivid blue-hued birds echo their colors – cerulean (resembling the blue of the sky) warbler and lazuli (azure blue like the semi-precious stone lapis lazuli) bunting.

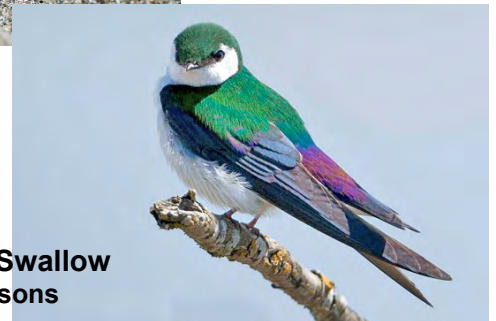
What about shades of gray? There are the uncomplicated graylag goose and the gray wolf. Rare denizen of southwestern grasslands, the Aplomado falcon’s back is the color of lead (aplomado in Spanish). Leaden gray is also the color of the plumbeous kite, a small raptor. Gray hues get trickier in the silver-haired bat, hoary bat, or dusky flycatcher. Flycatcher’s can be so difficult to identify that the name dusky flycatcher does not provide much insight. Adding the color sooty helps tern enthusiasts distinguish between the sooty tern and its relatives -- the brown and black noddy, and black tern.

We tag a color to any body part to help us sort out the confusion. We have buff-breasted sandpipers, flesh footed shearwaters, common yellowthroats, lesser yellowlegs, red-whiskered bulbuls, and golden-cheeked warblers. We have the stunning violet-green swallow, the gilded flicker, or the glaucous (pale yellow green or bluish white color) gull.

Even the bald in our national bird, the bald eagle, refers to the color white. What is in a name? A little color, please!



Scarlet Tanager
© Andrew Spencer



Violet Green Swallow
© Stephen Parsons



Western Bluebird
© Robert McGriffith



Red Squirrel
© Pat Morris



Gray Wolf
© Ken Canning



A Retrospective on the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day

by Madonna Luers

April 22, 2020 was the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, a milestone that ironically we were not able to celebrate together because wildlife-human interfaces and pollution have helped set the stage for a worldwide pandemic.

Maybe it takes catastrophes like this to get our attention about being better stewards of our planet. Maybe some of the things we're doing during this stay-at-home time – slowing down, conserving resources, getting to know and care for our own spot on the Earth – will become our new habits. An environmentalist like me can dream anyway, and at least look back on this commemoration to see how far we've come.

April 22, 1970 in Spokane was a day of “teach-ins,” talks to students of all ages by Governor Dan Evans, state attorney general Slade Gorton, and several university professors who warned of dire consequences from the proposed dams on the Snake River, the need to address air and water pollution, and global warming. That's what the Spokesman-Review's archives relayed anyway, as I wasn't here then. I was a high school sophomore in Omaha, Nebraska, marching the streets with other students donning “gas masks” and waving signs about the need for clean air.

The first couple decades of Earth Days were full of advancements to celebrate – national air quality standards were set, the Environmental Protection Agency was created, the pesticide DDT was banned to protect wildlife like bald eagles and peregrine falcons, the Endangered Species Act was passed. But disasters also showed us how much more needed to be done -- hazardous waste in New York's Love Canal, Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island and the Soviet Union's Chernobyl nuclear accidents, Bhopal, India's poisonous gas leak from a pesticide plant.

In 1995, on the 25th anniversary of Earth Day, I helped with a multi-agency/organization celebration “Where on Earth But Spokane.” In those 25 years since the first Earth Day, Spokane County's population had grown by about 35 percent, requiring compliance with Washington's new Growth Management Act. A health advisory was issued when PCB contamination was found in the Spokane River, but it was also Spokane's first year on record with no air quality standard violations. Endangered wolves were re-introduced to the west with transplants from Canada to Yellowstone National Park and Idaho wilderness areas.

In 1999, at the 25th anniversary of Spokane's Expo '74 – the first World's Fair with an environmental awareness credo – I met Bernadine VanThiel, a retired teacher and lifelong advocate for “Earth care,” who had just witnessed “Procession of the Species” in Portland. Her enthusiasm for this celebration of wildlife -- through a parade of people wearing animal costumes made from recycled materials and dancing to drumming -- was contagious. We joined forces to make it a part of the 30th anniversary of Earth Day in Riverfront Park, securing a grant to cover expenses for costume-making workshops and soliciting help from the Spokane Art School, Children's Museum of Spokane, environmental groups including Spokane Audubon Society, and local stars like artist Karen Mobley, singer Chad Mitchell, and drummer Michael Moonbear.

Although the doom and gloom of environmental awareness-raising is important, the Procession became a lighter-hearted, creative way to coax more people to celebrate Earth Day. The first year I made a quail costume from recycled cardboard; the next time, a bright orange octopus from braided haybale twine. Bernadine, who led the Procession, always wore a nest of songbirds on her head. Over four

Earth Day processions, from 2000 through 2003, there were hundreds of animals of nearly every kind, from leaf-cutter ants to whales. One group even made 40 paper mâché caribou, one for each of the last woodland caribou left in the Selkirk Mountain ecosystem.

We passed the coordination of Procession to the West Valley School District's Outdoor Learning Center; and Spokane's Earth Day organizers, who have incorporated smaller forms of it into the annual celebration.

But not this year, of course, and Bernadine and I recently shared our sadness about that. She's isolated in a senior care center, although even when the virus protection is lifted, at 95 she doesn't get out and around as much anymore. She keeps up on environmental issues though, and has been a frequent Spokesman Review letter-to-the-editor writer.

I told her that Spokane is fortunate to have a "spark plug" like her to introduce a joyful event like the Procession of the Species. She says it gave her renewed purpose after her husband, who was just as passionate about nature, died in 1998. She doesn't recall how they celebrated the first Earth Day in 1970 when they were busy raising their three children in Arizona. Both were born and raised in Wisconsin, the birthplace of Earth Day (via Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson).

We agreed that much progress has been made on the "Earth care" front, but it seems that some lessons we keep having to re-learn. Maybe this pandemic shutdown of life as we knew it will remind us that we can do with less stuff and we need to take better care of ourselves, each other, and the Earth.

Bernadine shared this stanza from a song she learned at an Earth Elders conference years ago:

Every day is Earth Day, an opportunity
To make a healthier planet for you and me
We can shape tomorrow by what we do today
We can build the future a cleaner, wiser way.



Madonna Luers



Bernadine VanThiel

2020 Field Trips at a Glance

Carpooling on field trips limited with coronavirus prevention

We always encourage and enjoy carpooling on birding field trips to save fuel, lower our carbon footprint, and share sighting information more easily. But with the current need for “social distancing” to help minimize the spread of coronavirus, we need to shift gears. Please consider the following on your next birding field trip:

- Carpool only with people you live with or at least feel comfortable and confident with in the close quarters of a motor vehicle.
- Don’t share binoculars, scopes, cameras, or mobile units with birding apps; if you need or want to share, clean equipment with disinfecting wipes between users.

- Maintain the Centers for Disease Control and other public health official “social distancing” guidelines of staying at least six feet away from each other when you reach a birding site where you leave your vehicles.

These steps may seem extreme, but they are simply part of our collective, responsible pre-emptive action to slow the spread and impacts of this virus and disease. We’d all rather be safe than sorry. Happy birding!

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

Spokane Audubon Society Membership Form

Annual Membership: _____
 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.

- Joining
 Renewing

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 needed on your mailing label? Contact Alan McCoy: ahm2352@gmail.com



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

May 2020

To:

*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>

Listen to
BirdNote®
on KYRS
Thin Air Community Radio
88.1 & 92.3 FM

Saturdays at 8:30 AM

*10 years of stories about birds,
the environment, and more*



BirdNote can also be heard on
KEWU 89.5 FM 8 a.m. daily

