

The Pygmy Owl

Volume 26
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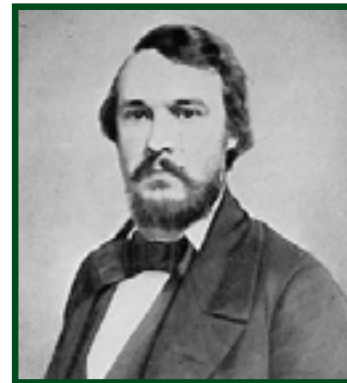
The Newsletter of the
Spokane Audubon Society



“Eggs Procured from the Indians”: The Natural History Collections of C.B.R. Kennerly, 1857-61

Caleb Kennerly was medical doctor with a college connection to Spencer Baird, the first director of the Smithsonian Institute. That acquaintance led to Kennerly’s serving as surgeon-naturalist for the U.S. Boundary Commission, and a treasure trove of early fish, mammal, and bird specimens shipped back to the Smithsonian.

This slide presentation will focus on Kennerly’s travels through the Inland Northwest just before the Civil War, and all the birds he saw along the way.



Caleb Burwell Rowan Kennerly (1829-1861)

Spokane-based teacher and naturalist Jack Nisbet is the author of several books that explore the human and natural history of the Intermountain West, including the story collection *Purple Flat Top and Singing Grass Burning Sage*, an illustrated exploration of the flora and fauna of the dry side of the Cascade Range. His essay book *Visible Bones* won awards from the Washington State Library Association and the Seattle Times.

If you have not yet acquired one or several of Jack’s books, there will be some available for purchase and autograph during the evening. The Seattle Times wrote about him, “Nisbet makes the landscape come alive on so many levels. His writing is high quality and engaging. It’s clear that he cares for and knows the places he writes about.”

Nisbet’s recent focus on the naturalist David Douglas resulted in *The Collector: David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest*, which the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association named as one of their 2010 Books of the Year. Since then Nisbet and his wife Claire have curated a museum exhibit built around Douglas’s journeys through this region.



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Special March Meeting

by Joyce Alonso

This year our March meeting will be unique in several ways .

First, March 8th has been designated our “annual meeting,” in compliance with requirements of our national organization. Therefore, the Spokane Audubon Board will present to those present the slate of officers who plan to keep the chapter running for the next year. As is our custom...spontaneous volunteers will be cordially welcomed to join the team in whatever capacity they feel most comfortable. (We especially could use a few board members at large.)

Secondly, to make the occasion more special we’re going to upgrade from our usual cookie-munching social time to a “Finger Food Festival.”

We encourage everyone to come a bit early and partake of hors d’oeuvres (ie. cheese & crackers, mini-meatballs, veggies & dip, your favorite snack?? No chips, please as too many crumbs may prove a problem with clean-up). Let’s see who brings the most innovative item!! (Participation--both bringing and eating-is voluntary). We’ll also provide some beverages (alas, no champagne, etc...no liquor license!)



Spokane Audubon’s next meeting will be:
Wednesday, March 8th at 7:30 p.m.
Social Hour 7:00

Deadline for April P.O. submissions
is March 20th.

Field Notes

Bird Sightings for the Inland Northwest, compiled by Jon Isacoff

Well, it's the mid-winter lulls. Combined with what has been altogether a lackluster season for winter visitors, birding has been all-around slow, with just not a whole lot of interest to report. That said and as always, our local birders have braved snow, ice, rain, and then more ice and found a few goodies listed below!

Snow Goose: Moscow (2/12-CS)

Trumpeter Swan: Newport (1/21-RW)

Northern Goshawk: Boyds (2/3-DB)

Barred Owl: Davenport (1/28-MC)

Long-eared Owl: Steamboat Rock SP (2/11-MY)

Prairie Falcon (locally rare): Moscow (2/11-CS)

Peregrine Falcon (rare in winter): Spokane (2/1-TO)

Pine Grosbeak: Sherman Pass (2/5-MH); Mt. Spokane (2/7-GG)

Common Redpoll: Boyds (2/16-DB)

Flock of trumpeter swans Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge (2/18-PB)

Observers: JA-Joyce Alonso; DB-Don Baker; MB-Missy Baker; RB-R.J. Baltierra; MaB-Matt Bartels; TB- DB-Donna Bragg; BB-Ben Bright; Pearl Bouchard (PB); MaC-Marlene Cashen; MC-Mike Clarke; WC-Warren Current; RDC-Rich Del Carlo; MD-Mike Denny; MLD-MerryLynn Denny; KD-Kas Dumroese; MD-Mike Dunn; GF-Greg Falco; MF-Marian Frobe; RF-Russell Frobe; GG-Graham Gerdeman; LH-Lindell Haggin; JH-John Hanna; LH-Lisa Hardy; FH-Fran Haywood; BH-Bettie Hoff; RH-Ray Hoff; DH-Dave Holick; MH-Michael Hobbs; JI-Jon Isacoff; SJ-Steve Joyce; BK-Bob Kemp; RK-Russ Koppendrayer; JL-Joshua Little; TL-Terry Little; CoL-Courtney Litwin; CL-Carl Lundblad; CM-Curtis Mahon; AM-Alan McCoy; EM-Eliot Miller; NM-Nancy Miller; RM-Roy Myers; PO-Peter Olsoy; JP-Jonathan Pafford; ER-Eric Rassmussen; JR-Jan Reynolds; JR-Jethro Runco; SS-Sandy Schreven; SS-Shirley Sturts; CS-Charles Swift; JT-Jason Talbot; NT-Norma Trefry; DW-Doug Ward; RW-Roger Wing; TW-Tina Wynnecoop; MY-Matt Yawney; WY-Will Young



Snow Geese
by Kim Thorburn



Peregrine Falcon
by Kim Thorburn



Trumpeter Swan
by Harry Bourland



Pine Grosbeak (Male)
by Marlene Cashen



Long Eared Owl
by Kim Thorburn

Banana Belt Field Trip Report

by Fran Haywood

Joyce Alonso, Margaret Peck, Gary Lee and Fran Haywood met Tom Light at his home at 6:00am and carpoled to Lewiston, where we met Keith Carlson and Rick Welle, who were terrific guides.

On the drive down we kept seeing red-tailed hawks and by the time the day was over, we tallied more than 22. A hovering rough-legged and a couple of kestrel were also spotted and a Cooper's was seen on the way to look at wintering ducks. Duck species included: Barrow's and common goldeneye, mallard, wood duck, wigeon, ring-necked-duck, lesser scaup, canvasback, red-head, bufflehead, shoveler, green-winged teal, and hooded merganser.

The very rare red-flanked bluetail flycatcher had vanished 6 days before we arrived, and the pond where we usually find black-crowned night herons was frozen solid, but Rick found one in Hells Gate Park State Park for us. We added a couple of great-blue herons, cormorants, American coot, crow, raven, starling, black-billed magpie, Northern flicker, white-crowned and song sparrow. Rock, mourning, and Eurasian collared- dove were all present. Other passerines included robins, varied thrush, dark-eyed junco, and American goldfinch.

Highlights were the three saw-whet owls and a barn owl in Vineland Cemetery and the amazing display of gray-crowned rosy finches flying in and out of cliff swallow nests while a pair of peregrine falcons, a pair of Northern harriers and a pair of red-tailed hawks sailed over the cliff. A mind-blowing end to a sunny (warm, compared to Spokane) day with ice-free walking, and lots of green grass. Many thanks to Tom Light for coordinating, to Gary Lee for driving and most of all to Keith Carlson & Rick Welle for leading.



Baby Saw Whet Owls and Saddleback Caterpillar
Photo by Blair Sampson

Save the Dates

April 22 (Earth Day) through April 30



Spokane Audubon Society 2017 Big Day/ Big Sit

Any day from April 22 through April 30 report on e-Bird, and to SAS, all the birds you see in The SAS area of NE WA (Big Day), or just in your back yard (Big Sit).

A new contest to promote bird reporting in NE WA.

Anyone can enter. Work alone or together. The goal is to enjoy the wonder of birding. You are encouraged to take along a novice or introduce a friend to birding!

Like the Christmas Bird Count without the snow, and with more birds!!

Details coming soon to the SAS website and in the April newsletter.



Spokane Audubon Field Trips for 2017

by Alan McCoy

We have substantially reduced the number of field trips we are offering in 2017. We will introduce new trips and rotate and alternate through a variety of trips each year. The following are our "official" field trips for 2017. Trips may be added with short notice so check the website often. Trips may be canceled at any time due to bad weather, too few participants, or the lack of a leader. Contact the leader for more information and to reserve a spot.

Our Leaders and Field Trip Cost: Field trips are free and are open to anyone. You don't have to be an Audubon member to participate in our field trips. Our leaders are club volunteers and are not compensated. If you carpool with somebody, it is common courtesy to compensate the driver for your share of gas and vehicle use. You are also responsible for any park entry fees, camping fees, or motel bills.

What to Bring: Participants need to provide their own binoculars, food and drink, adequate clothing, and transportation unless you find somebody with whom to carpool.

Skill Level: We provide a variety of trips that accommodate many birding skill levels. Birders of all levels are welcome on all trips. However, please bear in mind that some beginners may get frustrated or bored on trips designed for advanced birders, where much of the birding is done by ear and the

pace is very fast. Some advanced birders might find the trips geared toward beginning birders too basic and slow-paced. The skill level for each trip will be posted.

Trip Length and Starting Time: To meet varied goals, some trips are five or six hours while some are 12 hours or longer. Published starting times are when we leave so arrive earlier than the posted hour.

Families, Children and Dogs: Dogs are disruptive to the birding experience; therefore we do not allow any dogs on our trips. While we very much want families to participate, very young children are not appropriate for our field trips. When in doubt about the appropriateness of bringing your child, ask the leader before the trip so you can make plans for child care.

First Come, First Served: We have received feedback from past field trip participants as well as our leaders and concluded that to enhance the birding experience we need to limit the number of participants on our trips. The number allowed for each trip will be posted. Call or email early to reserve your place on a trip. But also call ASAP if you are not able to make the trip so the leader can contact folks on the wait list to fill your place.

Our 2017 Field Trips list can be downloaded, but be sure to check back here or call the trip leader for last-minute changes. The March 2017 issue of the Pygmy Owl also has our field trips listed. (SAS 2017 Field Trips.pdf)

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

To find details go to

(www.spokaneaudubon.org)

April 29, 2017, Saturday West Plains Early Migrant Trip. Leader: Alan McCoy

Contact leader Alan McCoy at 448-3123 or ahm2352@gmail.com by April 23 to reserve your place.

May 8, 10, 12: Mon-Wed-Fri evenings. Bird Identification Workshops
and May 13, 2017, Saturday. Bird ID Field Trip to Turnbull NWR
Leaders Gary Blevin and Kim Thorburn

Contact Gary Blevins (863-2659 or blevins@spocom.com) by April 25 to reserve your place for the workshop.

TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY TRIP

by Ann Brinly

On Saturday, January 28th, six snow-weary SAS members boarded a plane bound for the balmy breezes of the Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Our first morning found us in Texas City where we were successful in finding a cooperative Aplomado Falcon. The bird had been banded last year as a nestling and since it was a 2nd generation Texas we all added him to our US bird list.

Next up was a short stop in Matagorda County looking for upper Texas coast birds. We found plenty including a first in my 18 trips to the valley – a female Painted Bunting. We continued our southward migration to Rockport. Early the next morning found us aboard the Skimmer where Captain Tommy piloted us to several Whooping Crane sightings. Afterwards, a stop at the Sarita rest area produced our first Valley birds – Green Jays and Black-crested Titmouse. Brownsville was our next destination and we headed to Oliveria Park where we thoroughly enjoyed watching two to three hundred Red-ored, Red-headed, Yellow-headed and White-fronted Parrots coming in for the evening. A trip, (the next day) to Sabal Palms Sanctuary and Boca Chica Road yielded more Texas coast birds, including several Least Grebes.

Four days in McAllen allowed us time to visit several of the birding hot spots. Estero Llano Grande afforded us close looks at the well camouflaged Common Parakeet. At Quinta Mazatlan we marveled at the beauty of the old estate and thoroughly enjoyed the trail with the bronze statues of Texas wildlife. Black-bellied Whistling-ducks serenaded

our time at the refuge. That evening we went to the strip center to look for the flock of several hundred Green Parakeets which gather in the evening before heading off to roost. We also enjoyed the thousands of Long-tailed Grackles which create a cacophony of squawks as they settle on the wires for the evening.

Bentsen State Park was uncharacteristically unbirdy. The feeders there were full but mostly the birds forgot to come. We did see a javelina or two while there. (The javelina at the park had been overly plentiful until a flood a few years ago nearly eliminated them from the area.) We headed over to Anzaldous County Park where we were greeted by lots of birds flitting about. Black-crested Titmouse, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Eastern Bluebird and Vermilion kept us busy trying to ID them as they hid in the foliage of the majestic trees in the park. Edinburgh Wetlands provided us with Green Kingfisher, nice looks at Neo-tropic Cormorants and our first Green Heron. Then we headed to Falcon Dam State Park. There we were able to add Roadrunner, Verdin, Bobwhite and Black-throated Sparrows to our trip list.

The next morning we went to spend some time feeder watching at Salineno where the Altamira Oriole and Kiskadee come almost within arm's reach. We then said good-bye to the valley and headed to the Conroe area where would find 5 (from three separate areas) Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and several Brown-headed Nuthatches. Then back on the plane to the wintery north where we can enjoy our memories and our pictures.



Pyrrhuloxia



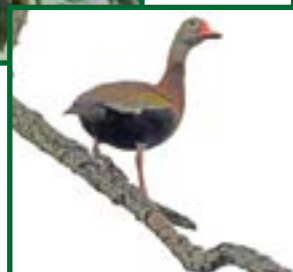
Altamira Oriole



Yellow-crowned Night-heron



Roseate Spoonbill



Black-bellied Whistling Duck

Photos by Joyce Alonso

On The Web

(www.spokaneaudubon.org)

As you know, Spokane Audubon offers many field trips each year. On our Home page we highlight a few of the immediately upcoming trips. If you want to see all the trips for the year, you must go to the Field Trips page. The easiest way to do that is to click on the underlined blue words, "Upcoming Field Trips." This will take you to the field trips page with all the details you need in order to sign up for a trip.

BTW, on the web (and in some documents) whenever you see underlined words that have a different colored font, this is a "hyperlink." Another indication that you have discovered a hyperlink is when your cursor turns into a pointing hand. Clicking on a hyperlink will take you to a different web page with related information. Hyperlinks are one of the most useful aspects of the web. It is also how you can spend (waste?) many hours of your time sitting at the computer before you realize it.

Sometimes our field trip leaders write up their field trips and post them on the web. This is the case with Ann Brinly, who just returned from leading a trip to south Texas. You can find her field trip report by moving your mouse to the navigation bar (the left side of the screen) over "Field Trips", then clicking on the sub-menu item "Field Trip Reports" that pops up to the right of the navigation bar. Now it's time to stop web surfing, get outside and go birding.

Alan McCoy
ahm2352@gmail.com

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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To:

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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>

From Division Street go about 12 blocks East on Mission Ave. Just before the bridge over the Spokane River (by Avista), turn left (East) on Upriver Drive. Go 3 long blocks and turn left (North) on Crestline Street. Go one block. Turn right onto E. North Crescent Ave. Proceed a short way and take a left into the second of the driveways to the Community Building. The Community Building is straight ahead at the end. There are about 15 spaces to the left of the building and about 8 to the right. If these are full, you may have to park on E. North Crescent Ave



Other ways to hear BirdNote

