



Harlequin Ducks in NCW

Volume 51 #9 June 2018

photos and article by Janet Bauer, Winthrop

Birders in North Central Washington should consider themselves lucky to have Harlequin Ducks to look for on our turbulent rivers and streams in the spring. These small sea ducks winter along rocky ocean coastlines and migrate inland to breed. The male Harlequin in its breeding plumage is a beautiful sight with its dark blue color, rufous sides and crown, and striking white patterning.

Harlequins are fascinating to watch as they feed and swim in currents so strong that you'd think they would be washed downstream in no time. In fact, according to Bird Web, many have been found with broken bones, presumably from being dashed against rocks in the rough water. They forage underwater with aquatic insects being their main prey.



Pairs form in the winter and spring with sightings in our area often reported in April and May. Once the females begin incubation, males leave to go back to the coast in June. Females and their newborns stay here until August and have been reported to "team up" and raise combined broods.



Harlequin Ducks are listed as a priority species by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. They are subject to many potential threats including shoreline development, hunting, fishing nets, and logging. Logging activities add silt and sediment to streams, reducing the amount of prey. Since Harlequins take a number of years to reach maturity, they are slow to rebound from threats. Like many birds, great care must be taken to protect them from negative impacts. So next time you go birding and spot a Harlequin, please consider yourself a "lucky duck"!



The mission of the
 North Central Washington Audubon Society
 is "to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing
 on birds and their habitats, for the benefit of people and
 the biological diversity of North Central Washington."

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North Central Washington Audubon Society is on Facebook too

All phone numbers in the Wild Phlox are area code 509 unless otherwise indicated.

June Field Trip to Badger Mountain

Join Jenny Graevell for a Birding Buddies field trip to Badger Mountain. We will explore different hotspots on the mountain June 9. Please meet at the NW corner of the Hobby Lobby parking lot in East Wenatchee at 7 am. Bring water, a sack lunch, layered clothing, sun protection and your enthusiasm. We will return to the parking lot at 4 pm. Limited to twelve people. Please call 886-4518 to register for this field trip.



White-breasted Nuthatch
 at the Leavenworth Bird Fest
 photo by Peter Bauer, Leavenworth

North Central Washington Audubon Society Wild Phlox Subscription Form

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To join the National Audubon Society which also includes a subscription to the Wild Phlox, please see their website at www.audubon.org

Last month I wrote about the term Citizen Science and how it is potentially offensive to people who are not citizens. This column brought me more comments than anything I have ever written in the Wild Phlox over the last ten plus years. Everyone was surprised by the controversy (including me). Most people indicated that they don't think the word Citizen is offensive; however they would be willing to consider some other term. Others were outraged and wondered if the word Citizen needs to be removed from other terms or names of organizations. The National Audubon Society has released a statement explaining why they have begun to use the term Community Science instead and I have printed it on page seven of this issue of the Wild Phlox. The North Central Washington Audubon Society board of directors will begin a discussion of this issue this week and you can expect to see what the board decides in the next issue which should be delivered around September 1.

Enough of semantics. I hope you have had a chance to get out and enjoy the marvelous May weather and see and hear the returning neotropical migrants and other birds in our four-county region. I enjoyed a windy day of birding in Douglas County with a friend recently. We saw nearly 80 different species including all three teals! Back in the Methow we saw several other birds including Common Mergansers, all three hummers, Peregrine Falcon and Wild Turkeys which took our total to over 80 for the day. It was a good day birding. Here at home, birds are setting up housekeeping in our nest boxes and in cavities in our dead trees. We keep hoping to see evidence that American Kestrels are using the box we had put high in a snag just for them but recently there have been only occasional sightings of these tiny falcons. Birds that are using our boxes include Tree and Violet-green Swallows, Western and Mountain Bluebirds and the ever-present and ever-singing House Finches.

Did you read last month's article about the Methow Wildlife Area nest box project? Volunteer Julie Hovis reports that most of the boxes are being used! Of the 69 boxes, only 7 are empty. Dana Visali reports that of his 61 boxes, 16 are empty and he is concerned about that. He wondered if it may be due to the diminution of the insect population. Or maybe it's the 2 ½ foot gopher snake he saw on the bark of a pine tree, ten feet off the ground!

Have you ever seen a Lesser Loon or a Holboell's Grebe? How about a Treganza's Heron or Northwestern Coast Heron? Long-tailed, Oregon or Grinnell's Chickadees? Dotted Wren? Sitka Kinglet, Lutescent Warbler, Calaveras Warbler, Northern Pileolated Warbler, Golden Pileolated Warbler, Nevada Red-wing, Timberline Sparrow, Puget Sound Sparrow, Forbush's Sparrow? All these birds and many more, some with names we know and others we might not, are mentioned in a 1934 edition of the Distributional Check-List of the Birds of the State of Washington by E.A. Kitchin and published occasionally by The Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society of Seattle, Washington. My husband brought this home from a regional Wildlife Society meeting. I suspect many of these birds have been lumped with other species, or split into two or more species, or renamed by ornithologists to better describe them.

I am excited to share a sneak peak of some of the new artwork that will soon be gracing the front page of The Wild Phlox! Heather A. Wallis Murphy is providing five sketches of birds native to NCW and one plant (wild phlox of course!). She will finish up the artwork this summer and I will incorporate it into the our banner in time for the September issue!



White-headed Woodpecker
by Heather A. Wallis Murphy,
Leavenworth

Remember, the Phlox takes the summer off so check our website and facebook page for details on any upcoming events.

NCW Recent Bird Sightings

compiled from the ncwabird email list
and eBird and Tweepers by Teri J Pieper

Chelan County: A Snow Goose was seen near Malaga and at Fish Lake. Other birds at Fish Lake included Wilson's Phalarope, Wood Ducks, American Pipits, Western Sandpiper, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Red-breasted Merganser and Ruffed Grouse. At Tall Timber there Western Tanagers, Harlequin Ducks and Ruffed Grouse. A Golden Eagle was seen over the White River. At Beebe Springs there was a Forster's Tern and Peregrine Falcon. A Northern Mockingbird was heard near the Beebe Bridge.

Douglas County: Near Mansfield, all three teals were observed. Also Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets and Wilson's Phalaropes. A Warbling Vireo and a Lazuli

Bunting were seen in Central Ferry Canyon.

Ferry County: A Common Poorwill was heard near the Kettle River. A Spruce Grouse and a Black-backed Woodpecker were seen near Forest Road 705.

Okanogan County: Western Tanagers and Lewis' Woodpeckers returned to Winthrop. A Peregrine Falcon was seen between Twisp and Winthrop. Evening Grosbeaks were seen near Winthrop. A Sage Thrasher was seen on Cameron Lake Road. Black Terns were seen at Beaver Lake in the Okanogan Highlands. Bobolinks were seen in Aeneas Valley.

Getting to Know Your Board Members - Don McIvor

by Penny Tobiska, Wenatchee

Along with being the Science Officer on our NCWAS Board, Don McIvor is a wildlife ecologist, woodworker, musician, and outdoor enthusiast.

When and how did you develop an interest in the natural world? Both of my parents were avid about the outdoors, and until I was six we lived in a rural setting. They took me hiking, camping, and canoeing, and I remember spending a lot of time outdoors exploring the woods and creeks around me. My mother earned her bachelors (in biology) after I was born, and I remember tagging along with her to do water sampling. At the age of six I moved to Australia with my parents, and we spent as much time as we could exploring the Outback and the Great Barrier Reef. I really don't remember a time when I wasn't interested in the natural world.

How has this interest influenced your professional life? I don't think there was ever any doubt that I would pursue a career that kept me outdoors and engaged in the natural world. I studied environmental science and archeology at the undergraduate level. I worked briefly as an archeologist (fun but paid well south of diddly) before getting a job with the National Marine Fisheries Service. After a few years I left to spend a



summer tracking peregrine falcons outside of Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. That experience convinced me that I wanted to be a wildlife ecologist, so I went back for a Master's degree and a chance to move West (from North Carolina).

Tell us a little about the other interests you pursue. I have been restoring the 1926 farm that we bought some years ago and have just broken ground for a new workshop. I am a woodworker specializing in turned art, but also do cabinetry and furniture. I'm a musician, writer, photographer, and editor. When I can break free of the farm, I enjoy hiking, backpacking, canoeing, and spending time with my wife and dog.

Share with us some of your favorite hiking and/or camping areas in the Northwest. In spite of having lived in Washington for twelve years, I feel I've done a poor job exploring from a camping/hiking standpoint. I have made a few hiking/camping trips to Twentymile Meadows, north of Tiffany Mountain. It's a fascinating area that feels like Alaska, complete with moose. Maple Pass is stunning, but best experienced on an off-peak day. Canoe camping on Ross Lake is great, though I prefer to be there when school is in session.

Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival 2018

Pateros, September 15, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

by Richard Scranton, Wenatchee

Join the Chelan and Entiat Ranger Districts, North Central Washington Audubon Society, and HawkWatch International this fall for the ninth annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival! This family-friendly event combines free activities in Pateros' Memorial Park with trips to Chelan Ridge to learn about and celebrate raptors as they journey to winter territories. At the park, participants will find vendors, live raptors, interpretive booths, and projects for kids.

Friday night, September 14, we will offer a workshop with an expert from HawkWatch International on raptor

migration and field identification to prepare you for your trip up to the ridge. The trip to and from Chelan Ridge lasts four hours and can include seeing banded raptors released.

From 8 am to noon, there will be a field trip to Wells Wildlife Refuge. We are working on other field trips as well.

More information and on-line registration for the trip to Chelan Ridge, field trip(s), and workshop will be available July 15 at www.ncwaudubon.org.

If you have any questions please contact Richard Scranton at rscran4350@yahoo.com.

A Visit to Magee Marsh

photos and article by
Bruce McCammon, Wenatchee

One of the best ways to learn another language is to participate in an immersion where you live with the language each day for an extended time. I think the same thing applies to learning birds. Nothing beats an extended time birding in an area that offers a tremendous variety of bird species. Welcome to Magee Marsh (www.mageemarsh.org).

Situated between Cleveland and Toledo, Ohio on the south shore of Lake Erie, Magee Marsh is famous as a location that receives dozens of neotropical birds on their spring migration north. This 2000 acre wetland attracts flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, and raptors but it is the warblers that most people come to see. Peaking in early to mid-May, the warbler migration means that local towns, restaurants, and stores all gear up for the influx of bird watchers. An annual Warbler Festival brings thousands of people to the area. Newspaper headlines tout the birding opportunities at Magee Marsh and other locations. Motels fill up and gift shops brace for the onslaught of people looking for souvenirs and information. Let's just say it can be a very intense social experience.

with cameras seemed to get front-rail positions and those with binoculars gathered views behind the photographers. Of course, that's a generalization. Not every camera was front and center and not everyone was polite. Photographers with long lenses and tripods seem to be at a disadvantage when the 6-foot wide boardwalk got crowded. I'm totally mystified how anyone can follow a frenetic warbler through dense brush or trees when the camera and monster lens are attached to a tripod. My hat is off to anyone who can pull off this wizardry.



Cerulean Warbler

We went to Magee to see new birds, add to our lists and to enjoy time with family from the east coast. I really wanted to photograph a Prothonotary Warbler and a Yellow Warbler. Both of these species were easily seen and photographed. So were the other 25 Life Birds I recorded in 2 days. If you'd like to see some of our images you can visit an Adobe Spark website here: <https://spark.adobe.com/sp/design/page/AA037976-2421-41DE-96A9-FD14BFD9726E>.

If you want to immerse yourself in neotropical birds, there are few places that can compete with the Magee Marsh area. It is highly recommended for anyone who can tolerate a crowd and wants to witness these beautiful birds without having to chase them across the country.



Prothonotary Warbler



Yellow Warbler

The Magee Marsh boardwalk is about a half mile long and is well constructed of heavy wood. The boardwalk is totally accessible for people who might need a wheelchair or assistance. As you move along the boardwalk you pass through a variety of wetland and forest habitats. And the birds are everywhere.

We timed our arrival at the Marsh to precede the Warbler Fest by a few days. Our first afternoon walk along the boardwalk was casually paced with few other people present. We began to learn the birds and how they behaved. Other people were friendly and helpful, often giving us an ID or telling us where they had seen a certain species. We were impressed by the number of birds and left the area feeling rewarded and knowing that the next two days would add to our lists and experience.

The next morning saw us on the boardwalk shortly after sunrise. It seemed that there were ten times as many birds as the day before. By 10:00 there were also ten times as many people. For the most part, people cooperated and were polite. People

Fodder from the Feeder

by Karen Mulcahy, Winthrop

I am sitting outside in the early evening for some inspiration. It's been hot today and we spent all day in the garden redoing the watering system and improving some raised beds. Throughout the day a House Wren has been advertising for a mate (still!), the Pygmy Nuthatches have been chattering (I believe they have a clutch in one or two of the nest boxes) and the raven brood in the ponderosa pine by the garage have been enthusiastically enjoying their dining experiences all day long - starting very early. My part time neighbors want to know if they will be fledged by Memorial Day weekend when they return!

As I was writing this, I heard a very strange hummingbird sound. I looked over in the tree and saw two hummers, one just hovering, and the other dancing back and forth from left to right about six inches each way. I have not seen that action before in hummer courtship. I have only seen the high fly up and deep dive down. This looked like a Bird of Paradise display, only instead of doing it on a tree branch the male was doing it in the air. That is what is so wonderful about sitting quietly outside - you take the time to watch and observe what is happening out there. And just maybe record it for yourself, or ebird.

Which leads me to the "citizen science" topic. I was intrigued to read Teri's comments and research on the subject last month. I had not heard of this new controversy. Recently we had gag gift T-shirts printed up for ourselves and our friends, with the statement, "Citizen Scientists, We do what we can," and I guess I am a little concerned about the faux pas we might be committing. My husband Rick and I participate in Christmas Bird Counts when able and conduct a Winter Raptor Route for Hawk Watch of North America. This is our third year doing the Sagebrush Songbird Survey (SSS), and we have helped on the Short-eared Owl survey with Art Campbell (NCWAS President) and Michelle Dewey. We so enjoy our forays into the shrub-steppe or the plateau to gather this data.

This month we surveyed Dead Horse Lake area for the SSS with David Clement and were pleased to hear Vesper

Sparrows, and David spotted a Lark Sparrow- yay! Thanks David. This burned area is recovering slowly. And yet another recent SSS trip near Bridgeport involved a hike up a hillside where every sagebrush and arrowleaf balsamroot was teeming with ticks. It was frankly unbelievable. I had never seen so many ticks just waiting to pounce. Miraculously we were spared any bites or unwanted hitchhikers. These "citizen/community science" outings are fraught with danger! Tomorrow, I hope to participate in Julie Hovis's training for banding birds and collecting and documenting data. I am thrilled to participate in bird science, however you term the endeavor.

I think it will take me some time to remember to say, "community science," if that is deemed necessary. I certainly don't want to offend anyone, but I feel we are all citizens of the world, and the term shouldn't exclude anyone who might not be a citizen of a specific country. Presumably they are a citizen of somewhere, so they can be a scientist too, regardless! Personally, I prefer the term "Citizen Science" because as an individual citizen, I am making my unique contribution to scientific endeavors. I am not a community although I may participate in group projects.

That is my last word on the subject. I will no doubt abide by whatever is decided because I don't want to offend, and I can adjust my terms of speech.

And in the hour it has taken to write this missive, I have seen Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds displaying like crazy above my head, and the ravens have settled down, likewise the House Wren. The bugs are coming out, and the frogs are calling, as are the Say's Phoebes in the distance. The robins are coming for their evening bath and the flickers are calling. It is a beautiful evening - a joyous time to be in this precious world.

See the statement from National Audubon on the next page. NCWAS will continue this discussion and create our own policy regarding the terminology.

Ideas for Summer Outings and Events

Various organizations sponsor natural history outings and events in North Central Washington.

Here is a brief list to help you plan your summer activities:

Chelan Douglas Land Trust <https://www.cdlandtrust.org/outings-events/events>

Methow Conservancy: www.methowconservancy.org/events.html

Okanogan Native Plant Society: www.okanogannativeplants.org/p/field-trips.html

Wenatchee Native Plant Society: www.wnps.org/wenatchee/home.html

Wenatchee River Institute: www.wenatcheeriverinstitute.org/events

Okanogan Highlands Alliance: www.okanoganhighlands.org/

North Cascades Institute <https://www.ncascades.org/signup/programs/classes>

National Audubon Society's Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

from the
National Audubon Society website

Just as biodiversity strengthens natural systems, the diversity of human experience strengthens our conservation efforts for the benefit of nature and all human beings. Audubon must represent and reflect that human diversity, embracing it in all the communities where we work, in order to achieve our conservation goals. To that end, we are committed to increasing the diversity of our staff, board, volunteers, members, and supporters, and to fostering an inclusive network of Audubon Centers and Chapters in all kinds of communities, from rural to urban.

Equity, diversity and inclusion is not only a best practice for business, it's a strategic imperative. Our business and conservation strategies are enriched and made stronger by the contribution of the experiences, perspectives, and values of diverse individuals and communities. Protecting and conserving nature and the environment transcends political, cultural and social boundaries, and so must Audubon in order to expand our network's reach and engage more people in protecting birds and habitat.

We are dedicated to providing a work environment that prioritizes fairness and respect. At Audubon, all employees are treated equally and are encouraged to achieve their fullest potential. We respect the individuality of each member of our community, and we are committed to a workplace free of any kind of discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, national or ethnic origin, politics, or veteran status.

With a plurality of voices, Audubon will inspire more people and conserve more habitats. Respect, inclusion, and opportunity for people of all backgrounds, lifestyles

and perspectives will attract the best ideas and harness the greatest passion to shape a healthier, more vibrant future for all of us who share our planet. The birds we are pledged to protect differ in color, size, behavior, geographical preference and countless other ways. By honoring and celebrating the equally remarkable diversity of the human species, Audubon will bring new creativity, effectiveness and leadership to our work throughout the hemisphere.

The word citizen was originally included in the term citizen science to distinguish amateur data collectors from professional scientists, not to describe the citizenship status of these volunteer observers. Today, however, it is important for us to recognize that the term has become limiting to our work and partnerships in some contexts. Audubon welcomes everyone who finds delight in birds and nature. As part of Audubon's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, we have transitioned from using the term "citizen science" to the more inclusive term "community science." No matter where a volunteer was born, or how they came to the United States, we value their contribution to our science and conservation programs. Citizenship, or the perception that a volunteer may or may not be a citizen, certainly isn't a prerequisite to caring for birds.

Furthermore, participation in volunteer data-collection initiatives like the Audubon Christmas Bird Count and the Great Backyard Bird Count are, at their best, communal experiences that bring us together as a caring community of people who are inspired by birds and want to protect them. The term community science better reflects these social and relational realities.



Yellow Warbler and Western Bluebird
on a sign at Mazama
photo by Pat Leigh, Winthrop

Upcoming NCW Audubon Social

by Merry Roy, Wenatchee

It's been a while since the NCW Audubon has invited the community to a social. What's a social? In our case, it's a chance to meet other people in the Wenatchee Valley area who are interested in birds. We are planning for a Fall Social event September 26 at the Wenatchee Valley Museum, mid-week in the evening. Young birders, new birders, advanced birders, families of birders - they are all invited to a friendly time of celebrating birds and meeting like-minded folks. It will be fun. We hope to see you there!

June Wild Phlox

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North Central Washington Audubon Society Calendar

Items in bold text are sponsored or co-sponsored by NCWAS

1st and 3rd Wednesdays	Beebe Springs Bird Counts	NCWAS and WDFW Citizen Science. See www.ncwaudubon.org/events.html
June 9	Badger Mountain Field Trip	With Jenny Graevell. See page 2.
June 17	Butterflies in the Okanogan Highlands	See last month's Wild Phlox or www.okanoganhighlands.org/
September 15	Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival	See page 4 and check our website for updates
September 26	NCW Audubon Social	See page 7

You can find the Wild Phlox online at our website - www.ncwaudubon.org
The beautiful photos are even nicer in color.



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Visit the NCW Audubon Society website for updates on these and other events
www.ncwaudubon.org