



Volume 50 #6 March 2017

Bluebird Man

by Mark Oswood, Wenatchee

The Wenatchee Valley Environmental Film and Lecture Series

NCWAS is the sponsor for the film *Bluebird Man* and more on March 21 at the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center.

The film: “*Bluebird Man* is a half hour documentary film about bluebird conservation and citizen science. The film focuses on the efforts of 91-year-old Alfred Larson, who has been monitoring and maintaining over 300 nest boxes for bluebirds in Idaho for 35 years. *Bluebird Man* chronicles Al’s continued efforts to conserve bluebirds throughout Southern Idaho despite his advancing age. Stunning scenery, intimate conversations and breathtaking footage of all three species of bluebird create a powerful film that reveals the secret behind Al’s longevity while providing inspiration for our next generation of citizen scientists.” (from the film website www.bluebirdman.com/)

After the film, Ken Bevis will talk about nest boxes and their place in the habitat. Nest boxes are a great habitat enhancement tool that offer our cavity nesting birds the chance to successfully breed in the absence of natural cavities. Dead trees are relatively rare across the settled

Bluebird Man and more
The Wenatchee Valley Environmental
Film and Lecture Series
March 21, 7:00 pm
Wenatchee Valley Museum and
Cultural Center
\$5 donation to the museum
Refreshments will be served

landscape and providing these boxes can offer real value to bird populations. Bluebird trails prove this. Ken will talk about several styles of boxes that are easy to construct and show some examples of birds that use them. He



Western Bluebird singing on a nest box
photo by Peter Bauer

will describe the boxes he and his wife, Teri Pieper, have established on their property near Winthrop. Ken is the Stewardship Wildlife Biologist for the Department of Natural Resources Forest Stewardship program and will also provide information on his program.

Daniel’s Birdhouses – a small business success story: Daniel Anderman has made about 2500 bluebird houses since he started in a resource room at the Leavenworth middle school, in the year 2000. He has Down syndrome and autism. Today he is 31. His parents

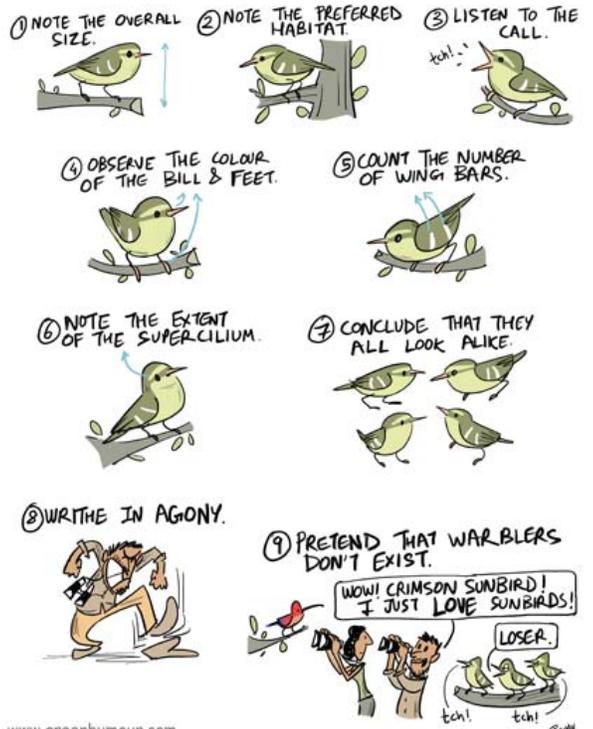
help make and market the nest boxes around NCW. It’s a Washington State licensed business. Daniel has created or added to bluebird trails all over the state. Daniel and his family will be at the museum to tell you all about this project and offer some boxes for sale.

Here’s the equation for the evening:

Bluebird Man film + Ken Bevis on nestboxes for your landscape + Daniel’s Birdhouses = inspiration + information + entertainment!
Bring the whole family!

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."

Useful Tips Spring is on its way



www.greenhumour.com

Cartoon by Rohan Chakravarty,
 Cartoonist and Illustrator
 www.greenhumour.com

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

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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 or drop us a note and we will send you a form for a special rate introductory membership.

Despite two plus feet of wet snow and dreary gray skies, the calendar tells me we are nearing the end of February and spring is approaching. I am a person who enjoys winter and winter activities but for some reason, this year, I am anxious for it to be over. Winter birds have been few and far between at our house this year so looking out the windows doesn't bring much joy. We have had lots of powder snow and blue skies but also very frigid temperatures that lasted way too long. And now I can see that mud season is just around the corner. And there is no end in sight to the mudslinging season we've been experiencing. Yes, spring can't arrive quickly enough for me.

Spring brings many fun activities for us around NCW. I have compiled a list on page 6 of this newsletter and it is just the tip of the iceberg. There really are a lot of good things to look forward to.

And don't forget to keep up on political matters. It is important for concerned citizens to keep their elected officials informed of what the constituents think. It might be good to remind them that a group of organized citizens can make a difference. I'd like to point out that Okanogan County citizens were frustrated with their county commissioners in recent years and in the November elections, both commissioners that were up for re-election lost. So yes, a group of concerned citizens can make a difference. Stay informed and be involved.

NCW Audubon has two new board members – Janet Bauer of Winthrop and Merry Roy of Wenatchee! Thank you for joining us and helping to guide us into the future. And thanks to our secretary, Penny Tobiska, for interviewing board members for the Wild Phlox. I hope you all enjoy getting to know a bit about your board members.

Are you looking for something to read to get you through these last weeks of winter? A list of the twelve best bird books from 2016 is at www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2017/01/09/the-twelve-best-books-about-birds-and-birding-in-2016/#75fa492c38b0. The list includes Paul Bannick's book *Owls: A year in the life of North American Owls* and a new book by Pete Dunne, *Bird Droppings: Writings About Watching Birds and Bird Watchers*. I have always enjoyed his writing. I think I will have to see if the North Central Regional Library system has this one.

Teresa Lorenz, Ph.D., Research Wildlife Biologist for the Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station is trying to find Clark's Nutcrackers in the Methow Valley for research projects. She is looking for either homes that nutcrackers are visiting regularly or areas where they are seen where a feeder might be put up and maintained. She and others on her team will coordinate so that they can satellite tag and band the birds in order to monitor their movements. She can provide suet free of charge to anyone who has a feeder with Clark's Nutcrackers or wants to set-up and maintain a feeder in an area where they are commonly seen. Contact Teresa at 425-429-5938 or 509-731-5226 or tlorenz@fs.fed.us



New NCWAS board member, Merry Roy and a curious Gray Jay. photo by Joseph Roy

NCW Recent Bird Sightings

In Ferry County, Northern Pygmy-owls were found in and around Republic and along Boulder Creek Road. 100 Bohemian Waxwings were found in Republic. Pine Grosbeaks were observed just west of Sherman Pass. A Canyon Wren was singing in Swawilla Basin. A White-headed Woodpecker was seen at Inchelium.

In Okanogan County, Bohemian Waxwings were seen at Washburn Island. Sharp-tailed Grouse, a Wild Turkey and a Chukar were seen at Scotch Creek near Conconully. Gray-crowned Rosy-finch flocks were reported at Happy Hill Road in the Okanogan Highlands and along Elbow Coulee Road near Twisp. A Townsend's Solitaire and a Golden Eagle were reported in Conconully. Snow Buntings were seen on Timentwa Flats. A Long-tailed Duck was seen on the Columbia. A White-

headed Woodpecker was seen on Havillah Road. A Ruffed Grouse was seen at the Chesaw cemetery. A Say's Phoebe was seen near Winthrop on February 15.

In Douglas County, a Prairie Falcon was seen near Mansfield. American Tree Sparrows were observed near Lamoine and at Withrow. Lapland Longspurs were also seen near Withrow. A Harris Sparrow was seen at Bridgeport. A Gyrfalcon was seen on North Division and 26 roads. A Snowy Owl was found west of Mansfield. A Merlin was seen in Bridgeport.

In Chelan County, Three Trumpeter Swans and four Barrow's Goldeneyes were seen near the Beebe Bridge. A Double-crested Cormorant and a Northern Shrike were seen from the Horan Natural Area. Western Grebes were seen from the Entiat City Park and a Golden Eagle was seen at Beebe Springs.

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

eBird 101 Workshop

Become a Citizen Scientist Birder!

By Susan Ballinger, Wenatchee

Do you like to bird? Would you like to see your observations contribute to a world-wide community of educators and researchers across the globe? Then, become a citizen scientist with eBird. Launched in 2002 by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird has become one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence and we can help you get involved. Whether you are just getting started, or are already an eBird user with questions, this workshop is designed for you. Presenter Wendy Connally, WDFW Diversity Division's Citizen Science Coordinator, will show you the ins-and-outs of using eBird.

We are offering two free two-hour workshops to pick from on either Wednesday, March 22 (6-8 pm) at the CDLT office in Wenatchee or Thursday, March 23 (9-11 am) in Leavenworth at Wenatchee River Institute (WRI). An optional one-hour field data collection practice will be offered 11-noon, after the Thursday training. Participants at both a two-hour workshop and the one-hour field practice are eligible for three clock hour credits through WRI.

The workshop is co-sponsored by Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) and Wenatchee River Institute (WRI), in partnership with Audubon Washington and North Central Washington Audubon Society (NCWAS). These organizations have on-going projects supported by local citizen scientists: volunteers who partner with scientists to answer real-world questions.

Wendy will start with the basics so a person not yet familiar with eBird will leave the workshop ready to set up an account, start collecting data, and entering bird observations. People already familiar with eBird will get to learn more about using the web-based tools and maps to advance their knowledge.

Wendy Connally works with professional biologists, conservation partners, and interested/engaged volunteer Citizen Scientists and she designs and implements priority-species data collection projects. Wendy's background is in rare species monitoring, wildlife conservation planning, stakeholder development, and on-the-ground stewardship. Conservation does not happen without people so she's shifted her career in a way to more actively contribute to that conversation.

The March 22 Wenatchee workshop will be held at the CDLT office, 18 North Wenatchee Avenue, hosted by CDLT Conservation Fellow, Susan Ballinger. To sign up, or for more information about the Wenatchee workshop, contact Susan (susan@cdlandtrust.org or 667-9708).

The March 23 Leavenworth workshop will be held at the Wenatchee River Institute Barn, hosted by Brook Hinton, Adult Programs Coordinator. To sign up or for more information about the Leavenworth workshop contact Brook (bhinton@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org or 548-0181)

Locally, CDLT has launched citizen science eBird projects at Horse Lake Reserve and Mountain Home Preserve. Wenatchee River Institute and the US Fish and Wildlife Service Leavenworth Fish Hatchery are developing eBird routes on their Leavenworth properties. Audubon Washington has partnered with NCWAS and other Audubon Chapters to implement a five-year shrub-steppe bird monitoring project. All projects rely on local volunteer citizen scientists and more are needed. This training will help prepare volunteers to feel comfortable collecting and entering accurate bird data into eBird, using project-specific protocols.

What is eBird?

Overview

A real-time, online checklist program, eBird has revolutionized the way that the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales. eBird's goal is to maximize the utility and accessibility of the vast numbers of bird observations made each year by recreational and professional bird watchers. It is amassing one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence. For example, in May 2015, participants reported more than 9.5 million bird observations across the world!

How Does it Work?

eBird documents the presence or absence of species, as well as bird abundance through checklist data. A simple and intuitive web-interface engages tens of thousands of participants to submit their observations or view results via interactive queries into the eBird database. eBird encourages users to participate by providing Internet tools that maintain their personal bird records and enable them to visualize data with interactive maps, graphs, and bar charts. All these features are available in English, Spanish, and French.

A birder simply enters when, where, and how they went birding, then fills out a checklist of all the birds seen and heard during the outing. eBird provides various options for data gathering including point counts, transects, and area searches. Automated data quality filters developed by regional bird experts review all submissions before they enter the database. Local experts review unusual records that are flagged by the filters.

from <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/about/>

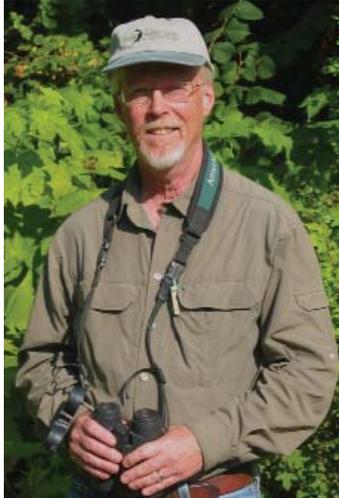
Getting to Know a Board Member

An Ongoing Series
by Penny Tobiska, Wenatchee

Our featured board member this month is Mark Johnston, a birder extraordinaire. He has been involved in the Sierra Club and leadership positions in the Seattle Audubon chapter for many years; Mark joined our board when he and his wife moved to Leavenworth. For an outstanding birding experience, join one of the spring field trips that he will lead. His specialty is birding by ear.

Tell us a little about your background and how you came to be interested in the natural world. I can actually say I've been interested in nature my entire life. I majored in Natural Resources in college and just by chance took a course on birds. Through it I learned many aspects of their lives and became aware of how effectively they reveal the workings of nature and the environment. But while the class sparked my interest in and knowledge of birds, it wasn't until 1987 that I finally took up birding. I have endeavored to learn all I can about them ever since. What interests and draws one person to birds and birding can be very different than what attracts others. For me it's the whole package – their taxonomy, biology, ecology, evolution, migration strategies, physiology, how they integrate their lives into particular niches, etc. At core, I'm an environmentalist, but one who has focused intensely on birds and how issues affecting their well-being inform strategies for protecting natural ecosystems in general.

When you are not enjoying birds, what are your interests? In addition to my current involvement with NCWAS, my concern for nature and the environment has led me to serve in



Mark Johnston in his natural habitat photo provided

leadership positions with Sierra Club, Seattle Audubon, and the Alaska Coalition of Washington over the last 30 years. In addition to this work, I also enjoy hiking, restoring native habitats around our home, playing with our dog, reading non-fiction, and occasional travel.

Are there any books from your recent reading that you would recommend to our members? Some of the most insightful ones I've read lately are *Your Inner Fish* (Shubin), *Endless Forms Most Beautiful* (Carroll), *Winter World* (Heinrich), and *The Future* (Al Gore).

Can you recommend any "must visit" locations for birders in Washington? There are some fine locations in Kittitas County - Umtanum Canyon which is a spur off Yakima Canyon, Umtanum Road which runs through the uplands between Ellensburg and Yakima, Robinson Canyon southwest of Ellensburg on the L.T. Murray Wildlife Recreation Area.

What do you think the future holds for our NCW Audubon chapter?

Right now, I think the chapter's future looks very bright. Our board is strong and we're firing on all cylinders with solid education, conservation, citizen science, and field trip programs. Though we're currently well-staffed (with volunteers), our bench is thin so we're always on the lookout for new people. In order to retain and enhance our effectiveness, we need to engage and further activate our membership. However, in my opinion, we're in good shape now and have a good chance of remaining so.

2017 Shrub-steppe Songbird Surveys

by Christi Norman, Audubon WA

2017 promises an extraordinarily lush and song-filled shrub-steppe spring once the snow melts! Hone your songbird identification skills with training from our partner - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - experts. Experience new adventures exploring the back country to survey for our focal species - Sage Thrasher, Sagebrush Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, and more... Join volunteers from eight chapters in our citizen science breeding bird survey covering eastern Washington's public lands to help conserve our birds and their habitats. Here's how: Contact Richard Scranton at rscran4350@yahoo.com to register for trainings listed below:

March 22-23 eBird trainings with the Chelan Douglas Land Trust, Wenatchee River Institute and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. For more information see the article on page 4. Mileage and hotel reimbursement are available.

April 1-2 Sagebrush Songbird Survey field training. Day one is

Bird ID and Day two is GPS practice

- Instructors: WDFW's Matt Vander Haegen and Dr. Micheal Schroeder plus David St George
 - Training site: Nature Conservancy's Moses Coulee Field Station and WDFW Sagebrush Flats Wildlife Area
- Mileage and hotel reimbursement are available. RSVP to Christi Norman at cnorman@audubon.org

Survey dates. Choose your date from two weeks each month.

- April 13-16 AND April 20-23
- May 11-13 AND May 18-21
- June 1-4 AND June 8-11

Mileage and hotel reimbursement are available.

Thanks for all you've accomplished & looking forward to the 2017 field season. A report on last year's surveys is available at http://wa.audubon.org/sites/g/files/amh546/f/static_pages/attachments/sagebrush-songbird-report-2016_small.pdf

Spring Planning

Get out your calendars! Spring brings many opportunities for birding, volunteering and learning. Here is a sampling from around NCW and beyond!

March 20 Methow Conservancy Spring Equinox Walk. Join us for a free walk to see what's sprouting on the first day of Spring! 3:00 – 5:00 pm, free but space is limited. Contact Mary at mary@methowconservancy.org or 996-2870 to register.

Spring workshop Shrub-steppe Stewardship & Restoration, offered by the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) Stewardship Program. Dates are being set for this free training series, held in Wenatchee, including four evening sessions and two Saturday field trips. Contact organizer Jim Evans at jimevans@centurytel.net to learn more (dates will be firmed up very soon!). Participants must join WNPS as a member, and pledge to do stewardship volunteering upon completion of the training.

Wildlife Tracking Intensive - Join local wildlife tracker and educator Nate Bacon for a six-month wildlife tracking series that will meet one day per month from April through September. Explore the lives, behavior, and ecology of local wildlife through the art of track and sign identification and interpretation. Both beginning trackers and seasoned veterans are welcome and encouraged to attend as there will be plenty of opportunity to learn from and with each other. The series will take place at various field locations throughout the Methow and will be a great opportunity to explore the wonders of this valley including protected conservation easements. The course will meet from 8:30 am to 4 pm on April 15, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 19, and September 9. Tuition is \$450. Space in the course is limited to 12 people. Contact Mary at mary@methowconservancy.org or 996-2870 for questions or to register.

April 25 & 27 Weed "Alert" Training, offered by Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) and Chelan County Weed Board, 6-8 pm. Learn to identify 13 problematic weeds that could become invasive in the Wenatchee Foothills. Volunteers will learn how to report sightings to CDLT as way to allow quick deterrent actions to prevent these invasive weeds from spreading. To register, contact Susan Ballinger at susan@cdlandtrust.org

Kids in the Creek, coordinated by Cascadia Conservation District. Annual May outdoor riparian education program serving area high school students. To learn more, contact coordinator Amanda LeVesque Newell at AmandaL@cascadiacd.org

North Central Washington Audubon Society "What's That Bird?" (Kindergarten-adults). Join a fun team helping people learn to use binoculars and to identify common local species at a wide variety of outdoor venues. To learn more, contact NCWAS Education Coordinators Mark Oswood moswood@nwi.net or Penny Tobiska ptobiska@nwi.net.

March 24-26 Othello Sandhill Crane Festival. For nearly two decades, participants have celebrated the annual return of nearly 35,000 sand hill cranes to Othello every March as they migrate north to their breeding grounds in Alaska. The festival offers an

compiled by Teri J Pieper, Methow Valley

incredible opportunity to view the cranes up-close with tours led by local experts. The festival also boasts other specialty tours of the flora, fauna and geology of the area, and many lectures, as well as children's activities. www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/

April 6-9 Harney County Migratory Bird Festival in Burns, Oregon. Spend an amazing weekend witnessing the spectacular spring migration in the Harney Basin of Southeast Oregon. View thousands of migratory birds as they rest and feed in the wide-open spaces of Oregon's high desert. From waterfowl to shorebirds, cranes to raptors, wading birds to songbirds, you'll see it all! The festival offers non-stop birding activities as well as historical and cultural information sure to entertain you and your family. The featured speaker is author and photographer Noah Strycker, who completed a "Big Year of Birding" in 2015 and set a new world record of 6,042 species observed around the world! Contact: Harney County Chamber of Commerce, 541-573-2636, info@migratorybirdfestival.com.

May 5-7 Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival, Hoquiam. Each spring, hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop to rest and feed in the Grays Harbor estuary on their migration northward. Coming from as far south as Argentina, these Arctic-bound shorebirds are among the world's greatest migrants. Some birds travel over 15,000 miles round trip! Tens of thousands of shorebirds feed on the open mudflats in the estuary. This concentration of birds offers people a great chance to view many shorebird species. For more information, call (360) 289-504 or see www.shorebirdfestival.com/

May 12-14 Yakima River Canyon Bird Fest along the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway, Ellensburg. Come bird with Kittitas Environmental Education Network (KEEN) and discover the natural beauty of the Yakima Canyon! Kittitas County features diverse and spectacular habitats ranging from snow-capped mountains, thousands of acres of public forest, lush riparian corridors, and endangered shrub-steppe open space. The Yakima River Canyon is an Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA) with some of the highest densities of passerines and birds of prey in the State, some of them obligates to the shrub-steppe habitat. The Yakima River Canyon Bird Fest will offer expert-led field trips, keynote speakers including Paul Bannick, vendors, extended field trips, social events, music, and a plethora of early spring bird watching! Contact: KEEN kittitasee@gmail.com or 551-8807 or see www.ycic.org/yakima-river-canyon-bird-fest

May 18-21 Leavenworth Spring BirdFest at Wenatchee River Institute, Barn Beach Reserve, 347 Division Street, Leavenworth. Come bird with us the third weekend in May and celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Leavenworth Spring BirdFest! Enjoy the unforgettable experience of witnessing the vast array of returning migratory birds during the peak wildflower season in the incomparable natural beauty of North Central Washington's Wenatchee Valley. Contact: Wenatchee River Institute Programs programs@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org or 548-0181, x4.

Ecosystems of the Okanogan

A Highlands Wonders Presentation

photo and article by Julie Ashmore,
Okanogan Highlands

On Friday, March 3, Andy Stepniewski brings an all-new topic to the Highland Wonders series, with “Ecosystems of the Okanogan.”

The beautiful Okanogan lies to the east of the Cascades, in the rain shadow of this range. The region showcases an impressive mosaic of ecosystems because of its varied terrain with great differences in elevation, from alpine summits to valley bottoms. Huge variation in temperatures and precipitation occur along this elevational gradient. Ecological diversity is the region’s hallmark, from the windswept, snowy, alpine mountaintops of the western edge of the Okanogan, eastward into extensions of boreal Canada’s “Spruce Kingdom,” downward into progressively warmer and drier forest zones, and into the semi-arid shrub-steppe zone. Combined, this array of ecosystems adds up to stupendous natural biodiversity in a relatively small area. This diversity is rarely exceeded by other areas at this latitude in North America. Join Andy on this armchair tour celebrating the natural highlights of the Okanogan.

Scott Sandsberry wrote in the Yakima Herald: If you ask Andy Stepniewski about himself, you’ll get either a short answer or a change of subject. As one of Yakima County’s foremost naturalists, he is fascinated by the world, its flora and fauna. He can regale you for hours about vegetation zones’ role in the biosphere. He can detail minute distinctions between nearly identical bird species, from their calls and colors to their diet and migratory patterns.

In the world of Washington birding and the state’s Audubon community, Stepniewski is an icon. He wrote the book, quite



Event at a Glance:
When: Friday, March 3, at 6:30 pm.
Cost: Presentation is free; dinner is \$8 for CCC members and \$9 for non-members; desserts by donation
Where: Community Cultural Center (CCC) of Tonasket, 411 S Western Avenue

literally, on the birds of Yakima County. His efforts were essential to the state’s go-to birding book, “A Birder’s Guide to Washington.” And he’d prefer you didn’t know or care about that, to keep the focus on the natural wonders he finds so fascinating. That state birding guide? You’d never know he had any part in it by looking at the cover. Stepniewski refused to be named as an author, wanting the credit to go solely to the Washington Ornithological

Society. Andy authored sections about the Okanogan Highlands in the WA State Birding guide mentioned above, and also wrote the guide, Birds of Yakima County, Washington.

Inspired by the Cannings brothers, Canadian naturalists and scientists

living in the BC Okanogan, Andy has been visiting the Okanogan since 1972 and has hiked trails throughout the region, from the Cascade crest east to the Kettle Range. In addition to a passion for plants, he has documented the breeding of three boreal forest owls: the Great Gray, Boreal, and Northern Hawk Owl. He has also been interested in diversity of breeding birds and has conducted various surveys including censuses both east and west of the Okanogan River.

Born in Canada and raised in California, Andy says, “With the Boy Scouts, I started to learn the world of nature was pretty big.” As an adult, his first career path was as a park naturalist. He has lived in Wapato since 1978. Andy has been an avid outdoorsman throughout his whole life. By speaking in the Highland Wonders series, he generously offers to share his perspective on the ecological mosaic that is the Okanogan - a favorite destination and home to birders, hikers, and so many who share Andy’s enthusiasm for the natural world.

Plant Galls in Central Washington

by Molly Boyter, Wenatchee

The Wenatchee Native Plant Society Chapter will host Ron Russo to talk about plant galls on March 9 at 7:00 pm at the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, 127 South Mission Street, Wenatchee.

When folks look at plants, they often look for the key features that distinguish one species from another. Once the plant is recognized, most simply move on exploring other plants. What is often missed is that many species of native plants are at the center of a complex diversity of other organisms that are strictly dependent on them. In this presentation, we will explore the

diversity of midges, moths, and wasps that utilize native plants as nurseries for their offspring. These nurseries, called plant galls, are far more abundant and critical to the ecosystem than imagined. Numerous species including thousands of parasites have evolved relying on galls and gall insects for food and shelter. Our guest speaker, Ron Russo, is the former Chief Naturalist of the East Bay Regional Park District in California and has spent over 45 years collecting and studying plant galls throughout the western states and has discovered over 100 species new to science. This lively presentation will open a world full of exciting discoveries.

March Wild Phlox

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North Central Washington Audubon Society Calendar

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

March 3	Ecosystems of the Okanogan	Okanogan Highlands Alliance See page 7
March 9	Learn about Insect Galls with the Native Plant Society	7:00 pm at the Wenatchee Valley Museum
March 21	The Bluebird Man and More	A film about a bluebird trail and more on nest boxes! At the museum. See page 1
March 22 OR 23	Free eBird Workshops	At Wenatchee OR Leavenworth. See page 4
April 1 & 2	Shrub-steppe survey training	At Moses Coulee. See page 5
April - June	Shrub-steppe surveys	All over NCW. See page 5
May 18 - 21	Spring Bird Fest	In Leavenworth. Save the Dates! www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.org/

There are many other events, classes, festival and volunteer opportunities happening this spring.
See page 6 for a sampling.



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