



## On Becoming a Birder

First a disclaimer, I am a photographer who appears to be morphing into a birder all because Mother Nature bestowed some vernal lakes within striking distance of my home in Chelan.

I've always found the Waterville Plateau a beautiful place with its wide-open skies, changing moods, colors and patterns through the seasons. In June, Virginia Palumbo (NCWAS board member), who was aware of my interest in photography mentioned the vernal lakes that had formed in the spring as a result of the winter's heavy snowfall. She described the location to me and I ventured up one evening not realizing how this location would come to dominate my summer free time. As I rumbled down the gravel road in my trusty Subaru, sighting the glint of water ahead I suddenly saw an owl burst from the brush to my left. Of course, I had no idea what kind of owl, but that was about to change.

The north-south roadbed ran right through the center of what was quite a substantial body of water with the surface almost even with the roadway. As a photographer I could discern immediately that I'd have the advantage of being able to shoot in both morning and evening light. And then I saw them, Black-necked Stilts and Eared Grebes! I hadn't been there more than five minutes and I'd seen an owl, stilts and grebes! As luck would

have it a local resident who is a fine photographer and birder, Ron Brokaw, was also there that evening. Over my numerous visits during the summer I encountered Ron many times and he generously shared with me his insights and knowledge of the local area and the many feathered inhabitants. As the summer progressed I watched the whole cycle of life for many species



Northern Harriers

as they nested, nurtured, fledged, and gained the life skills they would need to survive into the next season. These included Swainson's Hawks, American Kestrels, Short-eared Owls, American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, three species of teal, Eared and Pied-billed Grebes, Wilson's Phalaropes, Black-Crowned Night-Herons, American

Volume 51 #3 November 2017  
photo and article by Christy Nielsen, Chelan

Coots and ducks which I've not yet learned to identify. Then there were the transients: Great Blue Herons, Red-tailed Hawks, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, Northern Harriers, Caspian Terns, Ring-billed Gulls, Long-billed Dowitchers, Greater and Lesser Yellow Legs, Sandhill Cranes, Canada Geese, Snow Geese, many varieties of peeps, as well as the occasional crossing of deer or a chorus of coyotes greeting the sunrise.

As summer progressed into autumn, the water levels gradually dropped, and the coot nests built carefully in the middle of the willows were now high and dry. The Pied-billed Grebes floating nest no longer floated. Across the sky streamed long ribbons of Sandhill Cranes and geese heading south. The grand finale arrived in the form of a large gathering of Northern Harriers hunting, roosting in the willows and pirouetting in the cooling temperatures and winds before moving on after three or four weeks. Now the ponds have shrunk, and even the coots have moved on. Whether Mother Nature will put in a repeat performance remains to be seen, but the plateau has much to teach me and I look forward to next season to learn about sparrows, finches, thrushes and warblers - those fleeting silhouettes that have been ever present yet unknown to me.

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."

North Central Washington Audubon Society

Officers, Chairs, Board Members

President - Art Campbell | 996-8168 | rapakivi@methow.com

Vice President | OPEN

Treasurer | Larry Tobiska | ltobiska@nwi.net

Secretary | Penny Tobiska | ptobiska@nwi.net

Conservation - Mark Johnston | 548-5766 | S697striata@frontier.com

Education and Outreach | Penny Tobiska | ptobiska@nwi.net

and Mark Oswood | 662-9087 | moswood@nwi.net

Field Trips | OPEN

Membership | Mark Oswood | 662-9087 | moswood@nwi.net

Newsletter | Teri J Pieper | 630-6224 | teripieper@hotmail.com

Science Officer | Don McIvor | 997-9456 | puma@methownet.com

Communications | Treesa Hertzell | webmaster@ncwaudubon.org

Festival Coordinator | Richard Scranton | rscrans4350@yahoo.com

At Large:

Merry Roy | 881-1083 | merry8roy@gmail.com

Janet Bauer | jsrbauer@gmail.com

Virginia Palumbo | vwpalumbo@gmail.com

Jenny Graevell | Facebook admin

Website - [www.ncwaudubon.org](http://www.ncwaudubon.org)

Subscribe to our email list at [www.ncwaudubon.org](http://www.ncwaudubon.org)

Mailing address - PO Box 2934 Wenatchee, WA 98807

North Central Washington Audubon Society is on Facebook too

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

Sleeping on the High Ridge

*Sleeping on the high ridge  
with pines and a fine view  
resting easy, eyes  
half open*

*big ears always ready  
nose twitches in the wind.*

*Lying together  
a loose group  
as fall, inches into winter  
and orange clad predators  
crawl below*

*Yet, warm sun bathes  
brown thick coats  
they rest, thorough, languid  
in the  
warm, afternoon sun*

*Surviving another day  
deer, on the skyline  
sleep*

by Ken Bevis, Methow Valley

North Central Washington Audubon Society Wild Phlox Subscription Form

\_\_\_\_ Subscribe to NCW Audubon Wild Phlox One Year, Nine Issues \$15

\_\_\_\_ I prefer to get the Wild Phlox electronically (email address required below)

Separate subscription to Phlox NOT needed for NAS members in good standing

\_\_\_\_ Donation: I would like to support NCW Audubon's programs of education and conservation. Enclosed is my additional donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Please do NOT acknowledge my donation in the Wild Phlox

\_\_\_\_ Memorial in the name of \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail check and form to Post Office Box 2934 Wenatchee, WA 98807-2934.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Planned Giving: Please consider giving a planned gift to NCW Audubon to support our education and conservation programs for generations to come. Your charitable gift will be tax deductible. It could go to an endowment fund or to a specific program or as a gift to our general operating fund. Remember, your gift to North Central Washington Audubon will go to fund programs in North Central Washington!

To join the National Audubon Society which also includes a subscription to the Wild Phlox, please see their website at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

November. It's part of that time of year referred to as a shoulder season. Sort of a waiting period in between two, so-called, interesting seasons, or if you are a business owner, the slow time between the busy seasons. Some years, it is demeaned with an even worse name – mud season. Around here, that's a pretty official title for this time of year. It's often too wet for hiking and mountain biking and yet there is not quite enough snow for cross country, back country and downhill skiing. What's a person to do? Even the birds seem less interesting. Certainly, there are fewer of them and they are quieter, at least that's the case where I live. I do have feeders out and they attract various finches that sometimes attract predator birds. Last week there was an unusual one. A Black-billed Magpie grabbed a Pine Siskin right off the thistle feeder, took it to the bird bath and as we watched, beat it to death with its large bill. I've always known magpies were nest predators but had never seen one grab and kill a bird like that. Now I have a quandary. When hawks and owls kill the smaller birds at my feeder, it doesn't usually bother me, unless it's a redpoll. So, shouldn't I feel the same way about a magpie? I don't. I was planning to put out peanuts in their shells for the Stellar's Jays which have returned for the first time since the fire, but I am afraid that would bring in more magpies. Just today someone told me that his friend observed a Clark's Nutcracker take a finch that had ran into a window.



Pied-billed Grebes  
photo by Christy Nielsen, Chelan

Back to the shoulder/mud season topic. We had our first snowfall last week with over two inches on the ground and it stuck around for more than 24 hours. Suddenly it was obvious that all the fall chores had not been completed. Well, maybe not even begun. Hoses are still on the grass, porch furniture is still outside waiting for a sunny morning to enjoy a cup of coffee, the electric water heater for the birds needs to be set up and plugged in. And then the sun came out and the snow melted and some of those jobs are started but lots remain to be done.

You may have seen the note in last month's Phlox about Ken seeing a scrub jay in our yard and he got photos. Not very good photos but good enough to get an ID! I asked around about the species and learned that the Western Scrub-Jay was recently split into two species – the California Scrub-Jay and the Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay. The one in our yard was the California species. It's only the second record for any kind of scrub jay in the Methow Valley!



Grebe nest  
photo by Christy Nielsen, Chelan

I put out a request for the Christmas Bird Count dates and contacts and only heard from Meredith Spencer regarding the Bridgeport date. It is December 15 and her email address is merdave@homenetnw.net if you want to join. Bridgeport is always one of my favorite counts with a good variety of species and habitats. Other towns in our four-county area with CBC's are Twisp, Okanogan, Wenatchee and Leavenworth. I hope to have all the info on those counts for the December issue of the Wild Phlox.

## NCW Recent Bird Sightings

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

Okanogan County: I saw flocks of Gray-crowned Rosy-finches alongside of the PCT going south towards Grasshopper Pass. A Northern Pygmy-owl was seen on the north side of Goat Mountain. There were also three Black-backed Woodpeckers, a Hairy Woodpecker, Varied Thrush and a Ruffed Grouse. On the conservancy island trail in the town of Okanogan there were American Pipits among the cobbles on the shore of the river. They were doing their tail bob thing. Western Grebes were seen on Patterson and Pearygin Lakes. A Rough-legged Hawk was seen between Twisp and Winthrop.

Douglas County: 21 Snow Geese were reported. A Pacific Wren was seen in the Douglas Creek area.

Chelan County: A Great Egret was seen at Beebe Springs and at Walla Walla Park.

Ferry: A Blue Jay was seen and photographed near Republic

# Fodder from the Feeder

## So Many Questions - Citizen Science Might Provide an Answer By Karen Mulcahy, Winthrop

What is it with all the turkeys this year? Truly, I have seen more flocks than I have every seen before. They were even in my yard this year - a flock of 25-30 of them, foraging along the hillside and down to the grassy areas. In the Methow Valley there have been flocks along many of the main roads, especially near the Chewuch Inn on the edge of Winthrop and also just north of Twisp. When I visited my family in southern Ontario, we saw flocks foraging in the farm country. I knew they were in Ontario but had never seen them before. And on our drive back from British Columbia we saw flocks in the Kootenay area south of Nelson as well as in northeastern Washington on our way to Idaho. The Wild Turkey is alive and well and has recovered from the overhunting it suffered in the early 1900's. Alas, I suspect we are seeing more of them in the towns due to loss of habitat from the fires.

I thought it fitting to research the Wild Turkey with Thanksgiving coming soon. What is the story behind this large game bird with the baldhead of a carrion eater, that was almost hunted to extinction, and whose re-introduction is hailed as one of the great successes of modern wildlife management? Well, for starters, they walk everywhere. They can fly, and when startled, the females will tend to fly, but the males will run. They forage in flocks, for nuts, berries, seeds, insects and even snails and salamanders. The "toms" (males) will mate with multiple females, but leave the hens to the work of chick-rearing. They go off in their flocks of toms outside of breeding season. The chicks and their mothers often combine flocks so there will be large groups of young turkeys with two or more adult females. They are most often found in mature forests, and they are ground nesters, and ground foragers. Come nighttime they head to the trees to roost.

By the early 20th century their numbers were dwindling due to hunting and habitat loss. People tried releasing domesticated birds into the wild, but they didn't survive. Finally, in the 1940's they began catching the wild birds and transporting them to other areas with viable habitat. Eureka! The Wild Turkey can now be found in all the lower 48 states, and Hawaii, and the southern parts of BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. Their numbers are leveling out now, with a breeding population estimated at close to 8 million.

So why does the turkey get the bum rap of being labeled a stupid bird? Perhaps it is due to the urban myth that domesticated turkeys will drown from staring up while it was raining (they don't drown- and if they do stare upward it's due to an inherited condition called tetanic torticollar spasms that causes them to do so for half a minute or more, even if it is pouring). Or perhaps its their widely spaced eyes and clumsy walking style that suggests dimwittedness? Or the fact that domesticated turkeys require artificial insemination almost exclusively to produce those big breasted birds we all eat at Thanksgiving. Those big breasts that give us more white meat interfere with - well - mating! Yeesh - a case of breeding behavior being bred out?

Never mind. The Wild Turkey is known to be quite social with its mates and humans and engages in playful behavior. It has fantastic monocular vision and hunters say it's a very difficult animal to track. I am not sure I would want it as our national bird, but it is an interesting creature, and has made an amazing comeback, so it's smarter than we realized. And as for that bald head - well that's a tale for another month.

---

## "American Diapers" at the Salmon Festival

by Susan Sampson, Wenatchee

The "American Diaper," the "Chaedrr Waxwing" and the "Yellow Wobbler" were exotic species that grade-school kids thought they had spotted during the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival in September. The students were participating in "What's That Bird," the presentation by the North Central Washington Audubon Society.

NCWAS was asked to tutor sixteen classes of students over two days. Class size ranged from one student with special needs up to 29 kids. In addition, on the first of two days, the program accepted dozens of "free-lancing" students. By the second day, Audubon had to limit the presentation to classes enrolled in advance. We regretted that we just didn't have enough resources to handle the drop-ins, because they were the kids particularly interested in birding.

Audubon volunteers were the program coordinator Mark Oswood, and volunteers, alphabetically, Bruce McCammon, Ann Fink, Susan Sampson, and Penny Tobiska.



American Dipper  
photo by Peter Bauer, Winthrop

# Sign Up to be a Feeder Watcher!

**Project FeederWatch** is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. FeederWatch data help scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. FeederWatch is a program of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Anyone interested in birds can participate. FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs. You can count birds as often as every week, or as infrequently as you like: the schedule is completely flexible. All you need is a bird feeder, bird bath, or plantings that attract birds.

New participants are sent a Research Kit with complete instructions for participating, as well as a bird identification poster and more. You provide the feeder(s) and seed. Then each fall participants receive our 16-page, year-end report, Winter Bird Highlights. Participants also receive access to the digital version of Living Bird, the Cornell Lab's award-winning, quarterly magazine.

There is an \$18 annual participation fee for U.S. residents (\$15 for Cornell Lab members). The participation fee covers materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and the year-end report (Winter Bird Highlights). Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by participation fees. Without the support of our participants, this project wouldn't be possible.

## Why are FeederWatch Data Important?

With each season, FeederWatch increases in importance as a unique monitoring tool for more than 100 bird

species that winter in North America.

What sets FeederWatch apart from other monitoring programs is the detailed picture that FeederWatch data provide about weekly changes in bird distribution and abundance across the United States and Canada. Importantly, FeederWatch data tell us where birds are as well as where they are not. This crucial information enables scientists to piece together the most accurate population maps.

Because FeederWatchers count the number of individuals of each species they see several times throughout the winter, FeederWatch data are extremely powerful for detecting and explaining gradual changes in the wintering ranges of many species. In short, FeederWatch data are important because they provide information about bird population biology that cannot be detected by any other available method.



Red-breasted Nuthatch at feeder  
photo by Janet Bauer, Winthrop

## How are FeederWatch Data Used?

Project FeederWatch data are used to document and understand the distribution and abundance of birds that visit feeders in North America. In 2017 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Project FeederWatch, the Cornell Lab's Living Bird magazine published an article highlighting some of the things researchers have learned from FeederWatch data over the years.

The massive amounts of data collected by FeederWatchers across the continent help scientists understand:

from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

- long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance
- the timing and extent of winter irruptions of winter finches and other species.
- expansions or contractions in the winter ranges of feeder birds
- the kinds of foods and environmental factors that attract birds
- how disease is spread among birds that visit feeders

## How Do You Join?

**Sign up** – If you have not yet signed up, join today! During the season, it takes a few weeks from when you sign up for your kit to arrive with your ID number and for your ID number to be activated in Your Data. **Select your count site** – Choose a portion of your yard that is easy to monitor, typically an area with feeders that is visible from one vantage point. **Choose your count days** – Select two consecutive days as often as once a week (less often is fine). Leave at least five days when you do not count between each of your two-day counts. **How to count** – Watch your feeders as much or a little as you want over your selected count days. Record the maximum number of each species visible at any one time during your two-day count. Keep one tally across both days. Do not add your counts together!

**What to count** – Please count

- all of the individuals of each species in view at any one time
- birds attracted to food or water you provided
- birds attracted to fruits or ornamental plantings
- hawks and other predatory birds that are attracted by the birds at your feeders

## But do not count

- birds that simply fly over the count site, such as Canada Geese or Sandhill Cranes.

- birds seen on non-count days

**Report your counts** – Submit counts through the Your Data section of our website.

**To learn more and to sign up, please see <https://feederwatch.org/>**

# Final 2017 Report from Chelan Ridge

by Alma Schrage,  
Hawk Watch International

You have not heard from us for quite a while, but we've been busy working on and off the ridge. With the snows this weekend we've finally been snowed off the ridge for good; we are using our time remaining to make needed repairs and ensure the crew next year gets a running start.

We got two more good blind days in before taking everything down. On the penultimate day we caught one sharpie, and on the final day our two interns Magill and Maycee trapped and banded three sharpies and one hatch year goshawk.

TC and Magill conducted the last count of the season this past Monday after a long, difficult drive up the mountain through snow and ice. They counted six birds; a Bald Eagle, an adult sharpie and goshawk, two roughies, and the emblematic raptor of counting - the far off, tiny dot gliding without circling or flapping, that is seen and then is gone - an unknown raptor. This brings us to a final count of 888 raptors, which, as you probably know is a very low count compared to previous years; hopefully this information will be put to good use, along with all the bands we put on raptors this season, and all the genetic data we collected as well.

Field technicians always experience a little sadness as any field season comes to an end; we come to live and work with strangers; we leave knowing how we all like our coffee in the morning (three of us are french press, and one aeropress; two of us dark roast, two medium roast; and we all love Blue Star and Lariat coffees from the Methow Valley). We also leave knowing how we each rise to the challenges, and the most difficult one in particular; the hours that inch by between seeing or trapping a bird. It was with great admiration that I watched each of my coworkers keep going through the season with professionalism, elan, and humor. I will miss the small and big moments we shared (especially the Golden Eagle, which I literally did miss), but look forward to staying apprised of their new adventures as we now all leave the mountain.

Before I sign off, I strongly suggest you read Magill's delightful (and true!) blog post about a day in the life of a counter up on the ridge on the next page or on the HWI website: <https://hawkwatch.org/blog/item/1127-a-day-in-the-life-of-a-migration-monitor-on-chelan-ridge>

## The Ecology of the Methow An Eight Part Course

by Dana Visali, Methow Valley

An eight-part course on 'The Ecology of the Methow' will be taught by Dana Visali and other local naturalists and ecologists. This program offers insights into 'how nature works,' and meaningful mental stimulation as the nights grow longer. Ecology is the study of interrelationships in the natural world, between living things and with the Good Earth. It is a profound and awe-inspiring subject, although much of the interrelatedness is hidden from the eyes. A basic example is the oxygen in atmosphere; oxygen is a very reactive element and comprises 21% of the air only because photosynthesizers (plants, algae, cyanobacteria) constantly pump it into the atmosphere; without plants there would be no oxygen. In this course we will look into the ecology of the soil, of our rivers, lakes, forests, the shrub-steppe, the alpine zone, and human ecology. Most evenings will include a lab session when we work with hands-on, earthy material. It will be a stimulating way to enjoy long winter nights.

Presented on Monday evenings 7-9 PM, November 6 & 13, December 4 & 11, and January 8, 15, 22 & 29. Cost is \$0-\$100, according to your budget. Call, email or write to enroll: 997-9011, [dana@methownet.com](mailto:dana@methownet.com), PO Box 175, Winthrop WA 98862.

## Feeding Hummingbirds

by Teri Pieper, Methow Valley  
photo by Merle Kirkley, Mazama

This Anna's Hummingbird was found recently at a lumberyard between Twisp and Winthrop. It was struggling. Merle and Mary kept it at home overnight in hopes of reviving it and finding someone to drive it to western Washington where it might be able to survive the winter. Sadly, it did not make it through the night.



Anna's Hummingbirds have increased their range due to feeders but the species is generally non-migratory. That puts well-meaning folks who like to feed birds in a dilemma. If we have Anna's Hummingbirds coming to our feeders late in the summer or early in the fall, when do we decide to take them down? Or should we take them down sooner? I have had mine up until about October 1 in the past, but I think that is too late. When the bird figures out the food is gone and must move on, where will he/she find it along the way? I have read that we ought to take them down while there are still natural food sources available to the hummers. That means flowers – both wild and domestic. In the future I will be taking my feeders down before Labor Day in hopes that the birds will be able to find a warmer place to spend the winter.

# A Day in the Life at Chelan Ridge

by by Magill Schumm,  
Hawk Watch International

A day in the life of a migration monitor at the Chelan Ridge HawkWatch:

**0630** Your alarm goes off. You stick your head out of your sleeping bag, try to sit up, realize how much colder the outside world is and then hit snooze

**0639** You yell, “no!” and hit snooze again

**0648** Alarm goes off for the third time and you decide it is time to face the world. You crawl out of your cold weather sleeping bag, put on a few more layers, and stumble out of your tent.

**0655** Open the back of your car and hope your contact solution hasn't frozen over night. If it hasn't, put them in and see the beautiful detail you've been missing

**0700** You go into the sunny, windless yurt. Use your elbows in order to get stove space to boil water for your coffee and to make a nice egg scramble. Thank your crew leader profusely for frying up a whole package of bacon and collecting the grease for future cooking. Get your lunch together and boil some extra water to bring to work in your Stanley Thermos for hot drinks later in the day.

**0835** Realize you need to start hiking to work in five minutes and frantically collect your hat, gloves, balaclava, hand warmers, toe warmers, binoculars, back pack, water bottles, hot cocoa powder and instant coffee.

**0842** Get to the trailhead and realize you forgot your binoculars. Drop your backpack and hurry back to the yurt to grab them.

**0845** Okay, you're actually ready for work now. You head up the trail and a good clip because you need to do the 20-minute hike in 15.

**0859** You made it in time! It's a great start to the day. Boy are you hot from that short but quick hike. You set down your pack and take off your winter coat to cool off. You go over to the barrel and grab the compass and the Kestrel Meter along with a Crazy Kreek and a blanket.

**0902** You're settled and have done a few naked-eye scans of the area, so it is time to begin scanning with your binoculars. You check that the focus is set correctly, then you begin scanning slowly up and down from Cooper Mountain all the way to the Navarres. Your partner will cover the more easterly side.

**0930** The tablet starts singing a song and vibrating. That means it is time to take the

hourly weather metadata. You turn off the tablet alarm and open up the fan on the Kestrel to check the wind speed. Wow! The wind gusts are up to 28 kilometers per hour. No wonder you haven't been able to hear your partner on the other end of the rock. The temperature reads five degrees Celsius; it's a chilly day to be staying still outside.

**0943** Your partner says, “Billy! Shooting down by Groot.” This is mountain speak for “Look! One of our resident Sharp-shinned Hawks is flying low in the valley by that mid sized snag.” After watching the bird for a few moments, you see that it is hunting, not migrating and you confirm that it is a resident bird, so you do not record it.

**1000** The tablet alarm goes off again. This will happen every half hour for the rest of the day. At the bottom of the hour you will record weather metadata, and at the top of the hour you will create a flight summary. Unfortunately, you and your partner have not counted any migrating raptors in the past hour, so you leave the flight summary blank and simply record the counters' names and that there were no human visitors.

**1043** You've enjoyed the quiet morning, but it is time for some audio entertainment. You look at your podcasts. Ooh! You see that podcast about cauliflower. You spend the next hour or so learning about those fractal-icious brassicas - yum.

**1155** While doing a long distance scan with your binoculars you spot a speck between the Twin Peaks. You focus in and watch the speck rise up in a spiral until it begins to fly straight over your head. You could tell early on that it was some sort of Buteo because it had long wings, slight dihedral, and a steady flight, but as it flies directly over your head you see it has some perfect black rhombuses on the underside of its wings so you can tell it is a Rough-Legged Hawk. You grab the radio and alert the blind that a Roughie may be headed its way. However, you watch the bird fly high over Cooper Mountain and realize the blind's chances are slim. You record the hawk in the Dunkadoo app on the tablet as your first migrant of the day.

**1207** Three Accipiters fly low through the valley in fairly quick succession. With the help of your partner, you determine that two were Sharp-shinned Hawks, and the other was a Cooper's Hawk. They all went

south, so they all get recorded as migrants.

**1321** Proud of yourself for making it almost halfway through the day before your big reward, you pull out your turkey, cheese, artisanal sauerkraut, and avocado sandwich on bread from the Sweet River Baker in Pateros, and enjoy your lunch.

**1512** You've counted five more birds in the past few hours, so that's not a bad day, but even though the sun is out, you're getting pretty tired. You remind yourself to keep scanning and that there are fewer than three hours left. You turn on the “This American Life” episode you've been saving for such an occasion.

**1735** You see something low in the valley in front of Goff. It looks big. You call your partner over and watch as a bird with incredibly long wings slowly circles up above the horizon. You see some lovely white wing patches on this majestic bird and identify it as an immature Golden Eagle. The awe it fills you with gives you just the energy you need to finish the last 25 minutes of observations.

**1800** The last tablet alarm of the day goes off and you high five your partner for completing the day.

**1825** You and your partner stop at the count board at the end of the trail before and record the 17 migrants you observed that day as well as the banding totals the folks at the blind texted to you.

**1837** You sit down in your camp chair in the the yurt and revel in the warmth gained from finally getting out of the wind.

**1900** The crew is back together in the yurt and someone is cooking dinner. Some sort of stir-fry is making the yurt smell incredible as you all sit in anticipation.

**2000** You boil some water after a delicious meal and work up the motivation to go outside to help with the dishes. When you finally get out there, the air is cold, but you're grateful for the hot water. By the light of your headlamp, you scrub and rinse the dishes.

**2020** Time to get ready for bed! You head over to your car to brush your teeth and wipe off the dirt from the day with some baby wipes. It feels too cold, but you know it will be worth it in the long run.

**2057** All tucked into your sleeping bag, you switch off the LED fairy lights illuminating your tent and are very quickly out like a log.

...until tomorrow, good night.

## *November Wild Phlox*

North Central Washington Audubon Society  
Post Office Box 2934  
Wenatchee, WA 98807

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
WENATCHEE, WA  
Permit No. 21

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### North Central Washington Audubon Society Calendar Items in bold text are sponsored or co-sponsored by NCWAS

November 3	One Stick at a Time	Climate Vulnerability and Forest Management. An Okanogan Highlands presentation. See last month's Phlox
November 6-29	The Ecology of the Methow	An eight-part course in Twisp. See page 6.
<b>November 6</b>	<b>Water, Wind and Fire</b>	<b>Changing Climate and the Economy. In Wenatchee. See last month's Phlox</b>
<b>November 7</b>	<b>Water, Wind and Fire</b>	<b>Changing Climate and the Economy. In Omak. See last month's Phlox</b>
<b>November 8</b>	<b>Water, Wind and Fire</b>	<b>Changing Climate and the Economy. In Twisp. See last month's Phlox</b>
November 7	The Conifers of Washington	The Native Plant Society at Pybus Public Market, 7:00 pm. See <a href="http://www.wnps.org/wenatchee/home.html">www.wnps.org/wenatchee/home.html</a>
<b>December 15</b>	<b>Bridgeport Christmas Bird Count</b>	<b>Meet at the Brewster McDonald's. RSVP to Meredith at <a href="mailto:merdave@homenetnw.net">merdave@homenetnw.net</a></b>



Printed on Recycled Paper

Visit the NCW Audubon Society website for updates on these and other events  
[www.ncwaudubon.org](http://www.ncwaudubon.org)