### NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY



## Christmas Bird Counts in NCW

In our four-county region of North Central Washington there are at least seven Christmas Bird Counts for birders of all skill levels to enjoy. This is an entirely volunteer-driven citizen science effort. Your rewards for getting up early include seeing and learning about the wintering birds of our area, camaraderie with other birders over coffee and throughout the potentially, cold day, and usually a warm meal when darkness falls to share sightings and stories! And if you love to go owling, or just want to learn more about owls, there are usually some hardy folks who will be up in the very early morning cold and darkness looking and listening for owls! How much more fun can a person have in December and early January?

Want to know more? Here are the local counts with information to help you get involved with them.

Leavenworth: December 17. Contact Karen Haire karenhaire@nwi.net or Gretchen Rohde, gretchenrohde@ me.com. CBC counters will get together at Barn Beach Reserve to warm up and share bird stories and enjoy a potluck dinner at 4:30 p.m.

**Bridgeport: December 17**. Contact Meredith Spencer merdave@ homenetnw.net or 686-7551. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Brewster McDonalds. Afterwards, enjoy a lasagna potluck at Mike and Leslie's house at 1530 Douglas Avenue in Bridgeport. **Twisp: December 18**. Contact Leahe Swayze. leahe@methownet.com or 997-2549. Meet at the Hoot Owl Café at 123 North Glover Street in Twisp. Those who would like to eat breakfast should arrive by 6:30 a.m. (they have a good menu selection), while those who are ready to count should arrive by 7 a.m. A potluck dinner, followed by count tally, will be held at 5:30 p.m. at 521 Burgar Street. (corner of Burgar Street & Peters Road), Twisp. Leahe will provide soup — something with beans.

**Grand Coulee: December 21**. Contact David St. George. dstgeorge@TNC. ORG Participants will meet at Flo's Café, 316 Spokane Way, Grand Coulee at 7 a.m. They will break up into four to six groups to cover a diverse variety of habitats from the large reservoirs, pine/fir woods, sagebrush, agricultural lands and small towns that make up the count circle. Maps and field sheets will be provided. Meet again at 4:30 p.m. at Pepper Jacks Bar & Grill, 113 Midway Avenue in Grand Coulee to compile the day's numbers.

**Chelan: December 29.** Contact Steve Easley. seasley@nwi.net The plans for the Chelan CBC are identical to the past few years: Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Apple Cup Cafe - 804 East Woodin Avenue - for breakfast and to receive assignments. At 4:45 p.m meet in the banquet room of the Apple Cup Cafe for dinner and to share results of the count. Keep in mind that whoever covers

Volume 45 #3 December 2011 compiled by Teri J Pieper, Methow Valley

the lake in front of Campbell's Lodge will have to ignore the swans - they're plastic!

Wenatchee: January 1. Contact Dan Stephens. dstephens@wvc.edu or 782-4890 or 679-4706. The **50th** Wenatchee CBC will be Saturday January 1st. Following the count birders will meet at the Nature Conservancy Office for a Chili feed. Please contact Dan before the count to be assigned a group and area.

**Omak/Okanogan: January 2.** Contact Heather Findlay heather@eaglesun.net 429-8167 or Gordon Kent at 422-6116 The count will start off at Todd and Heather's house at 2050 James Avenue in Okanogan at 6:45 a.m. Birders may see various woodpeckers, Red Crossbills, perhaps Pygmy, White- and or Red-Breasted Nuthatches, grebes and maybe Chukars, Horned Larks and Snow Buntings. Counters are welcome to join for all or part of the day. For the diehards, when Gordon is finally dragged away from his spotting scope, when it begins to get dark, around 4:30 or so, it's back to Todd and Heather's for a chili feed and tallying up lists and sharing some stories from a fun day of birding!

Editor's note: I really would LOVE to have some photos and stories from the Christmas Bird Counts to share with our Wild Phlox readers. Please keep that in mind as you enjoy your cold day of counting birds for Citizen Science! 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

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

North Central Washington Audubon Society Wild Phlox Subscription Form Subscribe to NCW Audubon Wild Phlox One Year, Nine Issues \$15 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 or drop us a note and we will send you a form for a special rate introductory membership.

Artwork by Heather Wallis Murphy. See information about her upcoming workshop series on page 4 of this newsletter.



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As I write this it is still November; however looking outside, it could be Christmas already. A blanket of snow coats the valley and hills and ski trails in the Methow are

### Editor's Notes

being groomed. The lakes are not yet frozen so it remains a good time to view water birds including Trumpeter Swans and Common Loons and all the wintering ducks in their beautiful (i.e. easier to identify) plumages. If you follow online birding lists – Tweeters and Inland NW Birders – then you already know this winter is shaping into a good season for irruptive species. These are species that show up in greater numbers, usually during the winter. A major reason for irruptions is a lack of food in their traditional wintering grounds farther to north of here. So far there have been numerous Snowy Owl sightings around Washington and other parts of the country. And it's early yet. A fellow from Wisconsin has created an online map showing Snowy Owl sightings around the country. You can see it at http://g.co/maps/r9ub2. Already there are many of these charismatic white birds in Washington. Below I've reprinted some of Bud Anderson's tips about seeing Snowy Owls. If you get a chance, I highly recommend a trip to the Waterville Plateau this winter, scanning the fields and fence posts for an iconic white bird. Another irruptive species is the Common Redpoll. I was lucky enough to see a pair of them at my feeder recently. Winter is also an excellent time to observe raptors. Bald Eagles are numerous along our open waterways, watching for injured waterfowl or fish. If you see a very tight group of American Coots, chances are there is an eagle in a tree nearby waiting to pick off an 'easy' meal. Some other

raptors to watch for include Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes. While a shrike seems to be more of a songbird sized-species, it often Common Redpoll photo by Teri J Pieper

takes other smaller birds and small mammals. Traveling in Washington during the Christmas Bird Count season? Check the Washington Ornithological Society's website to find CBC's in other communities around the state. www.wos.org/cbc.html. Want to know more about the history of Christmas Bird Counts (they evolved

from a holiday tradition known as the 'Christmas Side Hunt', a contest to shoot the most birds on Christmas day) or mine the data that has been collected over the years or maybe find a count farther afield? Check the National Audubon Society's site at http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count.

Remember, no Wild Phlox in January. For updates from NCW Audubon Society, please see our website, blog or facebook site. Have a great holiday season. I'll see you next year.



## Snowy Owls in Washington

When Snowy Owls arrive from Canada, their behavior will be as individual as yours. Some will stay put, some will wander locally and some will keep going. One guy, years ago at Logan Airport in Boston, had a tagged Snowy move all over the east coast throughout the winter. It was essentially nomadic.

Our organization (Falcon Research Group) caught and wing-tagged about ten Snowies quite a number of years ago. We found that most stayed pretty close to where we caught them on the Samish Flats but they were fairly late season birds.

On the Samish, I have seen a dozen on a single barn roof, 35 while swinging the scope from a single point. One even learned to roost inside a barn.

Most Snowy Owls will be stone

tame. At first they won't know how to perch in trees and other high places (remember that they are tundra inhabiting birds) so you'll see them on the ground. As the season goes by, they will perch higher and higher, first fenceposts, then poles, then roofs.

Incidentally, some do return to the same area in successive years as shown from our tags. I knew of one that returned for three years.

And it is true that they do like to eat Short-eared Owls, so expect those numbers to drop substantially after a big Snowy year.

Oddly enough, we will be hosting Denver Holt, one of the leading experts on Snowy Owls, in February at the Annual Skagit Hawk Count. I grilled him on the latest info on ageing and

by Bud Anderson, Falcon Research Group

sexing them, hoping to become an authority by osmosis, I suppose. I have to tell you that he is very reluctant to age and sex Snowy Owls in the field. This really surprised me as he has been working on the breeding population near Barrow, Alaska for over 20 years now (I think that number is about right).

So I would say that in all of the rush and hub-bub that a Snowy year will bring, be careful about what you believe about ageing and sexing them. There is really a lot of misinformation out there.

Beginning birders and other Snowy Owl enthusiasts....you may be in for a really wonderful winter.

editor's note - for more information about the Falcon Research Group, see www.frg.org/

### *Birding Basics* Class Provided Close Encounters of the Bird Kind

Susan Ballinger's *Birding Basics* class (CDLT, with small assist from NCWAS) was a boon to new birders (and birders still on the steep slope of the learning-to-bird curve). The classroom evening (9 November) was a large dose of ornithology and birding in an easy-to-swallow capsule summary.

The field part of our class took place on a Saturday (12 November) morning trip at Walla Walla Point and the Horan Nature Trail in Confluence State Park. A hardy group of enthusiasts assembled despite bitter cold air and the low gray clouds.

Many participants enjoyed using the high-quality optics loaned by Barn Beach Reserve. We had two spotting scopes, one experienced and one newbie. Spotting scopes need to be looked through at least 100 times, by at least 20 people, before they are broken in; this trip was a good start.

#### Susan's field trip log:

"We gathered on the footbridge over the lagoon outlet and scanned the swimming area using both scopes and binoculars to take close look at American Wigeon, with one Eurasian Wigeon male mixed in the flock. A group of flashy male Buffleheads and a few male Mallards gave us a chance to compare feeding behaviors and general size between three species of ducks. We'd hoped for a showing of the winter resident Hooded Mergansers or a fly-by of a Belted Kingfisher routinely seen here, but instead, we got great views of Canada Geese. We walked north along the Columbia River shoreline and spotted several Great Blue Herons standing motionless on the far shoreline, heads tucked, with a few busy Killdeer working the moist sandbank. As we entered the Horan Nature Area, we marveled at the recent work by industrious beavers on a large diameter cottonwood trees, now downed and creating a new opening to view

by Mark Oswood, Wenatchee

We saw a decent list of mostly common fall and winter birds. More importantly, we saw most of these repeatedly and close up. Susan's advice along the trail spoke to both the true beginners and those of us stuck in Advanced Beginner rank. For the beginning birders, Susan patiently (every time we saw a species) reminded us of the basic field marks for the species. But we also got advice about flight patterns, birds that flock together (not necessarily those of a feather), and the soft calls of fall birds.

Birding can be pursued solo, with the advantage of selfpaced solitude. But we had reminders of why birding is so often done together (and why birding trips are the basal metabolism of Audubon chapters). Several pairs of eyes looking at a bird (and then at several field guides) is always a short course for everyone and the convergence to an identification seems much more certain. Here's to more field trips in 2012.

the river. Our 1.5 mile loop walk helped us warm up and whetted our appetites to see new species. One lone Red-wing Blackbird male flashed his wing at us. An occasional Song Sparrow, darting Dark-eyed Juncos, and a small grouping of White-crowned Sparrows hopped out of the tangled shrubs along our path as we meandered. A highlight was seeing several up-close views of a male Downy Woodpecker and of singing Blackcapped Chickadees. Groups of both American Robins and Northern Flickers were busy calling and flying between tree tops, so we had great demonstrations of each species' diagnostic flight pattern. The highlight of the walk was seeing a pair of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, up and close and personal, with one flashing his red crest at us. At the end, everyone headed to their cars with plans to return on another day to see what bird sighting surprises will meet their eyes."

## The Art of Birding Journals: The Big Year in a Four Seasons Retreat

Discover and nourish the life-long joy of creating an illustrated birding journal. This series of retreats is jointly offered by Icicle Creek Center for the Arts (previously known as Icicle Creek Music Center) and Wildlife Biologist-Artist Heather A. Wallis Murphy,

The retreat Includes: all meals, lodging, birding field trips, nature journaling workshops, most art supplies, and musical concerts to top it off!

For registration information, please contact Icicle Creek: Phone 548-6347 or Toll Free 877-265-6026 or email icicle@icicle.org and see their website www.icicle.org.

by Heather Wallis Murphy,

Leavenworth

Workshop dates are April 27-29, June 17-22, October 26-28, and January 18-21 (2013). Costs TBA. Workshops will be held at the Icicle Creek Center for the Arts, 7409 Icicle Road, Leavenworth, WA 98826.

For workshop information, please contact Heather: Phone 548-7757 or email heather@wildtales.com and see her website www.wildtales.com.

See Heather's artwork on page 2 of this newsletter.

# The Restorative Power of Giving

The high altitude news-of-the-day, national and international, is mostly bad news, often boiling down to greed ... an imbalance of taking over giving. But at the local level, when individual people come into view, I think that the main flow reverses and giving trumps taking ... a kind of anti-greed.

Leon Alden Len and Elizabeth Andrews Bill Ansert Kit & Sharron Arbuckle Bill & Janice Asplund Cheryl Backman Steve & Jane Baldock + + Molly Beck & Barry Provorse Russ & Cordy Beckstead + Caryl Campbell Hazel Cleary Susan Crampton Danna Dal Porto Heather deSaillan Stephen Easley Bridget Egan + Chuck & Candace Egner Nancy Farr & Dale Sekijima Polly Feehan Heather Findlav + Marie Garrett Keith Guenther Ralph & Betty Hagenbuch + Curt & Karen Haire Bradley Harper+ **Richard Hart Neal Hedges David Jaecks** 

You, the givers — the donors of money and volunteers of time — are the balance restorers. Thank you.

So far, we've received 91 donations this "Audubon year" (starts in September) from our once-a-year donation request. Please know that

Gail & Dan Jordan Ann Keebler Catherine Kent + Carl & Helen Kjobech Justin Knisley Kim Lohse & Phil Archibald Roger MacKinnon Jody & Mick Marguardt Michelle & Mark Mazzola Connie McCaulev Cecelia McFadden Don & Mary McIvor + Diane McKenzie + Philip & Rita Mead Edgar Meyer + **Roxie Miller** Richard Murphy Caitlin & Walter Newman North Cascades Basecamp Judy & Monte Olson Patty Ostendorff Mark & Judith Oswood + + Virginia Palumbo **Betsy Peirce** Teri J Pieper and Ken Bevis + George & Lila Putnam + Chris Rader Steve & Nan Raymond

by Mark Oswood, Wenatchee you have our respectful appreciation; you are part of our community.

Below, we list folks who have made donations through mid-November. As always, we'll list donations received after mid-November in a late spring issue of the Phlox.

Gretchen Rohde & Mike Patterson ++ Joseph & Merry Roy Karen Schaaf Larry Scharps Richard Schiefelbein + Rachel & Arnie Scown Eliot & Christine Scull + Dick & Roberta Simonds Patricia Sing Susan & Kurt Snover Kenton Sokolowski **Barbara Soltess** Terry & Suzanne Sorom Gayle Stebbings + **Betsv Steele** Carolanne Steinebach + Edward & Torre Stockard Penelope Tobiska Dan Ulrich Sandra Vaughn & Harris Dunkelberger Nancy Warner + Jo Watters Vicky Welch Karen West Pat & Rod Whitinger + Christie Young and 9 anonymous donors, just as appreciated as those named above.

The symbols denote donations of special generosity:+ = \$100 ("Great Blue Heron") ++ = \$200 ("Greater White-fronted Goose") +++ = \$500 ("Magnificent Frigatebird")

### We get mail:

Dear NCWAS: I had your donation slip tucked away, planning to make my donation during the happy frenzy of the donation season. But now I can't find your donation slip and I'm awake at all hours, worrying. Slipless in Peshastin

Here is my/our donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to NCW Audubon and mail in the enclosed envelope. Thank You!

Name

Address

Dear Slipless: These are classic symptoms of a slip disorder. Fortunately, Slip Replacement Therapy (see below) provides immediate relief. Thanks, NCWAS

Donors will be acknowledged (name but not
address) in a future issue of the Phlox. If you
do not wish to be acknowledged in the Phlox,
please check here 🗆

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# Identifying Falcons in Flight

"What's the shortest distance between two points?" Pete Dunne grins, as a dozen birders lift binoculars to try to glimpse the dark falcon zipping across the tops of the trees. "A Merlin" he laughs, and we all smile, as we return our gaze to above the trees before the horizon, and wait for the next raptor to appear. My husband Wayne, and I are in Cape May, New Jersey, arguably the birding capital of the world. We are participating in *Hawks in Flight*, a workshop put on by the Cape May Bird Observatory. Pete Dunne and Michael O'Brien are our leaders, and we are delighted to be learning from such birding talent. Pete Dunne says seeing a Merlin always makes his day; an extraordinary claim as the man has been birding since the mid-seventies and has seen thousands of Merlins.

Each year hundreds of thousands of birds migrate through Cape May. As they follow the coast line south, the birds funnel to the southern tip of New Jersey. If conditions are favorable, they fly the fourteen miles over Delaware Bay and continue their migration south. If weather is poor, most birds stage at Cape May and wait for better conditions before crossing. Late October brings the highest diversity of raptors, with up to fifteen species possible. This is fantastic for

#### by Jenny Graevell, East Wenatchee

birders who can repetitively scrutinize birds of prey.

A trip to a migration hot spot, allows you to study the difference between the flight styles of birds. Here are a few of the pointers we learned about our smaller falcons. When comparing Merlins and the American Kestrel, the latter is the smallest, but size is not always easy to judge when looking at a bird in the sky. However with practice, recognizing flight style can help to separate the two birds. Pete explains, that the Merlin has a very direct flying style, with steady, powerful wing beats. By the time you think falcon, the bird has already blasted through the area. During flight Merlins appear as a dark falcon, with broader tails. The tail can be described as two-toned: light from the wings to mid-point, and dark from mid-point to the end of the tail. American Kestrel's have a light, buoyant flight. They can seem to wander in the sky, and be tossed about by winds. The Kestrel's wings and tail are long and narrow, which help to accentuate its whitish flanks. This gives the bird's underside a lighter appearance in flight.

Don't be tempted to grab your binoculars the next time you see a falcon. Instead watch the manner in which the bird flies; it just might make your day.

### A Wonder-filled Invitation for 2012

by Susan Ballinger, creator and lead instructor for Wenatchee Naturalist

The Wenatchee River Institute invites you to embark on a wonder-filled 2012 by becoming a Wenatchee Naturalist. This new Wenatchee-based program starts in February and will be filled with 25 adventurous and curious valley residents. What exactly will class members do? Here is a short list I've developed to whet your whistle and encourage you to sign up soon!

• While winter hiking with snowshoes, follow fresh snowshoe hare and Douglas squirrel tracks amidst towering western red cedar trees on the banks of the White River.

- Crane your neck skyward to compare tail patterns and voices of calling common ravens and American crows.
- On hands and knees, peer inside the shiny yellow petals of sagebrush buttercup to examine many anthers, heavy with pollen.

• Peel open a sagebrush gall to look for a chamber eaten away during the winter months by a larvae of a gall-forming insect.

• Twirl bundles of ponderosa pine needles between your fingers and compare them to the softer, shorter sets of 5-needled western white pine bundles.

• In the lab, cradle a black-capped chickadee in one hand and a mountain chickadee in the other, getting an up-close look at the contrasting black-and-white color patterns on each head.

• Peer into a microscope as you cut open a 3-chambered ovary to uncover the gleaming green ripening fruits of yellowbell.

• Stand on the banks of a rushing river while using a magnifying glass to explore tiny macro-invertebrates that call the river bottom home.

- Listen to the ethereal call of the veery, a robin-like bird that chooses dense underbrush along creek bottom as a spring nesting territory.
- Count the front teeth or notice their lack in skulls of coyote, cougar, and mule deer.
- Reduce your innate fear of snakes by standing on a dirt road and watching a bull snake nestle beneath a bitterbrush shrub.
- Take delight in sharing a sack lunch with a new friend while surrounded by a field of sunny balsamroot blossoms.
- Gain confidence by learning strange new word like "ciliate," "pillose," and "tormentose" to describe hair on plants- and actually be able to identify these characteristics.

Between February and April, you'll make new friends, discover lovely local places you'll want to visit again, and gain new eyes for the natural wonders of North Central Washington. This class is designed to inspire a deeper connection to the wonders of our valley and to bring new sources of joy to your everyday life. Sign up today at www. barnbeachreserve.org/programs/.

### Notes from Mazama

It's Tuesday, the week before Thanksgiving and deadline time. That means that what is being written now will be history by the time you read this. Of course, if you watched a recent NOVA program on PBS you know that time has no meaning as it is concurrently yesterday, today and tomorrow all at once. But that is for the physicists' version of the Phlox and we will let that lie like a sleeping daylily.

In the program above, Black Holes were part of the presentation, and that reminded me of quail. Last year, on the bank of our pond there was a black hole in the bank, with downed birch and other floral litter mostly obscuring the cavity. The five quail that lingered here through the winter seemed to hang out there; in fact it was their exits and entrances to the area that caused us to discover it. This year, eight quail have appeared, and none seem to favor or even be aware of the hole. Perhaps when the entire pond freezes over (it is supposed to reach PLUS three degrees this Saturday) and only the spring provides liquid water, they may well hunker down in the same hole.

Quite surprising was the appearance of a Clark's Nutcracker a few days ago. So far we've seen it only once and are assuming it was headed for a more northerly environment until the cold settles in permanently. The chickadees came back in small groups; so far it seems more Mountain than Black capped variety, and they'll be cheerfully with us for the winter. Well, it's cheerful for us to see them, but they may

# Environmental Film Series: Vanishing of the Bees

When: Tuesday, January 17 - 7:00 p.m. Where: Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center

#### What: Vanishing of the Bees

Who: Sponsored by Chelan Douglas Land Trust

Honeybees have been mysteriously disappearing across the planet, literally vanishing from their hives. Known as Colony Collapse Disorder, this phenomenon has brought beekeepers to crisis in an industry responsible for producing apples, broccoli, watermelon, onions, cherries and a hundred other fruits and vegetables. Filming across the US, in Europe, Australia and Asia, this documentary examines the alarming disappearance of honeybees and the greater meaning it holds about the relationship between humans and the earth.

For more information or to watch the trailer see www.cdlandtrust.org/ or call 667-9708

#### article by Bob Spiwak, Mazama

not feel as entertained. Right now they are fed primarily in a triangular plank of wood with holes partially bored through it, and peanut butter and seed mix squished therein. There are no roosting places on this apparatus and it is semi-hilarious to watch the Stellars Jays try to get at the food. They have to fly up about five feet and grab the food on the takeoff, no hovering for them. This results in a lot of misses but they are persistent. The woodpeckers, on the other hand are able to fly to the feeder and grab hold of the board, gorging on Sunny Jim's delicacies, at the same time discouraging the jays.

Last week a female Mallard landed on the pond, no doubt surprised that the surface was solid. She stayed on the ice for a few moments, and then flew off.

One other thing and a possible gift idea: *Cache Lake Country* - *Life in the North Woods* - by John Rowlands. It is a treasure of a book I read to each of my three kids as they grew up. It is quaint, informative, illustrated and has a chapter for each month with wildlife observations and simple projects to attempt. There are only three characters in the book, the author, the illustrator and a wise Indian chief. And it is all true, I've no doubt. For the nth time now, I am reading the November chapter. I read it annually, close to fifty years now. First published in 1947 it is still in print.

We'll be getting more winter visitors as the days and weeks go by, and will for now wish you the best of holidays and plentiful CBC's.

### Everybody's Favorite Topic: The Weather Highland Wonders First Friday Educational Series

Weather: an aspect of life that affects you, me, and all of our friends and neighbors. Weather impacts people's every day activities to varying degrees and in different ways, but it is a daily consideration for us all. Weather affects our clothing and our moods, influences our decisions on what to do and when, and provides a handy conversation topic in awkward situations. Considering that weather is such an elemental part of life, wouldn't you like to understand it better? On Friday, January 6th, John Livingston of the Spokane National Weather Service (NOAA) will share insight into the weather of the Okanogan Highlands and surrounding areas.

The Highland Wonders educational series is brought to you by the Okanogan Highlands Alliance, free of charge. Before the presentation, a dinner benefiting the Community Cultural Center (CCC) will be available beginning at 5:00 p.m. The presentation begins at 6:30 p.m. with desserts, tea and coffee. The events are held at the CCC, at 411 S Western Avenue, Tonasket, and details are provided on OHA's website: www.okanoganhighlands.org/ education.

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

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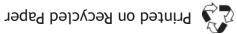
### North Central Washington Audubon Society Calendar

WENATCHEE, WA Permit No. 21

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**NON-PROFIT** 

For details on all these CBC's, see page 1 Traveling this winter? Want to know about CBC's around the state? See www.wos.org/cbc.html Or traveling farther afield see http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count	Christmas Bird Counts of NCW Bridgeport, Leavenworth, Twisp, Grand Coulee, Chelan, Wenatchee, & Omak/Okanogan	December 17, 18, 21 & 29 January 1 & 2
Okanogan Highlands Alliance Highland Wonders Educational Series, see page 7	Everybody's Favorite Topic: The Weather	January 6
Chelan Douglas Land Trust The Environmental Film Series, see page 7	səəA əht fo gnihzinbV	January 17
The Wenatchee River Institute Sign up now! See page 6	Wenatchee Naturalist Program	February I through April 18



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