



## Get Your Discover Pass Soon!

On May 12 Governor Gregoire signed into law legislation requiring visitors on all state lands to have a Discover Pass in their car. This law goes into effect July 1. Passes should be available online or at outlets for hunting and fishing licenses and eventually at State Parks. Beginning this fall you can buy one when you renew your vehicle license.

Revenue from the Discover Pass will fill budget gaps created by the loss of State General Fund support for parks and recreation on state lands. Revenue will be split among the three state agencies that provide recreational access to state lands in proportion to their need for general fund replacement: 84 % to State Parks; 8 % to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW); and 8 % to Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

State Parks, WDFW, and DNR jointly requested legislation that led to the creation of the Discover Pass, intended to provide revenue to maintain recreation access to state lands and meet the increasing demand for outdoor recreation. The legislation was sponsored by Sen. Kevin Ranker, D-San Juan Islands, who conducted stakeholder work and coordinated with other legislators. In addition to providing a stable source of revenue, the legislation provides reciprocal authority for law enforcement staff from each agency, which will improve public safety and help protect state resources.

What does this mean to birders? The pass is required anytime your vehicle is on state recreation lands managed by WDFW, DNR or State Parks. The pass is not required on roads managed by other jurisdictions, such as state highways or county roads that may pass through recreation lands. Some examples in our four-county region include: Cassimer and Bridgeport Bar along the Columbia River, Pipestone Canyon and Patterson Lake in the Methow, Sagebrush Flats in Douglas County, the Sinlahekin Wildlife area near Conconully, Camas



Watch for this logo to find an outlet to buy the pass.

Meadows Natural Area near Blewett Pass, all the State Parks and many other locations. If you have a parking permit issued with a hunting or fishing license, you may use that instead of a Discover Pass but **ONLY** on WDFW lands. The penalty for not having a pass is \$99. This penalty is reduced to \$59 if an individual provides proof of purchase of the Discover Pass to the court within 15 days after the notice of violation

How much does it cost? A daily pass is \$10 and an annual pass is \$30. However, at this time, it seems to be impossible to buy them for those prices. They are only available from vendors that are allowed to charge handling fees. So in reality they are \$11.50 and \$35.00. I have read that when the State Parks are set up to sell them in person, they will be \$10.00 and \$30.00 at the parks. Additionally eligible volunteers may receive one complimentary Discover Pass by participating in 24 hours of work on eligible volunteer projects in a 12-month period and providing documentation of participation on Volunteer Vouchers.

How do you get them? At this time it looks like the easiest way to purchase the Discover Pass is online: <http://discoverpass.wa.gov/> or you need to find a hunting and fishing license outlet near you to buy it in person. Whichever method you choose to buy the pass, make sure you get one before you are already on the state lands where you are going birding. Chances are slim that you will find a pass once you get there.

Eastern Kingbird with nesting material, photographed at Patterson Lake. photo by Teri J Pieper



Volume 44 #9 Summer 2011

by Teri J Pieper, Twisp

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."



Long-eared Owl seen at Vantage State Park  
 Copyright ©2011 Gretchen A. Rohde

**North Central Washington Audubon Society**

Officers, Chairs, Board Members

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

Vice President - Jeff Parsons | 548-0181 | jparsons@nwi.net

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

Bird Sightings - Torre Stockard | birdsightings@ncwardubon.org

Conservation - Rachel Scown | 860-6676 | raeplay6@aol.com

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

Field Trips - Dan Stephens | DStephens@wvc.edu

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

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

Programs - Bridget Egan | 433-7306 | mtnegan@gmail.com

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

Penny Tobiska - ptobiska@nwi.net

Heather Findlay - heather@eaglesun.net

Nancy Warner - nwarner@applecapital.net

Other Contact information

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

Email - [info@ncwardubon.org](mailto:info@ncwardubon.org)

Blog - [ncwardubon.blogspot.com](http://ncwardubon.blogspot.com)

Mailing address - PO Box 2934 Wenatchee, WA 98807

*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](http://www.audubon.org) or drop us a note and we will send you a form for a special rate introductory membership.

What on earth is happening in this image? It seems that the Tree and Violet-green Swallows that nest in boxes at our house are fed up with chipmunks. This unfortunate one had scampered up one of our feeder snags when we were working in the yard. When the swallows spied it there, they began dive bombing the little creature. They flew close enough to touch it but never were able to knock it off the snag. It let out a little hiss whenever they got very close. At one point there were a dozen swallows taking aim at the chipmunk. I have to assume that chipmunks have been invading the nest boxes either to steal the eggs or newly hatched birds and the parents are fed up. It's a tough world out there.



Would you like to get more involved with NCW Audubon Society? Our board is having its once-a-year face-to-face meeting on August 26. Many of our board members have been 'on board' for many years and are wearing more than one leadership hat. Maybe you'd like to learn more about how we work together and consider becoming an active part of Chapter's leadership group? To find out more, contact Mark Oswood in Wenatchee or Teri Pieper in the Methow (see our contact info on the previous page) and we will be happy to tell you more about it and invite you to the upcoming meeting.

Here in the Methow we have scheduled bird walks for the rest of the summer and into the fall. They will be July 18, August 5 and 16, September 1 and 26, and October 12. All walks meet at the Town Trailhead in Winthrop, unless we decide otherwise. Let me know if you want to be on the email list for these walks. We occasionally meet in Twisp to go farther afield or to the lower valley. Are there bird walks in other communities? Wenatchee? Leavenworth? Okanogan? If so, let us know I'll put them in an upcoming Phlox and Torre can list them on the website.

The second annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival is coming up on September 17 in Pateros' Memorial Park from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mark your calendar and watch the NCW Audubon website for more information.

Would you like to see the Wild Phlox with color photos? You can find a color PDF of it at the NCW Audubon website. The Wild Phlox is now on its summer schedule. This is the 'summer' edition with the next issue coming out around September 1. Have a great summer and enjoy all the birds and be sure to share your stories and images with us! Many thanks to Gretchen Rohde for her photographs and article this month.

## Donations to NCWAS: the Second Wind

by Mark Oswood, Wenatchee

Our once-a-year donation request fledges in late summer. We acknowledged donations received through mid-November of last year in the December Phlox. Below we list donations received since then.

My mailbox, like yours, is a lake connected to a river of donation requests. It is easy to be discouraged; so much of our world needs to be healed or protected, cleaned up or made fair. Still, as volunteers, we see reasons to hope, all the time. Former Secretary of State Colin Powell said "Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier." Your donations are more than dollars; they are really denominated in units of optimism. We try our best to multiply your donations of optimism.

Thank you for being with us.

Ellen Aagard & Matt Corwin +	Dick & Tip Martin	Larry Scharps
Joseph Bailey	Connie McCauley	Torre & Ed Stockard
E Cordy Beckstead	Barbara Jean Meyers	Gwyneth Thorsen
Susan Beery	North Cascades Basecamp (Kim &	Barbara Wolff
Janet & Dale Crouse +	Steve Bondi)	Plus two anonymous donations
Stephen Easley	Betsy Peirce	
Thea Fager	Sally Power	A donation in memory of Louis
Keith Guenther	Thomas & Jean Richtsmeier	Aragon, from Robert and Jeanette
Phyllis Madden	Gail Roberts	Shores

The symbols denote donations of special generosity:

+ = \$100 ("Great Blue Heron")

++ = \$200 ("Greater White-fronted Goose")

+++ = \$300 ("Magnificent Frigatebird")

# My Chelan County Green Big Day

by Gretchen Rohde, Leavenworth

There are probably as many ways to “bird” as there are people. Recently I read “*Extreme Birder – One Woman’s Big Year*,” a book written by Lynn Barber about her record-breaking travels in 2008 when she observed 723 species of birds in North America, a twenty-first century record. She drove, flew, sailed, and walked 175,000 miles in order to see all those birds. Is she a fanatic? Absolutely! Would I ever try anything like that? Absolutely not! But in a recent ABA Blog post, Lynn challenged “normal” birders to define a big event for themselves so they could reach new personal birding goals.

So I decided to try a Green Big Day. Like other big days, the count starts anytime after midnight and ends anytime before midnight within a single 24-hour period. For a Green Big Day, only human-powered or natural methods are approved modes of travel – walking, biking, skiing, kayaking, etc. How many birds could I list leaving from my house?

I chose May 4 as the big day, hoping that the weather would finally warm up after a really weird, cold spring. I enlisted my husband, Mike, to row the boat on nearby Fish Lake. I dusted off the bikes and we were ready to bird!

5:00 a.m. and it’s 32 degrees outside. But off I go for a hike around the neighborhood. We live on 40 acres surrounded by Forest Service lands, with several neighbors down meadow. The habitat varies from evergreen and deciduous forest, willows, wetlands, pastures and a few ponds. The first bird sightings of the morning are Varied Thrush and American Robin. I hear a hooting Great-horned Owl and hoot back. Down the driveway to the neighbors’ flooded pasture and pond, where I strangely see the greatest number of waterfowl for the day – Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Mallard and Canada Goose. To the wetlands, where I add Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Common Yellowthroat, Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows, and a Downy Woodpecker.

The highlight of the morning was seeing five sapsuckers in a clump of old-growth cottonwood trees bordering the neighbor’s field: two Red-breasted, two Red-naped and a Red-breasted x Red-naped hybrid. With Northern Flicker, Hairy, White-headed and Pileated Woodpeckers, that totals eight woodpecker species for the day.

After breakfast Mike and I bike to Fish Lake, where Mike has graciously offered to “row the boat” to The Bog. We add Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck and American Coot, plus Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, six Osprey and a few Savannah Sparrows. Brewers Blackbirds were in the Hideaway Cove, where we normally see a nice mix of ducks. None this day!

We really enjoyed watching the Osprey diving for fish, and a pair of river otters having a wonderful day of swimming along the shore. Lunch at The Cove, then a bike ride to Lake

Wenatchee State Park, where I picked up my final species of the day, an American Dipper at Nason Creek Bridge. Duck counts were extremely low at both lakes despite perfect, sunny, windless weather.

Total species for the day: 61. The waterfowl numbers were the lowest I’ve seen in 8 years of monthly bird surveys on Fish Lake, so that was disappointing, but overall, we had a wonderful, GREEN BIG DAY.



Mike Patterson takes a break from rowing on Fish Lake  
Copyright ©2011 Gretchen A. Rohde

## Species list, including locations

Vaga Dell Ranch	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Canada Goose	Townsend’s Solitaire
Wood Duck	American Robin
Mallard	Varied Thrush
Green-winged Teal	European Starling
Osprey (2 building nest in our wetland)	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Killdeer	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon’s)
Wilson’s Snipe	Common Yellowthroat
Great Horned Owl	Spotted Towhee
Rufous Hummingbird	Song Sparrow
Red-naped Sapsucker	White-crowned Sparrow
Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsucker (hybrid)	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Red-breasted Sapsucker	Dark-eyed Junco
Downy Woodpecker	Red-winged Blackbird
Hairy Woodpecker	Western Meadowlark
White-headed Woodpecker	Brown-headed Cowbird
Northern Flicker	Purple Finch
Pileated Woodpecker	Cassin’s Finch
Say’s Phoebe	Red Crossbill
Steller’s Jay	Evening Grosbeak
Clark’s Nutcracker	<b>Fish Lake</b>
American Crow	Ring-necked Duck
Common Raven	Bufflehead
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Great Blue Heron
Tree Swallow	Turkey Vulture
Violet-green Swallow	Bald Eagle
Black-capped Chickadee	American Coot
Mountain Chickadee	hummingbird sp. - not Rufous, but ???
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Barn Swallow
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Savannah Sparrow
Brown Creeper	Brewer’s Blackbird
Pacific Wren	<b>Nason Creek &amp; Lake Wenatchee State Park</b>
	American Dipper

# Summer Fun and Study with Okanogan Highlands Alliance

by Julie Ashmore, Okanogan Highlands Alliance

June has been an exciting time for the Okanogan Highlands Alliance (OHA). On the 4th, our first outdoor Highland Wonders event was held, called, "Birding and Working at Lost Lake." Participants saw and/or heard 22 bird species, from the elusive wetland-dwelling Sora to the magnificent Common Loon, hunkered down on its nest at the water's edge. OHA thanks Gordon Kent for leading the hike, which also served as a bird survey visit for the site. Afterward, a work group broke ground on the forested interpretive trail, while another group helped repair a road suffering from heavy runoff erosion.

On June 12th, Todd Thorn and Lee Johnson volunteered to help conduct OHA's first annual bird survey at the Myers Creek Mitigation Site. Eight stations were surveyed using a point count method, noting birds seen and heard during the first three minutes and the following two minutes at each station. Twenty-three different species were observed, from regulars you might expect, such as the Cedar Waxwing, Lazuli Bunting, and Yellow Warbler, to the Clay-Colored Sparrow, which is considered rare in Okanogan County. The Gray Catbird graced us with a last-minute appearance; if you're having trouble learning bird calls, this bird's meow will give you instant success. The survey will be conducted each spring to help monitor habitat changes over time. OHA thanks Todd and Lee for sharing their expertise to help monitor the Myers Creek site, and Gordon Kent for helping with the Lost Lake site.

During the week of June 20th, two healthy loon chicks hatched at Lost Lake. However, during that same week, Lost Lake residents acting as "Loon Rangers," observed one chick being taken by a family of Bald Eagles while out on the lake. Ginger and Daniel Poleschook, of the Loon Lake Loon Association and the Biodiversity Research Institute, have observed increased harassment of loons by Bald Eagles this year, due to increasing eagle populations. Natural avian guards

have been put up at a number of nesting locations, and they are very effective in protecting the eggs, but once the chicks are out on the water, it is extremely hard to protect them.

One healthy chick remains at Lost Lake, and Mama and Papa are being exemplary parents, always staying with the chick and constantly protecting it. Ginger and Dan noted that these are the most attentive loon parents they have seen at Lost Lake so far in all their years of observation. The Poleschooks report, "The single chick is doing well, taking invertebrates from the parents as it should, swimming well, and it looks normal in every way." OHA looks forward to keeping tabs on the loon family as the chick matures throughout the summer.

Okanogan Highlands Alliance (OHA) announces the second outdoor Highland Wonders event of the summer: a Native Plant Hike at Lost Lake on Saturday, July 16th. If you enjoyed, "Botanical Gems of the Okanogan Highlands," you won't want to miss this, led by local botanist, George Thornton. He opened the Highland Wonders series last November by sharing his knowledge and photos of unique and rarely seen Okanogan Highland plants; now is your chance to walk the wetland fringe and woods with him and absorb native plant information in three dimensions. Compare and contrast wetland versus upland species, ask questions, and spend a little time with others who enjoy the great outdoors. This hike will last about two and a half hours, and is rated intermediate with some steep slopes and uneven terrain.

After the hike, there will be a potluck snack picnic. And of course, every trip to Lost Lake provides an opportunity to see how the new loon chick is doing and to go for a swim to cool down if the weather is hot. Due to the nature of the outdoor event, participation is limited. To reserve your spot in the event, and for directions, starting time and carpool options, please email [julie@okanoganhighlands.org](mailto:julie@okanoganhighlands.org) or call 509-433-7893.

---

## Results from the Okanogan Birdathon

by Heather Findlay, Okanogan

June 5th was a wonderful clear and sunny day. With Gordon Kent as our fearless leader, we piled in several vehicles and headed out by 7 a.m. Joining in were John and Matt Danielson, Randy Langseth, Kathe Tillman and Don Utzinger, Dan Boettger and Nancy Whittier, Julia O'Connor, and Todd Thorn and Heather Findlay. We saw a total of 91 species, plus an unidentified scaup.

We started in Okanogan, seeing many of our usual backyard and town birds. We headed up a very swollen Salmon Creek, through the Green Lake area, heading to Hess Lake, Scotch Creek, Conconully (great ice cream stop!), and up to the Fish Lake area. Highlights included several Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks soaring and interacting. The Salmon Creek area was a hot spot with Black-headed

and Evening Grosbeaks, a Red-naped Sapsucker, Cedar Waxwings, Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warblers, among others. Fish Lake had a couple of Ospreys and a Bald Eagle fighting over a fish caught by one of the Ospreys. Hess Lake had a melodious Rock Wren singing high up on the canyon wall.

By late afternoon the temperature was in the 80s, and the birds and some of the birders were slowing down. We ended a bit earlier than usual, and didn't quite get to prior year counts.... we're still trying to break that 100-species mark! We missed a few regulars, and we definitely heard and saw other species in the days before and after the birdathon. Still, we had a great day seeing lots of wonderful birds in our beautiful Okanogan region.

# Notes from Mazama

by Bob Spiwak, Mazama

Well, here it is almost July and if summer is to come it had better hurry. Two nights ago (June 25) our tomato plants got frost-nipped. The wildflower seed mélange I spread over a wide area has barely gotten beyond a few pilot leaves. The plants that were planted therein seem to be on hold and doing little. These were planned to be butterfly and hummingbird feeders, but that does not look likely for this year.

The hummer count somehow seems down from last year, if not years previous. It seems to be the year of the finch, lots of those around. Fewer robins, for certain, maybe because we cut down on irrigation, waiting for the flood that now does not look likely.

The pond water is higher than usual for this time of the year, and as previously reported, we had a pair of Mallards, not unusual, and a pair of Wood Ducks who have now all gone elsewhere, probably to have their babies. However there was a disturbing sight and sound yesterday when the hen Wood Duck flew onto the pond and began chirping in single tone calls. She cruised around the pond, always returning to a brushy corner where she and her mate used to hang out. At first I thought she was calling chicks, and then remembered that the drake was always first to land here. I fear she was calling for him and that he had been grabbed by an owl, hawk or eagle.

Earlier in the week, walking the dog, she stopped and found something to chew. This is uncharacteristic behavior for

her, and I walked back to see what she had found. Before she gulped it down I could see it was a large glob of dark meat, and even then I thought it looked like a duck breast.

So, as the poor hen was chirping her way up and down the pond, I went to the place where the dog had made her discovery and looked for feathers, wings, flattened grass that might indicate a predator may have stopped there to eat. Nothing appeared to be amiss.

So, we'll have to see what the coming month brings. There is fresh corn for them where they always dabbled, so far untouched. The Mallards have not been here for a month at least; surely they have not gone to the river which is still running at almost flood stage and has been since early May.

This was to have been a report on the "Funky Nests in Funky Places" contest sponsored by Cornell lab of Ornithology. Many, maybe most of you are familiar with it, and I'll try to detail it more in the next issue. I will say that I won a prize for entry number 22 that included a high tech hummer feeding apparatus and supplies. The magazine they put out is beyond gorgeous-makes me wish I was a birder.

*editor's note - Judging from the topics of Bob's articles, I'd have to say with some assurance, that he is indeed a birder. He pays close attention to those avian animals that grace his backyard habitat and provides them with food and shelter throughout the year. He and his lovely wife Gloria frequently ask interesting questions about the birds they see all around them and are constantly learning more.*

---

## Thursday Presentations at North Cascades Basecamp

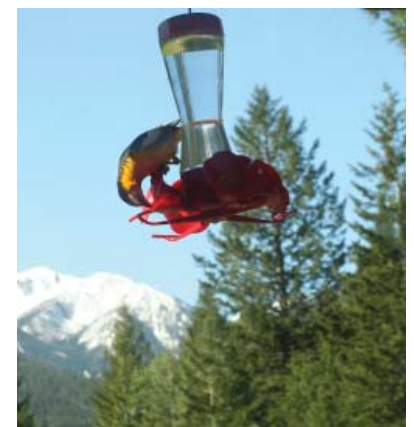
by Kim Bondi, Mazama

Throughout this summer, Thursday evenings will be full of fun and adventure for all ages exploring the natural history of North Central Washington. Learn about frogs and salamanders living in the wetlands of Mazama, explore riparian forest small mammals and bird diversity, delve into the geology of Goat Wall, learn your medicinal and edible plants and understand the fascinating lives of bats. Dessert will be served with each presentation. Cost is \$5 per person for presentation and dessert. Bring your blankets and hiking shoes so you are prepared for indoor and outdoor adventures.

On August 25, Dr Michael Schroder and Leslie Robb will present Mating Systems of Grouse from 6-8p.m. Cost is \$5 per person for presentation and dessert.

Grouse have a variety of mating systems, ranging from monogamy in ptarmigan to extreme polygamy in sage-grouse. The state of Washington is fortunate to have several resident species, with many residing in North Central Washington. Join this Grouse and Spouse duo for this week's Thursday Campfire Presentation where Mike (aka Grouse) and Leslie Robb (aka Spouse) will share their passions and research about these birds.

For more information call 509-996-2334 or see the website [www.northcascadesbasecamp.com/index.html](http://www.northcascadesbasecamp.com/index.html)



A Bullock's Oriole helps himself to the hummingbird feeder at the Basecamp.  
photo by Kim Bondi

# Birding Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

article and photos  
by Teri J Pieper, Twisp

When you think of honeymoons, what pops into your mind? Tropical beaches? Fancy hotels? Gourmet restaurants? Warm climates? How about semi-primitive campgrounds, sixty miles from the nearest town? Flooded rivers and lakes? Weather ranging from rain to hail to snow to sunshine and all accompanied by winds of varying velocities? And what about one hundred plus species of birds identified?

Ken and I decided a road trip to southeast Oregon was the appropriate place for us to celebrate our newly wed status with Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) being our ultimate destination. We stopped in Burns in a pouring rain before the final sixty miles to Page Springs Campground to find out if the campground was even open. Rumors had reached us that it was evacuated the prior week. Turns out a panicked camper initiated the evacuation and all was well when we arrived. It was still pouring and we managed to get our little camper set up in a record time of less than fifteen minutes! By evening the skies had cleared and we got to do a bit of birding, albeit in less than warm conditions.



Long-eared Owl near  
Page Springs Campground

During the six days we were there, we generally wore two or more layers of clothes all the time.

Malheur, like much of the northwest has had record amounts of precipitation this year and as the snows melt from Steens Mountain to the south and the Silvies watershed to the north, all the water is captured in the Malheur basin which is a closed system. Water only escapes by evaporation. So record high precipitation means record high water levels and the water can only spread out on the surface of the landscape. Refuge staff take weekly readings of the elevation of Malheur Lake to estimate the surface acreage of the water. At an elevation of 4094 feet in early March, the surface area was 44,000 acres. On June 16, the surface area was 77,780 acres! They estimate that with the remaining snow pack it will increase to over 81,000 acres. Because it is a closed system, it is expected that next year will also be a high water year.

Among birders, Malheur is famous for both migrants and nesting species. Seen from the air, the Refuge is an amazingly large green wet area in the high desert of eastern Oregon and a logical place for interesting birds to ‘fall

out’ during migration. One day we stopped in Frenchglen, a tiny hamlet on the southwest corner of the Refuge and visited with some of the folks birding in the neighborhood (it is a migrant trap for birders too) and learned that a Hooded Warbler had been spotted there the day before. If you consult your field guide, you will note that Hooded Warblers are found in Texas, not the Pacific Northwest. It was another wet cold day and we stumbled around the brush for a while finding some Wilson’s Warblers and a Scrub Jay but no Hooded Warblers. For us, it was like searching for a needle in a haystack so we were not surprised. A couple days later we were on the Refuge at the famous P Ranch section and I was tooling along on a bike when a birder said to me “Hey – are you interested in a Hooded Warbler?” Screech! What a pretty little bird and so cooperative. It was quite the treat and we are ever so grateful to that generous birder for sharing his sighting with us!



Hooded Warbler in apple  
blossoms at P Ranch

Another day, we drove to the Diamond Craters, an Oregon Outstanding Natural Area, managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It was indeed, outstanding, with many lava craters to explore. One had Canyon and Rock Wrens; another had a nesting Barn Owl. But the best sighting for me was getting out of the truck and hearing an unfamiliar song and seeing an unfamiliar bird singing it – a Black-throated Sparrow! It was a new bird for me; however its appearance matched its name and it was easily identified.

And I can’t forget the thousands of White-faced Ibises, nesting Sandhill Cranes, Ferruginous Hawks, Short-eared and Long-eared Owls, Willets, nesting American Avocets and Black-necked Stilts, the near constant sounds of winnowing Snipe and on and on it goes. If you are ever looking for an outstanding birding trip reasonably close to home, I highly suggest visiting Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in the spring to early summer months.



White-faced Ibises  
in a flooded field

**Summer Wild Phlox**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

**North Central Washington Audubon Society Calendar**

July 15 and 16	Rare Plant Guide	Book Release Party at Barn Beach Reserve. See last month's Phlox for details!
July 16	Okanogan Highlands Alliance Lost Lake Plant Walk	Also featuring nesting Common Loons and Black Terns. See page 5 for details
August 25	Mating Systems of Grouse	Dr Grouse and Spouse present at the North Cascades Basecamp. See page 6 for details.
August 26	NCW Audubon Board Meeting	You too can join in the Fun! See page 3 for details!
September 17	Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival	In Pateros and Chelan Ridge. Details to come.
July 18, August 5 & 16, September 1 & 26	Methow Valley Bird Walks	Meet at Town Trailhead in Winthrop 8:00 a.m. unless decided otherwise. See page 3 for details.



Printed on Recycled Paper

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