



Volume 46 #4 December 2012

Christmas Bird Counts for Everyone in Our Region

The 113th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count takes place December 14 to January 5. The longest running Citizen Science survey in the world, the Christmas Bird Count provides critical data on avian population trends. Tens of thousands of participants know that it is also a lot of fun. Data from the over 2,000 circles are entered after the count and become available to query on the National Audubon website.

Prior to the beginning of the last century, people engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt" - they would choose sides and go afield with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furry) quarry won.

Conservation was in its beginning stages around that time, and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the then budding Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition - a "Christmas Bird Census" - that would count birds during the holidays rather than hunt them.

In, or near North Central Washington Audubon Society's four-county territory, there are quite a few CBC's for you to choose from. Participation is purely voluntary - even the compilers and organizers are all volunteers and believe me, they put in a lot of time so that everyone's count day goes smoothly and most try to include something fun and good food as well.

If you are traveling for the holidays check the Washington Ornithological Society website www.wos.org for other counts around Washington. And if you are traveling outside the state, check with the local Audubon Chapters to find out where you can count birds somewhere else. You might even see 'our' summer birds in their winter habitats!



A well-equipped CBC vehicle
photo by Teri J Pieper

Counts in and around NCW

December 15 - Bridgeport. Contact Meredith Spencer at merdave@homenetnw.net or 686-7551. Meet at Brewster McDonald's at 7:00 a.m. for assignments and finish the day at Mike and Leslie's for another marvelous dinner.
December 16 - Moses Lake. Contact Doug Schonewald at dschone8@donobi.net or 766-0056. Soup feed following the count! This is the last year Doug will compile the Moses Lake count.

December 23 - Twisp. Contact Leae Swazye at leaheswayze@gmail.com or 997-2549. This is the 25th year for the Twisp CBC and all past compilers are invited/encouraged to attend. Potluck following.

December 23 - Leavenworth. Contact Gretchen Rohde at design@thedesignranch.com or 393-0088 for routes. Meet at the Lorene Young Audubon House (at Barn Beach Reserve) at 4:30 p.m. to compile the data.

December 28 - Chelan. Contact Dan Smith at ptsnorth@flymail.net. Meet at the Apple Cup Café at 7:00 a.m. and be sure to attend a free hot meal at 4:15 p.m. at the United Methodist Church.

December 31 - Wenatchee. Contact Dan Stephens at dstephens@wvc.edu or 782-4890 for more information

January 3 - Grand Coulee. Contact David St George at dstgeorge@TNC.ORG for more information.

January 5 - Omak. Contact Heather Finley or Todd Thorn at heather@eaglesun.net or 429-8167. Meet before and after the count at Heather and Todd's house in Okanogan.

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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- Vice President - Mark Oswood | 662-9087 | moswood@nwi.net
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- Web Master - Torre Stockard | webmaster@ncwaudubon.org

Other Contact information

- Website - www.ncwaudubon.org
- Email - info@ncwaudubon.org
- Blog - ncwaudubon.blogspot.com
- Mailing address - PO Box 2934 Wenatchee, WA 98807

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

Wenatchee Bird Walks

by Jenny Graevell, East Wenatchee

Want to learn more about birds? Do you enjoy spending time outdoors? NCWAS is excited to announce the launch of our Birding Buddies fieldtrips. Starting January we hope you will join us for once-a-month bird walks. These free events will be led by Audubon member volunteers. Our first walk will be held on January 19th at the Horan Natural Area. Group sizes will be limited to the first ten people to register. Attendees please dress in warm clothes, waterproof boots, hats and gloves as we will be in the great outdoors. No dogs please. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Field notebooks are great to take along for recording species, and fieldmarks and don't forget your binoculars!

If you wish to participate, register by calling Jenny Graevell at 886-4518. Hope to see you there!



Common Redpolls
 photo by Jenny Graevell

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 _____

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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.

At this time of year when we celebrate abundance and give thanks, I am grateful for an abundance of reader-submitted contributions to the Wild Phlox! It makes me very happy to get an unexpected article in an email or a phone message about an unusual bird sighting or a photo of one of our glorious landscapes to share with our membership. Thank you to all of the readers and contributors in the North Central Washington Audubon Society membership.

In my neck of the woods we have seen a great number of visiting birds. An unfortunate mule deer doe died in the draw below our place attracting large numbers of Common Ravens, Black-billed Magpies, Bald Eagles and a possible Golden Eagle. Every morning there is a rowdy cacophony of calls from the ravens and magpies and a few days ago there was the chortling of several Bald Eagles sharing the news. Clark's Nutcrackers have been working over the ponderosa pine cone crop; coming day after day, in large flocks and causing the seed coverings to rain down from the trees with a gentle sound. Last year my feeder attracted the only Red-winged Blackbirds to be counted on the Christmas Bird Count. They were supposed to migrate away. A couple days ago a mob of fifty or more of the blackbirds ate everything in sight from our feeders. I'm not sure I can afford to feed all of them this winter. Could someone please point them south?



A page from Jenny Graevell's field notebook

Have you seen all the reports of Snowy Owls, Common Redpolls and even a Hoary Redpoll already? This winter is shaping up to be a very exciting one for birders who enjoy these visitors from the north. It seems like there are already more Snowy Owls in Washington than during all of last winter. Reports are even coming from downtown Seattle. I heard a rumour of one near Leahy Junction in Douglas County.

Do you enjoy reading birding list-servs like Tweeters or Inland NW Birders or perhaps more localized lists like Bird-Yak (from Yakima Valley Audubon) or Bird-Kitt (from the Kittitas Valley)? One of our members has stepped forward to suggest that an NCW list-serv might be a nice thing. And if you've ever come up with a good idea for a non-profit group, then you might know what happened next. This same fellow has volunteered to set up such a list and moderate it, providing he has an adequate backup person. And someone did raise his hand, figuratively speaking in an email, and said he'd help with that. It's all still in the beginnings of a discussion but maybe by the time the February Phlox comes out, it will be up and running! Watch our Facebook page and website for updates.

And another note of gratitude – the board of NCWAS would like to thank Jeff Parsons for volunteering to take over the office of president so that Mark Oswood can take a much-needed step back from the heavy load of tasks he has carried for a number of years now.

The Wild Phlox will be back in February. Check our Facebook page and website for NCWAS news and updates!

Letter to the Editor

This letter is in response to last month's Letter to the Editor

Hi Mark,

What a wonderful description. I was right there with you and Elder dog at Hydro Park. The "bike chain coming off the sprocket" is a great rendition of their "rattle call". A bonding pair, to my ears, usually has a softer, higher pitched, cooing sound mixed in with the rattle call. I believe what you and Elder dog witnessed was a resident kingfisher explaining to a migrant/juvenile that this particular section of the Columbia River has already been claimed, defining territorial fishing boundaries perhaps and showing where overlap is allowed and where it is strictly forbidden. Lucky you!

I have a question: When does one use bill rather than beak when describing bird features?

Mary Willard Gallagher

At the Heart of Permanence is Change

by Mark Oswood, Wenatchee
and Jeff Parsons, Leavenworth

From Mark:

At the heart of permanence is change: students become alumni, cells lining your intestine slough off and are replaced, boards of Audubon chapters change glacially. NCWAS has new people on (our) board and some old board members with newly available time. This newness is already throwing off ideas and plans; we are regenerated continuously by people willing to leap up and do things. And by this regeneration, our chapter remains an institution in North Central Washington, decade upon decade.

Our new president, Jeff Parsons, brings both old and new to NCWAS. Jeff has a massive tap root into Audubon soil as a former Executive Director of Audubon Washington. But Jeff's above-ground new growth is as Executive Director of the Wenatchee River Institute at Barn Beach Reserve in Leavenworth. NCWAS has always been part of the extended family of conservation organizations in North Central Washington; Jeff is the perfect person to extend and deepen these family ties.



Balsamroot over Fish Lake in
the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area
photo by Justin Haug

Being president for these past years has been a good and glad part of my life but, like an insect molting into a new exoskeleton, I'm metamorphosing (but not pupating and flying away). I will do less managing but plan to do more "dirt work" volunteering and more bird-watching. In fact, I hope to see more of you 400+ members, at Audubon and other doings all over North Central Washington.

From Jeff:

I am looking forward to serving as the next president of North Central Washington Audubon Society. At the same time, I must also say it's somewhat daunting to be following Mark Oswood's legacy of service to the organization and its mission. We all owe Mark a sincere thank you for everything he has done for NCW Audubon during his years of service as the organization's president. Mark's leadership has been crucial to building and sustaining Audubon's presence and influence in the region. The primary reason I feel confident enough to assume this role is the great team of people we now have on the chapter's board of directors. I knew there was no way I would be able to do everything Mark has done for the chapter, but when board members began to step forward and assume many of the responsibilities that Mark had been carrying on his shoulders for the past few years, I decided the role of president was becoming more manageable.

As Mark mentioned in his kind introduction, I have some experience with Audubon. In addition to my service as an Audubon employee, I'm passionate about the Audubon mission and inspired by what I consider to be the heart and soul of the organization – the local Audubon members who care so deeply about the natural world. I also have roots in North Central Washington. As a young child, I lived in Tonasket where my father was stationed as a Game Protector working for the Washington State Department of Game. When my wife Chris and I moved to Leavenworth back in 2003, it felt like coming home. At Barn Beach Reserve and elsewhere in the Wenatchee Valley, the Wenatchee River Institute is doing the same kind of work that takes place at Audubon Centers in other parts of the country. We are striving to build a culture of conservation by providing children and adults with direct, hands-on learning and stewardship experiences in nature. I look forward to working with Audubon members throughout North Central Washington to engage people of all ages and backgrounds in enjoying, understanding and conserving the natural world.

The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds

A book review by Meredith Spencer, Bridgeport

Wow! What great stories! I smiled a lot as I read this book. Julie Zickefoose is not only a songbird rehabilitator, but a storyteller and artist. Her stories show her empathy and understanding of the birds she cares for. The illustrations are a superb addition to each story. Each of the 25 chapters is about a different species she has cared for over the past twenty plus years. You may have already read or heard some of her stories, as she writes for *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and her stories are aired on the PBS program, *All Things Considered*. You may not agree with some of the actions she takes, but the stories are still wonderful, and packed with facts I've never known before. Did you know you can overfeed an adult bluebird, or hang a baby Chimney Swift on your shirt, or how an Osprey can turn a fish, so it is head first?

I highly recommend this book, maybe as a Christmas present. I think it is one you will want to read again and again.

The Sinlahekin Wildlife Area A Birthplace of Conservation In the Okanogan

by Allen Gibbs
Conservation Chair
Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Sinlahekin Wildlife Area has the distinction of being the first state Wildlife Area in Washington. It will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2014. The Sinlahekin Valley is located in Okanogan County, west of the Okanogan River Valley.

A bill signed in 1937 by President Franklin Roosevelt extended an existing eleven percent excise tax on sport hunting ammunition and firearms, earmarking the proceeds to go to states to invest in wildlife conservation. Better known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, proceeds to Washington now come to \$7 million annually, as grants from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The very first land purchased with these funds by the State of Washington was for deer habitat and hunting in 1939. Studying historical records, it appears that four parcels in the vicinities of Fish Lake and Blue Lake were purchased from private landowners.

The Bracket H Ranch, owned by Herbert (“Happy”) and Marie Connor, was purchased in 1940. The Connor home, barns and other outbuildings are today the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area (SWA) headquarters. More purchases have occurred over subsequent decades.

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of this first acquisition, and the importance of the Sinlahekin as a place of conservation successes and recreation opportunities, planning is underway for special events in 2014. Dale Swedberg, SWA Manager, is setting up a team to help plan and support the event. I’m one of his team members.

I joined North Central Washington (NCW) Audubon in the early 1980s, when I was public affairs officer for the Okanogan National Forest. My first Audubon birding trip was with Marv and Sue Hoover and others out of the Wenatchee area, to the Sinlahekin and other parts of the Okanogan country one late spring.

I am looking for stories and recollections people have about their visits to the Sinlahekin. I will be writing and editing some articles for the Okanogan County Historical Society’s quarterly journal, “The Heritage,” which I edited and wrote for when living in Okanogan. Articles will be about natural history, Native American history, and the years since Europeans arrived to experience successful and failed settlement for ranching, farming, irrigation, and mining. That history also includes fraudulent schemes to take people’s money, properties and dreams, and never turn a shovel of dirt.

By way of this article, I am also looking for Audubon groups who make annual trips to the Sinlahekin, to see if they may want to participate in some fashion in the anniversary. Perhaps schedule trips for birding, butterflies and wild flowers coincident with experts visiting the valley to lead outings and hold workshops.

If you have stories about the Sinlahekin, or are interested in participating in anniversary events, please contact me at conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org or Dale Swedberg at Dale.Swedberg@dfw.wa.gov



Blue Lake in the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area
photo by Justin Haug

Jeff Parsons Remembers the Sinlahekin

My father, who was known by his nickname, Zeke, was the “Game Protector” for the Washington State Department of Game in the Okanogan and was stationed in Tonasket, where we lived for about five years between 1952 and 1957. The “Game Protector” was an enforcement officer position that I think WDFW now calls “Wildlife Agent.” The Sinlahekin was in his jurisdiction, so I’m sure he spent some time there. However, my recollection is that it was called “Sinlahekin Game Farm” at the time because they used it to raise birds to be released for hunting (Huns, chukars, pheasants, etc.) It’s also the place where, as a three-year-old, I recall riding in the car with my parents and calling out, “There’s a bear!” Their initial response was, “He has a good imagination!” Then, they too saw the bear up on the hillside. It was one of my father’s favorite stories of my childhood. I also remember a giant rock that seemed to hang precariously over the road through the Sinlahekin. I have been back there since and discovered it wasn’t really all that giant.

The Widespread Generosity of NCWAS Members

by Mark Oswood
Wenatchee

There are over 400 of us NCWAS members. Even though we are spread over an area larger than Vermont, we are a small town, a community of people who care. We care about the birds that come to our feeders, about introducing school kids to birds, about saving birds pushed to the margins of existing.

And we contribute by sharing our knowledge, by sharing our time, by sharing our energy. We are grateful to the people listed below, who have shared their money, a particular kind of energy that can be used to power community.

So far, we've received 100 donations this "Audubon year" (starts in September) from our once-a-year donation request. Please know that you have our respectful appreciation.

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.

Knut & Ann Aagaard	Drew & Cathy Gaylord	Judy & Monte Olson	Carolanne Steinebach +
Bill Ansert	Wayne and Jenny Graevell +	Patty Ostendorff	Lisa Therrell
Kit & Sharron Arbuckle	Ralph & Betty Hagenbuch	Mark & Judith Oswood + +	Penelope Tobiska
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Susan Ballinger (Wenatchee	Ken Heinle +	L L Peterson	Cards) & Pat Murphy +
Naturalist Program) ++	Dr. Bruce Honsinger	Teri J Pieper +	Nancy Warner +
Gretchen Barkmann	David Jaecks	George & Lila Putnam +	Jo Watters
Molly Beck & Barry	Mary Ann James ++	Chris Rader	Vicky Welch
Provorse +	Gail & Dan Jordan	Richard Ries	Barton Wert
Russ & Cordy Beckstead	Ann Keebler	Gretchen Rohde & Mike	
Diane Blake +	Catherine Kent +	Patterson +	Plus twenty anonymous
Al & Ann Bridges	Mary Kiesau	Joe & Merry Roy	donors, appreciated just as
Gro Buer & Bruce Williams +	Justin Knisley	Dave Rudholm Construction Inc	much those named above.
Rich & Elizabeth	Kim Lohse & Phil Archibald	Ann & Don Schaechtel	
Caemmerer	Debbie Lorrain	Larry Scharps	The symbols denote
Caryl Campbell	Dick & Tip Martin	Robbie Scott	donations of special
Danna Dal Porto	Amy & Dayle Massey	Eliot & Christine Scull	generosity:
Ann Dark	Michelle & Mark Mazzola	Grace Smith	+ = \$100 ("Great Blue
Faye De Jong	Cecelia McFadden	Jenny Smith+	Heron")
Stephen Easley	Diane McKenzie +	Susan & Kurt Snover	++ = \$200 ("Greater White-
Chuck & Candace Egner +	Edgar Meyer +	Sally Soest	fronted Goose")
Edward & Cheryl Faust	Ken & Jess Mills +	Barbara Soltess	+++ = \$500 ("Magnificent
Hannelore Fraser	Teresa Moazed	Bob Spiwak	Frigatebird")
Jeanie Garrity	Caitlin & Walter Newman	Betsy Steele	

We get mail:

Dear NCWAS: I had your donation slip magneted to my filing cabinet, but it fell off and seemed to be sucked into my shredder. There was a grinding (almost growling) noise and now I can't find the donation slip. What should I do? Slipless in Mazama

Dear Slipless: Ecologically, shredders are classified as document feeders, voracious predators of paper prey. Your donation slip is now post-consumed. You'll find a fresh donation slip below.

Thanks, NCWAS

Here is my/our donation of \$_____

Please make checks payable to NCW Audubon
and mail to NCWAS, PO Box 2934, Wenatchee, WA 98807.

Thank You!

Name _____

Address _____

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

Wintering Anna's Hummingbirds

by Jenny Graevell, East Wenatchee

Anna's Hummingbirds have come a long way. During the first half of the 20th century these birds were only found in Northern Baja California and Southern California. Anna's hummingbirds are now the most common hummingbird species on the West Coast and have even been spotted in Southern Alaska. They have expanded their range mostly because of the planting of ornamental flowering trees and plants and quick meals of sugar water offered from feeders that homeowners hang in their yard.

According to the AllAboutBirds.org website, Anna's Hummingbirds are usually permanent residents and do not migrate, or if they do, they move only a short distance to a better feeding ground.

There is some controversy on whether to feed hummingbirds in winter. Some believe by leaving feeders out, we are encouraging them to stay. However for a species that is not hardwired to migrate, a maintained feeder may be the difference between life and death. Not everyone is going to diligently take down the feeders at the end of the fall. Anna's will find those hangers too, empty, moldy or with just enough nectar to make it to the next feeder. Personally, I would rather see a bird nourished through the cold season by a dedicated and maintained feeder.

Interestingly Anna's Hummingbirds have been seen during the Wenatchee Christmas Bird Count 18 times since the count began in 1960.

OHA Explores Local Loons: How they Survive and Where they Go Highland Wonders - First Friday of the Month

by Julie Ashmore, Okanogan Highlands

On Friday, January 4th, Dr. Scott Ford, avian medicine and surgery specialist, will share information about the loons of NCW. Their biology and conservation will be discussed, along with stunning images taken by Dan and Ginger Poleschook, loon researchers and professional photographers. Dr. Ford will discuss where our loons go in the winter, and provide updates on telemetry technology that will allow researchers to better track individual loons from our area in the coming years. "Loons carry a universal appeal—their beckoning cry, their surreal beauty, and their dependable presence every summer—but their dwindling presence leaves a noticeable gap," says Dr. Ford. "Come and be inspired by the beauty of these birds and the challenges they face in a changing world." In the summers of 2011 and 2012, Dr. Scott Ford has assisted with efforts to capture, band, and sample common loons in Northeastern Washington.

Highland Wonders is an educational series offered by Okanogan Highlands Alliance, free of charge, at the Community Cultural Center (CCC) of Tonasket. The presentation begins at 6:30 pm with desserts, tea and coffee; the dinner benefiting the CCC begins at 5:00 pm. The indoor events are held at the CCC, at 411 S Western Avenue, Tonasket; for details, visit www.okanoganhighlands.org/education/hw, or call 509-433-7893.

The Salmon Forest

by Jackie Haskins, Wenatchee River Institute

Peer into the mysteries of The Salmon Forest with Wenatchee River Institute and Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement. Join us for a Red Barn Friday, January 18 at 7 pm in the Barn at Barn Beach Reserve, 347 Division St, Leavenworth, to learn why, how, and to whom those stinky salmon carcasses may be a gift.

Bathed in mist and rain year round, the northern Pacific rainforest is one of the most biologically diverse and lush places on the planet. Along over 400 kilometers of forested inlets and islands, millions of spawning salmon support dense concentrations of forest life as they return to freshwater to spawn. Grizzly bears, black bears, bald eagles, seals, otters, gulls, and countless invertebrates

thrive, in part because of the gift of the salmon. Much of life here still remains secret and unknown.

With stunning cinematography, *The Salmon Forest* reveals the fragile connection between salmon, bears, trees, and people in the NW rainforest. Biologist Dr. Tom Reimchen, reveals why black and grizzly bears prefer to fish at night, and reveals the link between the salmon and the forest. Entomologist Dr. Neville Winchester investigates the vast array of strange-looking arthropods and insects that litter the forest canopy. And the Gitga'at, a First Nations people, reaffirm the connection between land and sea, performing their traditional Salmon Dance.

Recent Bird Sightings

Compiled by Teri J Pieper
photo by Vicky Cibicki

Birders in Douglas County report a mixed bag of species from Virginia Rails, a Long-eared Owl and Brown Creeper seen in the Douglas Creek Natural Area on November 4. In Ruud Canyon on November 10 Common Redpolls were observed feeding with Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks and Varied Thrush. The Graevell's reported a Dusky Grouse, Fox Sparrow and Anna's Hummingbird in Douglas County on November 14.

One alert reader reported that Dark-eyed Juncos were eating collard greens in his garden. That seems unusual for a seed-eating bird.

Vicky Cibicki had an unusual sighting this fall. A lone immature sandhill crane was seen foraging for worms in grassy fields a few feet from the pavement of Pioneer Drive in Cashmere. It was not timid. She was able to photograph



it from twenty feet away. The first sighting was October 23. The tall bird had a distinct rusty crown, black/gray spindly legs, long neck and brownish gray bustle-like body. Vicky saw it last on November 2, and looked long and hard for it four days later to no avail. Did it get separated from its flock heading south? Did it finally migrate south?

In the Methow, there have been swans on Riser, Big Twin and Patterson Lakes and in the ponds downstream from Big Valley.

A Twisp birder mentioned seeing about ten White-winged Crossbills, both males and females, in one of the spruces outside her window near the Twisp ponds.

Other birders in the Methow have noticed a large number of Rough-legged Hawks this fall. Does that mean we have lots of mice and voles for them to catch? Along Gunn Ranch Road they saw Gray-crowned Rosy-finches and a Northern Shrike. An Osprey continues to hang out on the river below the schools.

In the North Village neighborhood in Winthrop, there was an immature Bald Eagle sitting on a branch above the canal riffle being totally bombarded by two Belted Kingfishers. They were really serious about their space. There was a lot of racket and carrying on! The eagle just sat there looking around as if to say "You have got to be kidding"!

Go out to Nature! !Salga A La Naturaleza!

Volunteers needed – Field Helpers for Team Naturaleza

by Heather Wallis-Murphy,
Leavenworth

What: Seeking English-speaking or Bilingual volunteers to accompany Team Naturaleza as we lead monthly bilingual nature walks with Latino community members. Expect brisk walks along Wenatchee area trails. The goal is to enjoy being active and observing interesting things in nature together. Volunteers do not need to speak Spanish, just have a willingness to assist others in learning about nature. Looking at trees, birds, river and forest habitats will provide many topics for conversation.

When: First Saturday of the month (from December 2012 through June 2013)

Time: Hiking time 10 a.m. - noon (Volunteers arrive at 9:30 for a short meeting with the group leader)

Where: Volunteers will meet leader Norma Gallegos at Wenatchee Community Center (504 South Chelan Avenue). Carpool trips leave for the hikes at 9:45 am and return at 12:15 p.m.

Weather: We will go "Rain-or-Shine". Please dress for the weather.

How: Sign up with: Norma Gallegos cell: 860-0323 or email: normagallegos88@gmail.com or contact Heather Murphy at heather@wildtales.com

Please contact Norma by the Thursday prior to the First Saturday of the month

Team Naturaleza's programming goals include 1) remove barriers to connect people with nature by offering bilingual nature walks and field studies co-led by area scientists, artists and trusted Latino community members; 2) Empower the Latino community through natural science education: teach participants to have the skills and knowledge to be able to return to field sites independently with their families; 3) Engage attendees, volunteers, students in conservation discussions and issues; 4) Attain healthier lifestyles, as a by-product for getting people outdoors; and 5) insure Team Naturaleza becomes a long-standing resource in NCW.

During the pilot year 2012, Team Naturaleza participated and/or led 48 events, with 1685 attendees. The results of having a Latino Community Liaison position increased Latino attendance from an average of 13% to an average of 45% audience. Through TN's work, the bilingual and Latino community is provided with transportation, equipment and culturally safe experiences; teaming up with area scientists, educators and artists.

December Wild Phlox

North Central Washington Audubon Society
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 Wenatchee, WA 98807

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North Central Washington Audubon Society Calendar

December 15 -	January 5	Christmas Bird Counts	See page one for all the CBC's in our region
January 4	January 4	Learn about Loons	With the Okanogan Highlands Alliance. See page 6
January 15	January 15	<i>Arid Lands</i> a documentary film	7:00 Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center For more info 888-6240 or www.wvmcc.org
January 16	January 16	Cascade Huckleberries Workshop	The Native Plant Society at Wenatchee Valley Museum 7:00 p.m. with Terry Lillybridge
January 18	January 18	<i>Salmon Forest</i>	A film at Barn Beach Reserve. See page 6
January 19	January 19	Bird Walk	You need to pre-register. See page 2 for more info.
January 30	January 30	Wenatchee Naturalist Course	New course starts. See last month's Phlox for details
February 8	February 8	The Saga of Washington's Fish and Wildlife in Words, Pictures, and Song	At the Wenatchee River Institute at Barn Beach in Leavenworth 7:00 p.m.



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