



Volume 48 #4 December 2014

From the National Audubon
Society Website

Make Plans to Count Birds this Christmas Season

The 115th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place December 14 to January 5. The longest running Citizen Science survey in the world, the Christmas Bird Count provides critical data on population trends. Tens of thousands of participants know that it is also a lot of fun. Data from the over 2,300 circles are entered after the count and become available to query under the Data and Research link on the CBC website.

The data collected by observers over the past century allows researchers, conservation biologists, and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, it provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years.

The long term perspective made possible by the CBC is vital for conservationists. It informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat – and it helps identify environmental issues with implications for people as well. For example,

local trends in bird populations can indicate habitat fragmentation or signal an immediate environmental threat, such as groundwater contamination or poisoning from improper use of pesticides.

The Twisp CBC will be December 14. Juliet Rhodes is the contact person. You may reach her at rhodesj99@gmail.com. The tentative meeting spot is Cinnamon Twisp Bakery, 116 North Glover Street in Twisp at 6:30 am, with registration at 7 am. A potluck will follow the CBC at 5:30 at Art and Michelle's house.

The Bridgeport CBC will be December 20. Meredith Spencer is the contact person. You may reach her at 686-7551 or merdave@homenetnw.net. Meet at the Brewster McDonald's on Highway 97 at 7:00 am. At potluck dinner will be held at the WDFW building on Moe Road near Bridgeport.

The Leavenworth CBC will be December 21. Gretchen Rohde is the contact. You may reach her at design@thedesigntax.com

The Chelan CBC December 27. Steve Easley is the contact person. You may reach him at 682-2318 or seasley@nwi.net. Meet at 7 am at the Apple Cup Café in Chelan. Regroup at 4:30 pm at the Chelan Methodist Church on Johnson Avenue (kitty corner from the Post Office). There will be soup and salad while the counts are tallied.

The Wenatchee CBC will be January 3. Dan Stephens is the contact. You may reach him at dstephens@wvc.edu

The Okanogan CBC will be January 3. Heather Findlay is the contact person. You may reach her at 429-8167 or heather@eaglesun.net. Meet at 2050 James Avenue, Okanogan at 6:45 am.

In 2009, the data were instrumental in *Audubon's Birds & Climate Change* analysis, which documented range shifts of bird species over time. Also in 2009 CBC data were instrumental in the collaborative report by the North

American Bird Conservation Initiative, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - *State of the Birds 2009*.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has included Audubon's climate change work from CBC data as one of 26 indicators of climate change in their 2012 report.

In 2007, the data were instrumental in the development of two Audubon State of the Birds Reports - *Common Birds in Decline*, which revealed that some of America's most beloved and familiar birds have taken a nosedive over the past forty years, and *WatchList 2007*, which identified 178 rarer species in the continental U.S. and 39 in Hawaii that are imperiled. These three reports helped scientists and policy-makers to both identify threats to birds and habitat, and promote broad awareness of the need to address them.

For more information about the history of National Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, please see <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>

The mission of the
North Central Washington Audubon Society
is "to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing
on birds and their habitats, for the benefit of people and
the biological diversity of North Central Washington."

North Central Washington Audubon Society

Officers, Chairs, Board Members

President - Jeff Parsons | 264-4905 | jparsons@nwi.net
Vice President - Art Campbell | 996-8168 | rapakivi@methow.com
Past President - Mark Oswood | 662-9087 | moswood@nwi.net
Treasurer - Larry Tobiska | ltobiska@nwi.net
Secretary - Penny Tobiska | ptobiska@nwi.net
Conservation - Chris Parsons | 264-4903 | cjparsons@nwi.net
Education and Outreach - Penny Tobiska - ptobiska@nwi.net
Mark Oswood | 662-9087 | moswood@nwi.net
Email Master - Marie Garrett | 669-1800 | breezycanyon@gmail.com
Field Trips - Jenny Graevell - 679-3531 | avijenee@yahoo.com
Dan Stephens | dstephens@wvc.edu
Membership - Heather Findlay | 429-8167 | heather@eaglesun.net
Newsletter - Teri J Pieper | 630-6224 | teripieper@hotmail.com
Science Officer - Don McIvor | 997-9456 | puma@methownet.com
Web Master - Treesa Hertzell | webmaster@ncwaudubon.org
Festival Coordinator - Richard Scranton | rscan4350@yahoo.com
At Large: Virginia Palumbo | 682-5969 | palumbov@nwi.net
Ruth Daugherty | 779-4380 | thebirdlady@frontier.com
Mark Johnston | markjtn@earthlink.net

Website - www.ncwaudubon.org

Email - info@ncwaudubon.org

Mailing address - PO Box 2934 Wenatchee, WA 98807

North Central Washington Audubon Society is on Facebook too

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

Winter Birding Opportunities

by Jenny Graevell, East Wenatchee

Is one of your New Year's resolutions going to be get outside more, or to discover interesting places to see wildlife around NCW? Join Birding Buddies as we start the New Year with a bird walk at the Horan Natural Area on January 17th. Our plan is to walk from Walla Walla Point down through the Horan Natural Area and into Confluence State Park. Dress in warm windproof layers, with waterproof boots, hats and gloves. This event is limited to 15 people. You may reserve your place by calling Jenny at 886-4518.

The annual birding trip to the Waterville Plateau will be held on February 7th. Please contact Dan Stephens for more information. dstephens@wvc.edu

WVC Class Dates Correction

Please note that dates given for the winter classes at WVC in last month's Phlox were incorrect. Winter Water Birds will be February 17, 19 and 22. Bird Watching 101 will be March 16 and 18 with a field trip on March 21.

North Central Washington Audubon Society Wild Phlox Subscription Form

Subscribe to NCW Audubon Wild Phlox One Year, Nine Issues \$15
 I prefer to get the Wild Phlox electronically (email address required below)
Separate subscription to Phlox NOT needed for NAS members in good standing
 Donation: I would like to support NCW Audubon's programs of education and conservation. Enclosed is my additional donation of \$_____
 Please do NOT acknowledge my donation in the Wild Phlox
 Memorial in the name of _____

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

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

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

To join the National Audubon Society which also includes a subscription to the Wild Phlox, please see their website at www.audubon.org or drop us a note and we will send you a form for a special rate introductory membership.

Editor's Notes

Out my window it looks like winter is here even though there is rain in the Thanksgiving week forecast. I'd be happy to see snow from now til March, covering up the barren soil left from the summer's fire. It almost looks normal again. Today we have an arborist coming to top some of the dead ponderosa pine snags. We hope this prevents them from blowing down in the near future and helps to preserve them for wildlife for many years to come.

The original snag in front of our dining room window has been a real magnet for birds lately. There are the regular feeder birds – an array of finches, chickadees, jays, flickers and other woodpeckers and the greedy blackbirds too. In recent weeks we have observed a Sharp-shinned and also a Cooper's hawk, a Northern Pygmy Owl and a Northern Shrike. Everyone needs to eat. I was pleased to see the owl was catching voles. After the fire, our yard and garden were overrun with the little varmints and their holes and mounds of dirt. They ate the carrots and potatoes too. Hopefully the owl made a dent in their population before the snow fell.

For people who like to travel to see birds, this has been a great month all over Washington. Lots of rarities have been spotted along the coast from Neah Bay down to Willapa Bay. People have driven from all four corners of the state to find these birds and tick them off of their lists – state, county, year, or life. The Northern Hawk-owl near Brewster is also attracting birders from a long ways away. How do you feel about this? Last month one of our readers commented about this issue. She was pointing out the juxtaposition of an article in the Phlox about dealing with climate change on a local scale and an article about travel to South America to explore and support biodiversity there. She said: *“As the reality of our environmental degradation becomes more and more evident I have become more and more intolerant of recreational conservation and ecology and made more and more changes to my personal choices and practices. In this time the idea of supposed biodiversity advocates traveling most likely flying thousands of carbon miles to another ecosystem to “inform, enhance and inspire conservation” with the stated goal of “a rich and enduring biological heritage” is bizarre in my view and irresponsible. Might be better to put together an advocacy program for local on-site South American scientists and residents or some other lower impact activity.”* She closed with *“not knowing the answers, but looking”*. What do you think?



Northern Shrike
photo by Teri J Pieper

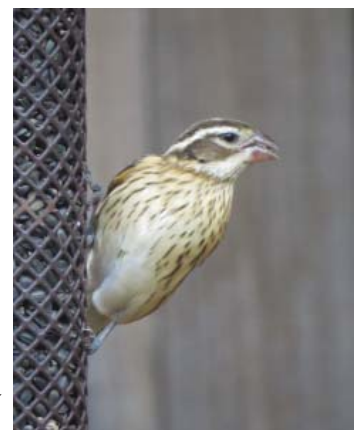


Northern Pygmy Owl
photo by Teri J Pieper

NCW Recent Bird Sightings

compiled from the ncwabird email list
by Teri J Pieper

November started out with a new bird for Douglas County. A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak stopped for a day or two at a bird feeder in Bridgeport! At Tiffany Mountain northeast of Winthrop, birders spotted Pine Grosbeaks, Lapland Longspurs and Boreal Chickadees, along with other more common species. In Wenatchee's Walla Walla Park, Dunlin and Bonaparte Gulls were seen. At Lake Chelan State Park a White-headed Woodpecker and Red-breasted Merganser were spotted. In Chelan there was a Harlequin Duck hanging out with Common Mergansers. Along the Columbia in Douglas County, Barrow's Goldeneyes and Bonaparte Gulls were seen. Big Twin Lake near Winthrop had a White-winged Scoter, a calling Northern Pygmy-owl and some swans. An American Three-toed Woodpecker was seen at Washington Pass. A Northern Hawk-owl has been seen by many people near Brewster. Common Redpolls were reported on Bridgeport Hill Road and Gray-crowned Rosy-finches on McNeil Canyon Road in Douglas County. A late Yellow-rumped Warbler was observed a Beebe Springs along with a Wilson's Snipe, Belted Kingfisher and others. Bewick's Wrens have been reported at the Horan Natural Area in Wenatchee. An American Tree Sparrow was reported near Mansfield. There are lots of raptors being seen all over our four-county region including various accipiters, Rough-legged Hawks, Golden Eagles and the increasingly common Bald Eagles.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak
in Bridgeport
photo by Meredith Spencer

On Saying Yes

by Mark Oswood, Wenatchee

We are all irradiated with requests for our time, our money, and our caring. And so we are advised to be wary – to build a firewall of no’s. But the quality of shared life is largely determined by our willingness to say “yes I said yes I will Yes“ (James Joyce, *Ulysses*).

Below, we list the people who said “yes” to our annual donation request, through mid-November. We’ll list donors after mid-November in the summer 2015 issue of the Phlox. As always, please know that you have our gratitude and our respect. You are yes-sayers.

Knut Aagaard *
William Ansert
Phil Archibald
Bill Asplund
Lori Aylesworth *
Cherylan Backman
Susan Ballinger *
Russ Beckstead *
Anne Bridges
Michael Brogan
Randall Brook
Gro Buer ***
Liz Caemmerer
Art Campbell **
David Clement *
Susan Crampton
George De Los Santos
Faye DeJong
Lynn Dickinson *
Steve Easley
Charles Egner
Dorothy Evans
Rosemary Faust
Edward Faust
Hanna Fraser *
Christie Gascoigne
Drew & Kathy Gaylord
Celia Gomez Newman
Jenny Graevell *
Karen Haire

Richard Hart
Douglas Head
Ken Heinle *
David Jaecks
D.Gail Jordan
Donald Kasnic **
Ann Keebler
Catherine Kent *
Helen Kjobech *
Justin Knisley
Roberta Lechner
Sharon Lunz
Janet Mangold
Jody Marquardt
Amy Massey
Joanne McInnis
Diane McKenzie *
Rita Mead
Ed Meyer *
Jess Mills *
Kathryn Moody
Karen Mulcahy
Diane Mundy
Heather Murphy *
Alicia Nakata
Caitilin Newman
North Cascades Basecamp*
Monte Olson
Patty Ostendorff
Mark & Judy Oswood *

John Page Jr.
Elizabeth Peirce
Teri Pieper *
Lila Putnam *
Richard Ries
Merry Roy *
Donna Sanford
Ann Schaechtel *
Christine Scull *
Susan Snover *
Sally Soest
Kenton Sokolowski *
Terry Sorom
Kay Sparks
Michael Steele
Carolanne Steinebach *
Ardith Stivers
Lisa Therrell
Chuck Warner*
Karen West
Kenneth Westman

+ 19 anonymous donors, appreciated just as much 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:

My cat, Schrödinger, was playing with my NCWAS donation slip. I’ve looked everywhere but now the donation slip seems to be indeterminate and I’m full of uncertainty. What can I do?

Slipless in Peshastin

Dear Slipless: Fortunately, all NCWAS donation slips are quantum entangled. If you use the replacement donation slip below, you’ll be using your original donation slip simultaneously.

Here is my/our donation of \$_____

Please make checks payable to NCW Audubon. 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

Looking for a Melodic Spring?

by Christi Norman, Audubon WA

Listen up! Join us for a songbird survey in eastern Washington's shrub steppe habitat. North Central Washington Audubon and Audubon Washington are jointly developing a conservation program, and it needs data.

Audubon Washington and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife are partnering with eastern Washington chapters for a long-term project to count sagebrush songbirds on Columbia Plateau public lands. Scientists have selected the Sagebrush Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow and Sage Thrasher as our priority songbird species.

The data we collect will validate the distribution models found in the Western Governors Association Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool, as well as update the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitat Species data base. The data will help incorporate wildlife values into multi-state land-use, transportation, and energy planning, as well as large-scale conservation

projects. Washington has lost critical amounts of shrub steppe habitat and this study can prepare us to successfully advocate for habitat conservation in the future. Citizen science can make a difference!



Sagebrush Sparrow
photo by Denny Granstrand,
Yakima Valley Audubon Society

Three training sessions are planned. Trainings will teach observers how to identify our critical species: conduct a field training using GPS, field protocols, and forms for recording

observations; practice entering data on-line in eBird; and form survey teams for the spring.

Save the date: NWCAS training: March 21, Wenatchee Valley College, Dan Stephens teaches bird ID, WDFW's Senior Research Scientist Matt Vander Haegen teaches field protocols, and Yakima Valley Audubon's Teresa Lorenz, and Michelle Gilbert teach GPS use.

Can't make March 21? Attend one of the other trainings: March 7 in the Tri-Cities or April 4 in Spokane.

The survey will conduct point counts at 14 sites in NCWAS chapter area, three times each in the 2015 spring. The first round of field work will be mid-late April, the second in early May, and the third in the first week of June.

For more information, schedules, and signup: Please email Christi Norman at Audubon Washington, cnorman@audubon.org or Chris Parsons, conservation chair for NCWAS at cjparsons@nwi.net. Watch for updates at wa.audubon.org

eBird Northwest

by Jason Wettstein, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Recreational and professional birdwatchers in the Pacific Northwest have a new online tool for identifying birds, reporting their sightings, and contributing to conservation efforts throughout the region. It's called "eBird Northwest" www.ebird.org/nw.

The new Pacific Northwest portal will provide fresh, weekly articles and notes with the latest bird news, local hotspots and rare sightings, festivals and special count dates, identification help and opportunities to participate in conservation projects. Birders can get lists and tips for areas they want to visit or birds they want to see. Regional experts are contributing content to support our birding and conservation communities.

The eBird Northwest portal is part of the eBird network (Cornell University Ornithology Lab and Audubon Society) and is maintained by the Klamath Bird Observatory (www.klamathbird.org), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (www.wdfw.wa.gov), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pacific Region (www.fws.gov/pacific), and Avian Knowledge Northwest (www.avianknowledgenorthwest.net/).



A pair of Bald Eagles survey
Big Twin Lake near Winthrop
photo by Teri J Pieper

Barred Owls vs Northern Spotted Owls

Photo and article by Gretchen Rohde, Leavenworth



Barred Owl
Reductive linoleum block print
by Gretchen Rohde

In our valley near Lake Wenatchee, we love our Barred Owls - hearing them, seeing the young, and seeing the adults hunting in the fall. A group of Upper Basin Birders visited a study near Plain years ago concerning the Barred Owls and their encroachment on the threatened Northern Spotted Owl's territory. In searching online, I ran across the results of that study. You can find it at www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/journals/pnw_2010_singleton001.pdf. One of their conclusions was: In comparison to published information on Northern Spotted Owls, Barred Owls used areas with similar canopy closure and tree size classes, but Barred Owl home ranges were much smaller and more concentrated on gentler slopes in valley bottoms.



Hidden Lives of Northwest Wildlife

by Julie Ashmore

Okanogan Highlands

On Friday, January 9, join David Moskowitz, expert wildlife tracker, photographer, author, and outdoor educator, for an evening of amazing photographs and stories exploring the hidden stories of our region's wildlife. From the tiniest shrews to bears and cougars, the signs of wild animals are around us year-round, waiting to be discovered by the observant outdoor adventurer. From the wild coastline to alpine tundra and from rain forests to deserts, David will share tips on how to find wild animals and interpret the signs they leave behind on the landscape including tracks, feeding sign, and scent marking.

"For me animal tracks and signs have an almost magical quality to them," Moskowitz says. "They give us a window into the intimate and unseen lives of the wild animals that live around our homes and in the places we work and play."

David Moskowitz is the author of two books, "Wildlife of the Pacific Northwest" and "Wolves in the Land of Salmon." He has contributed his technical expertise to a wide variety of wildlife studies regionally and in the Canadian and U.S. Rocky Mountains, focusing on using tracking and other

non-invasive methods to study wildlife ecology and promote conservation. He helped establish the Cascade Citizen Wildlife Monitoring Project, a citizen science effort to search for and monitor rare and sensitive wildlife in the Cascades and other Northwest wildlands.



Bull moose
photo by David Moskowitz

David's extensive experience as an outdoor educator includes training mountaineering instructors for Outward Bound, leading wilderness expeditions throughout the western United States and in Alaska, teaching natural history seminars, and as the lead instructor for wildlife tracking programs at Wilderness Awareness School. David holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and outdoor

education from Prescott College. David is a certified Track and Sign Specialist through Cybertracker Conservation, as well as an evaluator for this rigorous professional certification program. Contact David directly to inquire about his photography, classes and workshops or hosting an evaluation in your region.

The event takes place at the Community Cultural Center (CCC) of Tonasket, beginning at 6:30 pm, with a dinner benefiting the CCC at 5:15 pm. The dinner will be \$7.50 for CCC members and \$8.50 for non-members; there is no charge for the presentation.

OHA is a non-profit organization that works to educate the public on watershed issues. The Highland Wonders educational series features the natural history of the Okanogan Highlands and surrounding areas. OHA's Education Program, which is offered free of charge, is designed to build the capacity of the community to steward natural habitats and resources by helping increase awareness of local natural history. Donations are always welcome. Details are provided on OHA's website: www.okanoganhighlands.org/education/hw.

Thursday Night Soup and Natural History in Mazama

by Kim Bondi, Mazama

The North Cascades Basecamp in Mazama is hosting another winter season of Thursday Community Soup Night & Presentation Series. Every Thursday evening from January 8th through March 5th at 5:30 pm is a homemade soup and bread dinner, followed by a natural history presentation at 6 pm. Presentations include Native Bees of Washington State with Don Rolfs, Glaciers of the North Cascades with Tom Hammond, Wolf Recovery in the West, OR7 Expedition with David Moskowitz, and others. Please join us! Call, email, or follow our website for more information. 996-2334, info@northcascadesbasecamp.com, www.northcascadesbasecamp.com.

Native Conifers Identification Workshop

Article and photo by
Susan Ballinger, Wenatchee

Winter is a great season to learn to identify native conifer trees that grow in Washington's east-side Cascade Mountains. Wenatchee Valley College Continuing Education Department is offering this two evening course on January 20 and January 22 from 6 – 8 pm in Wenatchee.

Wenatchee Naturalist teacher Susan Ballinger has designed this hands-on workshop to introduce form, cones, needle and bark patterns, and natural history for each tree. Students will use microscopes to examine live samples of needles. They will create their own learning aids and take samples home. Lectures will focus on how each species is adapted to thrive in the unique climate of our region that includes summer drought and wildfire.

Online registration will be available at Wenatchee Valley College's website after December 1.



Cones from four of
Washington's native pines

November Hummer

by Marilyn Strickwerda, Chelan

I started the 28th season of Project FeederWatch for The Cornell Lab of Ornithology on November 9, 2014 and was checking the bird feeders from my dining room window while eating breakfast at 7:45 a.m. on November 10. It was a clear sunny morning with temperature of 40 degrees. When I looked between our hanging bird feeders to my surprise, I saw a Rufous Hummingbird enjoying the trailing plant of the ornamental orange nasturtiums.



I Would Like to Share my Story with You

Story and photo by Justin, Knisley, Republic

I was driving home a while back, right at dusk and with a slight rain, when a bird hit my windshield. I wasn't going real fast and due to the time of day, I was fairly sure it was an owl.

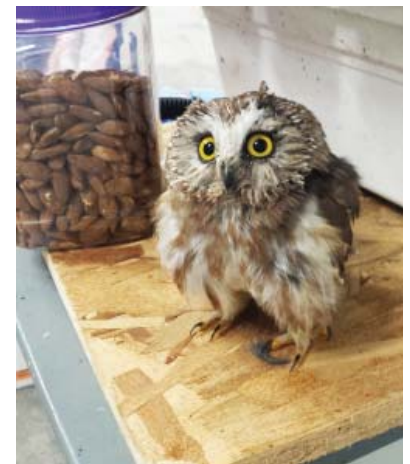
So I turned around and went back and found a little ball of feathers in the road. It would have been hit if I hadn't picked it up.

It was knocked out but still breathing so I put in the truck with me and took it home. Almost to the driveway, I didn't notice it had woken up and it dropped onto the floor. It was able to stand but it wobbled.

I got home and got some gloves and carried it into the garage. I called a bird rescue north of Kettle Falls for some advice. It would click its beak at me so I thought it would live.

I kept it in a kitty carrier for the night with a towel over it and put it in my bathroom. Not too warm and not too cold. By morning it was biting the wire of the door so I decided to see if it would fly off. I put the gloves back on and carried it outside.

With no effort, it took off and glided to a nearby tree. It rested there a while and then flew off. Mission accomplished.



December Wild Phlox

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

North Central Washington Audubon Society Calendar

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

December 9	Bears of the Last Frontier	Methow Conservancy program and holiday social. See www.methowconservancy.org for more info
December 14 - January 3	Christmas Bird Counts Twisp, Bridgeport, Leavenworth, Chelan Wenatchee and Okanogan	Lots to choose from! See page 1 for more info
January 9	Hidden Lives of NW Wildlife	David Moscovitz speaks in Tonasket for the Okanogan Highlands Alliance. See page 6 for more info
January 17	Birding Buddies Bird Walk	Horan Natural Area. See page 2 for more info
February 7	Waterville Plateau Field Trip	Observe the special wintering birds with Dr. Dan Stephens. See page 2 for more info
March 21	Shrub-steppe Bird ID Training	Get ready for Spring. See page 5 for more info



Printed on Recycled Paper

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