



# The Wild Phlox

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Connecting People with Nature since 1966



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## ALBATROSS The Film

### Environmental Film & Speaker Series

by Mark Oswood, Wenatchee  
photos provided by the filmmaker



Join us March 10, 7-9 pm, for a showing of the film *ALBATROSS*. This film will be presented at the Wenatchee Valley Museum, in the Performance Hall as part of the Environmental Film and Speaker Series. This event features a no-host bar, free popcorn, and treats.

From the filmmakers:

*ALBATROSS* is a powerful visual journey into the heart of a gut-wrenching environmental tragedy. On one of the remotest islands on Earth, tens of thousands of albatross chicks lie dead on the ground, their bodies filled with plastic. Returning to the island over several years, Chris Jordan and his filming team witnessed cycles of birth, life, and death of these magnificent creatures as a multi-layered metaphor for our times. *ALBATROSS* walks us through the fire of horror and grief, facing the immensity of this tragedy — and our own complicity — head on. And in this process, we find an unexpected route to a deeply felt experience of beauty and love for the



miracle of life on Earth. Stepping outside the stylistic templates of traditional environmental or documentary films, *ALBATROSS* takes viewers on a lyrical guided tour into the depths of their own spirits, delivering a profound message of reverence and renewal that is already reaching an audience of millions of people around the world.

**This is an adult film with strong emotional content, recommended for viewers age 12 and above.** We'll have displays and handouts on Albatross (the bird) and on reducing plastics (in the oceans). We'll also have our usual table of all things Audubon.



The mission of the North Central Washington Audubon Society is to:  
 “Enhance, protect and restore healthy natural ecosystems and native biodiversity using science, advocacy, education and on-the-ground conservation to promote the welfare of birds in North Central Washington”

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North Central Washington Audubon Society is on Facebook too

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

**What’s Eating the Trees?**

photo and article from the Wenatchee Native Plant Society

Join the Native Plant Society and the Wenatchee River Institute as they sponsor a presentation on Forest Health, “What’s Eating the Trees. You often hear the term “forest health”, but what does it really mean? It’s easy to tell if an individual tree is healthy, but isn’t some level of pest damage - even tree death - part of a healthy forest? Forest health specialist Connie Mehmel will talk about the amazing ways that insects and fungi interact with their host trees, and forest tree responses and adaptations. This program is featured as part of The Wenatchee River Institute’s ‘Red Barn Series’. Doors will be open at 6:30 pm, March 12. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Program is 7 to 8:30 pm at Wenatchee River Institute, 347 Division Street, Leavenworth.



**North Central Washington Audubon Society Wild Phlox Subscription Form**

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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)



I heard my first of the year Say's Phoebe yesterday and male Red-winged Blackbirds have overtaken our feeders. Spring must be on the way. Lately we've been enjoying cold, clear, starlit nights and sunny days. Our snow has a solid frozen surface for walking. Shaded roads and paths and parking areas are covered in one to two inches of ice. It's better than January, when we had a series of rain on snow events that were not good for any kind of outdoor activity. Much as I enjoy winter, I am looking forward to spring and the arrival of the migrants and green hills covered in delicate wildflowers. Hopefully we have enough snow in the mountains to protect us from wildfires this year.

On the back page calendar are a couple of meetings listed with few details. The March 2 Cashmere meeting is to discuss the future of the Cashmere Water Treatment Plant property. The city is looking for input from the community to decide how the old lagoons should be developed. One proposal is to construct a wetland for wildlife including a side channel for salmon. The meeting is from 6-8 pm at the Riverside Center in Cashmere. This is an excellent opportunity to create habitat for birds and other wildlife at a convenient location for outdoor education. On March 5 from 5-7 pm at the Confluence Technology Center, there will be a meeting in Wenatchee to discuss the planned Confluence Parkway. This parkway is designed to provide a solution to traffic congestion and safety on North Wenatchee Avenue by providing an alternative route in and out of town. A portion of this project will impact the Horan Natural Area and Confluence State Park. NCWAS has been active in trying to restore the Horan Natural Area to benefit wildlife while keeping it open to pedestrian access. You can read about our conservation work at Horan on our website - [www.ncwaudubon.org/conservation.html](http://www.ncwaudubon.org/conservation.html).



Spotted Towhee  
photo by Peter Bauer, Winthrop

We've seen and heard some owls around here recently - Great-horned Owls hooting most nights. The dogs like to bark at their hoots. And a Northern Pygmy Owl visited for a couple of weeks but only at dusk and dawn. I expect it was catching mice and voles. In other years, the pygmy owls have come during the day for feeder birds.



female Black-headed Grosbeak  
photo by Don McIvor, Methow Valley

## NCW Recent Bird Sightings

Chelan: A Wilson's Snipe was seen at the confluence of the Icicle and Wenatchee Rivers. A Hermit Thrush was seen in Cashmere. A Herring Gull was seen from Confluence Park. A Pacific Loon and a Eurasian Wigeon were seen from Walla Walla Park. Two Long-eared Owls were seen at the Dry Gulch Preserve. A California Scrub-jay was seen from Horse Lake Road. A Say's Phoebe was seen at the Leavenworth Hatchery. A Black-backed Woodpecker has been seen at Lake Wenatchee State Park. A Lesser Goldfinch was seen at a feeder in Chelan. A Northern Goshawk was seen at Valleyhi on the Blewett Pass highway. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee and an Anna's Hummingbird were seen on the Old Blewett highway.

Douglas: A Common Redpoll and American Tree Sparrow were seen on Heritage Road. A Prairie Falcon and Snowy Owl were seen NE of Mansfield. Up to seven Snowy Owls have been seen near Atkins Lake. A Long-eared Owl and Sharp-tailed Grouse were seen on Bridgeport Hill. Sage Grouse were seen near Mansfield.

Ferry: A pair of Lesser Goldfinches were seen near Republic. Trumpeter and Tundra Swans were seen at the Barnaby Creek campground.

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

Okanogan: In Bridgeport State Park, Northern Saw-whet Owls, a Great Horned Owl and a Barred Owl continue. A female Black-headed Grosbeak visited a feeder between Twisp and Winthrop for a week or two. This species normally winters in Mexico. The Okanogan Highlands provide good winter birding opportunities. In recent weeks people have seen Red Crossbills, Northern Shrike, Gray-crowned Rosy-finch, Northern Pygmy Owl, Snow Buntings, Townsend's Solitaire, Virginia Rail, American Dipper, Golden Eagle, Three-toed Woodpecker, Rough-legged Hawks, Long-eared Owl, Great Gray Owl, Short-eared Owl, Ruffed Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker. Near Conconully there have been Gray Partridges, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Golden Eagle, Northern Pygmy Owl, Pine Grosbeaks. A mixed flock of waxwings was seen near the intersection of Highways 97 and 17. On Washburn Island, there were Eared Grebes, a Snow Goose, American Tree Sparrow and Lincoln Sparrow with large numbers of White-crowned Sparrows, a Barn Owl and a Purple Finch. Snow Buntings have been reported in several places around the Methow Valley. A pair of Lesser Goldfinches have been frequenting a feeder in Twisp.

# Spring Birding Festivals in the NW

compiled by Teri J Pieper, Methow Valley

March means the beginning of Spring and with it comes migration and spring birding festivals. Can you imagine a road trip going from festival to festival? Here are just a few of them in the NW:

## Othello Sandhill Crane Festival, March 20-22

For almost two decades the annual return of nearly 35,000 Sandhill Cranes to Othello has been celebrated every March as they migrate north to their breeding grounds in Alaska. The festival offers an incredible opportunity to view the cranes up close, with tours led by local experts. The festival also boasts other specialty tours of the flora, fauna and geology of the area, many lectures, as well as children's activities. The Friday evening keynote speaker will be filmmaker Sarah Koenigsberg. She will show her film – *The Beaver Believers*. Saturday night's speaker is Dr. Kaeli Swift, a corvid researcher with the University of Washington. Her keynote address will focus on her post-doctoral work studying the caching behavior of Canada Jays in Denali National Park.

[www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/](http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/)

## Wings Over Water, Birch Bay, March 20-22

This festival features guided birding and geology field trips, expert wildlife speakers, live raptor presentations, kids' activities, arts and crafts, photography workshops, wildlife boating cruises and more! The keynote speaker is Paul Bannick, an award-winning author and wildlife photographer, specializing in the natural history of North American with a focus on birds and habitat.

[www.wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com/](http://www.wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com/)

## Harney County Migratory Bird Festival, April 16-20

Spend an amazing weekend witnessing the spectacular spring migration in the Harney Basin of Southeast Oregon. View thousands of migratory birds as they rest and feed in the open spaces of Oregon's high desert. The Harney County Migratory Bird Festival was first held in 1981 to celebrate the large annual migration of birds passing through Harney Basin on the Pacific Flyway. Harney Basin is one of the three most important areas left in the western United States for spring migratory birds stopping on their way north. Over 300 species of birds use the refuge throughout each year, making Harney Basin a bird watcher's paradise. Today, we continue to celebrate the migratory birds' return each year with guided tours led by experts, workshops, and fun activities for both youth and adults. Highlights include a wide diversity of tours, workshops, presentations and a banquet featuring author and renowned birder, Kenn Kaufman, as the keynote speaker! Kenn is the originator and editor of the *Kaufman Field Guides* series and is a lifelong naturalist. His fascination with birds developed at the age of six,

and he went on to become one of the world's best-known bird experts, but his interests extend to every area of nature. In addition to his work on the field guides, Kenn is also a Field Editor for *Audubon Magazine*, and a regular columnist for *BirdWatching* and *Birds and Blooms*.  
[www.migratorybirdfestival.com/](http://www.migratorybirdfestival.com/)

Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival, April 24-26  
Each spring, hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop to rest and feed along the Washington Coast and in the Grays Harbor estuary during their migration northward. Coming from as far south as Argentina, these Arctic-bound shorebirds are among the world's greatest migrants. Some birds travel over 15,000 miles round trip! The concentration of birds during spring migration offers people a great chance to view a number of shorebird species. With luck you will also see the birds fly together in beautiful formations while trying to escape a Peregrine Falcon. The keynote speaker is Gerrit Vyn, a Wildlife Photographer and Cinematographer for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and a Senior Fellow at the International League of Conservation Photographers; he has been photographing birds and wildlife professionally for over twenty-five years. His book, *The Living Bird*, was a *New York Times* bestseller and a National Outdoor Book Award winner.

[www.shorebirdfestival.com/](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com/)

## Yakima River Canyon Bird Festival, May 8-10

Bird with Kittitas Environmental Education Network for three days during the second weekend of May and discover the natural beauty of Central Washington State! The Yakima River Canyon is an Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA) with some of the highest densities of passerines and birds of prey in the State. The Yakima River Canyon Bird Fest offers expert-led field trips, vendors, extended field trips, keynote speaker, social events, and a plethora of bird watching during early spring! This Bird Fest will be a family-friendly event targeting birders throughout the Pacific Northwest and from around the world. This festival happens during the best time to see colorful, diverse and rare bird species in the Canyon.

[www.ycic.org/yakima-river-canyon-bird-fest](http://www.ycic.org/yakima-river-canyon-bird-fest)

## Leavenworth Spring BirdFest, May 14-17

Celebrate the return of migratory birds in the midst of peak wildflower season while enjoying field trips, events and free family activities for all ages and abilities in Leavenworth, Washington and throughout the Wenatchee River valley! <https://wenatcheeriverinstitute.org/bird-fest/bird-fest-2020.html>

You can find more birding festivals in Washington at <https://wa.audubon.org/bird-festivals-0>

## Beebe Springs Monthly Bird Walks

by Virginia Palumbo, Chelan

Virginia Palumbo will be resuming her twice-monthly bird surveys at Beebe Springs on Wednesday, March 18 at 8:30 am. The survey will last approximately two hours and cover about two miles on flat, gravel trails. We could see some fun waterfowl, early spring migrants, exciting raptors and riparian songbirds. All levels of birders welcome; come join the fun! Please contact Virginia at [vwpalumbo@gmail.com](mailto:vwpalumbo@gmail.com) or 682-5969

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## Leavenworth BirdFest Volunteers Needed!

by Naomi Liebhold, WRI

On Saturday, May 16 from 10 am-2 pm the Wenatchee River Institute (WRI) is holding a Family Day event as part of the annual Leavenworth Spring Bird Festival. WRI is recruiting volunteers who are interested in tabling at this event and leading a youth appropriate activity. All materials and activity plans will be provided. To sign up or inquire, please contact Naomi Liebhold, [nliebhold@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org](mailto:nliebhold@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org) or 548-0181 x6.

## Spring Birding Field Trips

by Joe Veverka, Cashmere

### **Birding the Rock Island Ponds 7-11 am Saturday April 4**

Join Joe Veverka for a morning of birding at the Rock Island Ponds. We will spend most of our time at Big Bow Lake and Hideaway Lake where we will have opportunities to see plenty of waterfowl including mergansers and Wood Ducks. These two locations will also provide ample opportunities to put our sparrow identification skills to the test. We will also scan the other lakes as time allows. Plan to meet at 7:00 am at the Mission Street Park & Ride (Accessed from Ferry Street in Wenatchee). Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one, water, and snacks. Expect to walk a total of about a half mile along trails through grass and a little brush. Rubber boots or muck shoes and long pants are highly recommended. All skill levels welcome. If you have any questions email Joe Veverka at [joe\\_veverka@yahoo.com](mailto:joe_veverka@yahoo.com).

### **Birding Nahahum Canyon 6:30-9 am Saturday May 2**

Join Joe Veverka for a morning of birding at Nahahum Canyon outside of Cashmere. We will park near Mile Marker 1 and walk up a service road looking for migrants and returning breeding birds. I expect to find flycatchers, vireos, sparrows, warblers of many species, as well as Lewis's and possibly White-headed Woodpeckers. There is also an excellent view of Cashmere backed by Cashmere Mountain. This is a 3.6-mile round trip hike with 600 feet of elevation gain. It is a well graded two-track, but it can get the heart rate up even at birding pace. Plan to meet at 6:30 am at Mile Marker 1 (there is a sign) along Nahahum Canyon Road. Bring binoculars, good shoes, plenty of water and snacks. Don't forget a camera. All skill levels welcome. If you have any questions email Joe Veverka at [joe\\_veverka@yahoo.com](mailto:joe_veverka@yahoo.com).

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## Opportunities to Explore Shrub-Steppe at Wind Facility

by Kristin Ashley, Event Coordinator,  
Wild Horse Wind Facility

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) invites you to explore the shrub-steppe landscape and utilize our visitor center (Renewable Energy Center) located at the Wild Horse Wind & Solar Facility (Wild Horse) for field trips, events, meetings, retreats and nature walks.

Wild Horse is located sixteen miles east of Ellensburg just north of the Vantage Highway. The Renewable Energy Center is in the middle of the wind farm at an elevation of 3500 feet. There are stunning views of the Cascade Range to the west and Ancient Lakes area to the east. The conference room can seat up to 48 people, has a full kitchen, and is free to use for events, meetings, retreats, presentations, etc.

PSE owns and operates 149 wind turbines spread across 11,000 acres of pristine shrub-steppe habitat at Wild Horse. The wind turbines are located within the Quilomene-Colockum Important Bird Area (IBA) and surrounded by the Whiskey Dick and Quilomene Wildlife Areas managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Through our conservation and restoration efforts, in partnership with WDFW, we help sustain valuable habitats that support significant wildlife populations in the area. The land within the wind farm boundary is owned by PSE and can be accessed for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, photography, birding, and more with a free non-hunting recreational access permit. Permits are good for the entire season and are available online or at the visitor center 9 am – 5 pm everyday April 1-October 31.

Free public tours that go into the base of an operational wind turbine are offered every day at 10 am and 2 pm from April 1- October 31. Participants in these tours need to wear closed-toe shoes, prepare for the weather, fill out a liability form and wear hard hats and safety glasses, which are provided. For more information, please call 964-7815 or email [wildhorse@pse.com](mailto:wildhorse@pse.com).

# Winter Shrub and Twig Identification Classes

by Tricia Cook, WRI

If you have ever wondered how to identify trees and shrubs during the winter, join Wenatchee River Institute and local botanist Jennifer Hadersberger to explore Barn Beach Reserve and Blackbird Island, learning about plant identification along the way.

March 13, 9-11 am, learn to tell plant species apart from one another without the presence of leaves. “[Trees and shrubs] are living through the winter because of seasonal adaptations. They look dead, but they are alive,” explains Hadersberger. During this class, you will also discover species distribution, which tells a big part of the landscape’s story. If you are visiting an area for the first time during the winter months, you will then be able to understand more about the local flora.

Hadersberger is a professional Wetland Scientist with an MS in Botany from Oregon State University and has over 20 years’ experience in natural resources management.

Please register soon as class size is limited to 15. Cost is \$30 for WRI-members and \$35 for non-members. Coffee and tea are provided, please bring a snack and dress for colder temperatures. Bringing a notepad and pencil is encouraged.

On March 20, 9 am-1 pm, Hadersberger will be offering a Winter Twig Identification professional development class for those in the field of wetland delineation.

If you have any questions about either of the two classes, contact Rachel Bishop, WRI community education lead, 548-1818 x5, or [rbishop@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org](mailto:rbishop@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org)

# Mountain Home eBird Monitoring Project

by Susan Ballinger, Wenatchee

Would you like to spend a weekday morning hiking, viewing wildlife, wildflowers, and snow-capped mountains, while being part of a small team collecting bird species data? Community Science Projects are collaborations between scientists and volunteers that expand opportunities for scientific data collection and help answer real-world questions.

Dates: March 26, April 23, May 21, June 25, July 30, August 20, September 24, October 22, November 19

We meet at 7:30 am at the Safeway store in Leavenworth, or Susan will pick up carpoolers in Wenatchee at 7 am at the Penny Road Park and Ride. We walk a 2.2-mile route, stopping at 5 points to conduct ten-minute counts.

Please note: contact Susan by cell phone 24-hours ahead (669-7820) to confirm, because changing weather conditions can result in canceling the route. Learn more about becoming a CDLT citizen scientist volunteer by contacting Conservation Fellow, Susan Ballinger at [susan@cdlandtrust.org](mailto:susan@cdlandtrust.org) or call 667-9708

# Landscapes and Landforms of the Okanogan Highlands

by Jen Weddle, Okanogan Highlands Alliance

Okanogan Highlands Alliance (OHA) and Okanogan Land Trust (OLT) are excited to announce an upcoming three-part series of educational events focused on geology. OHA is hosting the first event on March 6, when Dr. Karl Lillquist will return to Tonasket for the Highland Wonders presentation. OLT is hosting the second event on March 18, when Bruce Bjornstad will present as part of the OkaKnowledgy lecture series in Okanogan (See [www.okanoganlandtrust.org](http://www.okanoganlandtrust.org) for info.) The third event, also led by Dr. Lillquist, will take participants on a field trip in the Highlands on July 18! All three events will highlight the fascinating geological processes shaping our hills and valleys. The March events are free and open to all; the field trip will require pre-registration with priority given to OHA and OLT members. Anyone can become a member!

On March 6, Dr. Lillquist will lead the audience in “exploring the origins and evolution of landscapes and landforms in the Okanogan Highlands.” He will describe how the Okanogan Highlands landscape has been sculpted over time by glaciers

and other forces. Dr. Lillquist is a professor in the Geography Department at Central Washington University, and has vast experience exploring and teaching about the geology of our state. His area of expertise is geomorphology, a field focusing on landforms and how they originated.

Highland Wonders events feature the natural history of the Okanogan Highlands and surrounding areas. The presentations, starting at 6:30 pm, are free to the public (donations are welcome), and clock hours are available for educators. The events take place at the Tonasket Community Cultural Center, and dinner is available before the presentations. (meat and vegetarian options available, \$10 a plate).

OHA’s Education Program is designed to build the community’s capacity for environmental stewardship by increasing understanding of local natural history through a variety of free public learning opportunities. For more info, or to become a member of OHA, visit: [okanoganhighlands.org](http://okanoganhighlands.org), or contact [jen@okanoganhighlands.org](mailto:jen@okanoganhighlands.org) (429-4399).

# I Love Birds. How Can I Help Them?

by Ken Bevis, Stewardship Wildlife Biologist,  
Washington Department of Natural Resources

I get this question a lot. Landowners want to do the right thing for our avian friends, and there are indeed some things we can do.

Birds are so endearing. They have beautiful feathers with amazing patterns and sometimes striking colors. Their food and habitat preferences outline an astounding array of ecological niches. They occur virtually everywhere humans do, making their livings in ways we often can only imagine. And they can fly! Wow! Now that's a super power.

Couple all of this with their evolutionary history (they ARE dinosaurs) and their hold on the human imagination, and we have a set of creatures uniquely positioned to influence and enrich our human world.

But there is a problem. The onslaught of modern humans in our industrial age has been hard on many birds. Habitat change and loss, pollution, environmental toxins (some subtle and unseen), past commercial hunting, poaching, night lighting, together have diminished, decimated or even eliminated many species. It is a sad history and a complex situation requiring broad understanding and local action to address this situation.

Now, the collective weight of human planetary dominance and probable changes to the earth's climate bring on even more challenges for the ecosystem, and for the birds. So what actually is going on? A scholarly report issued in October 2019 by the prestigious journal, *Science*, using thorough analyses of available data sets from all around the globe, revealed a disturbing trend.

By compiling and comparing some of the most rigorous population monitoring metrics available, since 1970, overall bird populations have dropped by up to 29%. (<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/366/6461/120>). The causes are many, but the scale of the declines is cause for alarm. This article from Spokane also describes these findings. <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2019/oct/11/birds-in-crisis-report-predicts-drastic-losses-in/>

Anticipated environmental changes from rising temperatures, changes in weather patterns, and sea level rise will likely continue and exacerbate this trend. Yikes!

Many species are in serious decline and could potentially face extinction in the near future. Habitat generalists and those tolerant of human dominated environments probably have better chances. The National Audubon Society issued their own report on potential impacts to birds from projected

Climate Change (<https://climate2014.audubon.org/article/audubon-report-glance>).

Many forest birds are migratory and therefore subject to habitat effects over a wider range than our local forests. When they arrive, it is helpful to have rich habitats awaiting. Many local, non-migratory species often persist in human dominated landscapes, and forest birds in particular benefit from practices on small forest landowner's parcels where habitat diversity is maintained and encouraged.

The picture is complex for sure. Here are a couple of simple personal actions we can do to help birds survive.

**Keep cats indoors.** Outdoor cats kill millions of birds every year and can have a devastating effect on breeding success. Imagine a warbler coming all the way back from Costa Rica, surviving so many trials, only to be killed by my Fluffy.... Here is an article from the American Bird Conservancy about this topic. (<https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/cats-and-birds/>)



Pine Grosbeak  
photo by Janet Bauer, Winthrop

## **Make windows bird friendly.**

There are many techniques for keeping birds from striking windows. Feathers on string, markers or hawk silhouettes, lines drawn with white pen, netting, see through stickers (what we have); You know which windows they hit. Fix them. Here are some ideas for how to reduce window strikes from the American Bird Conservancy. (<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/why-birds-hit-windows-and-how-you-can-help-prevent-it/>)

## **Turn off outdoor night lighting.**

Birds, many insects, and bats, will often migrate at night. Human lights can be a gigantic and fatal problem for these migrants. Less night time lighting will help them find their way. Here is an article about this topic. (<https://flap.org/>)

**Restore habitat.** Provide (and insist upon) diverse, natural habitats for local and migratory birds. Keep standing dead trees, brushy margins, downed logs, fruit-bearing shrubs. Leave some areas unmowed and full of downed leaves. Give them a place to live. We know how to do this. (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/backyard#improving-property>)

We are all concerned about the future of birds and our beautiful forested world! Let's help.

*This article first appeared in the DNR's Small Forest Landowners' newsletter.*

# March Wild Phlox

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## North Central Washington Audubon Society Calendar

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

<b>January 6 - April 20</b>	<b>Audubon Bird Photo Contest</b>	<b>Submit your photos! See last month's Phlox or our website</b>
March 2	Cashmere meeting	Your chance for input on habitat restoration. See page 3 or email Joe for more information <a href="mailto:joe_everka@yahoo.com">joe_everka@yahoo.com</a>
March 5	Confluence Parkway public meeting	See page 3 or <a href="http://www.wenatcheewa.gov/government/city-projects/confluence-parkway-in-wenatchee">www.wenatcheewa.gov/government/city-projects/confluence-parkway-in-wenatchee</a>
March 6	Okanogan Highlands Geology	With Okanogan Highlands Alliance in Tonasket. See page 6
<b>March 10</b>	<b>Albatross, the movie</b>	<b>Sponsored by NCWAS at the museum. See page 1</b>
March 12	Forest Health - Who eats the trees?	Native Plant Society in Wenatchee. See page 2
March 13	Winter shrub and tree ID Class	At Leavenworth. See page 6
<b>March 18</b>	<b>Spring Bird Walks at Beebe Springs</b>	<b>With Virginia Palumbo. See page 5</b>
March 20-22	Sandhill Crane Festival AND Wings Over Water	Spring Bird Festival season. See page 4
<b>March 23 - 28</b>	<b>Birdwatching for Beginners</b>	<b>WVC class. See last month's Phlox</b>
<b>June 6</b>	<b>Four-County Bird Count</b>	<b>Mark your calendars! See last month's Phlox</b>

You can find the Wild Phlox online at our website - [www.ncwaudubon.org](http://www.ncwaudubon.org)  
 The beautiful photos are even nicer in color.



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