



Volume 47 #7 May 2014

Celebrate the Sinlahekin this Summer

by Heather Findlay, Okanogan

June 7 kicks off a summer-long series of events by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area in Okanogan County. This was the state's first use of funds from a historic federal-state cooperative law for acquisition of wildlife habitat. As part of the celebration, Okanogan (and other) birders will be doing a "Big Day" of birding. It is our annual Okanogan County Bird-A-Thon event. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Director Dan Ashe will help WDFW officials kick off the celebration with a public ceremony at the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area. The Okanogan birding team will check in during the noon time festivities and report on bird species seen up to that point, which will include sightings in the Sinlahekin.

The Sinlahekin was created in 1939 to protect winter range for mule deer with funds from the 1937 Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act. The funds come from an excise tax on sport hunting arms and ammunition, administered to states by USFWS. Better known as the Pittman-Robertson Act (P-R) after its prime Congressional sponsors, the law has helped Washington and other states manage game species, provide hunter access, protect wildlife habitat, and educate young hunters. Hunters' P-R

dollars supported Washington's first re-introduction of extirpated bighorn sheep on the Sinlahekin in 1957.

In addition to being an excellent fishing and hunting area, the Sinlahekin provides wonderful birding opportunities. In *The Birders' Guide to Washington*, Andy Stepniewski says this about the 17 mile-long valley, "This broad trench probably holds a greater diversity of breeding birds than any other area of comparable size in Washington. On both sides, steep slopes with rock outcrops and cliffs ascend abruptly to an elevation of more than 5000 feet. Ponderosa pine forest and various bunchgrasses alternate with large areas of bitterbrush, serviceberry, chokecherry, and snowberry. The valley floor has tangled dense stands of water birch, willow and aspen with numerous beaver ponds and several other impoundments."

The milestone ceremony on June 7 will begin at 11 am at the Sinlahekin headquarters, including a mid-day tally of species seen during the Bird-A-Thon led by North Central Washington Audubon members and other local birders. After lunch, a hiking trail will be dedicated in memory of Dave Brittell, a WDFW administrator who was instrumental in acquisition of wildlife areas across the state. Sadly, Dave passed away last year, shortly after his retirement.

WDFW managers will also lead memory sharing sessions about living and working in the Sinlahekin area. As part of Washington's annual Free Fishing Weekend, the afternoon will also include a how-to-fish session for newcomers to the sport at lakes on the wildlife area.

This is the first of a summer-long series of free public field trips and presentations about the area's diverse wildlife, vegetation, geology and history by WDFW staff and other experts. The weekends of June 14-15, July 5-6, July 26-27, August 23-24, and September 6-7 will include sessions on everything from bees and butterflies to wildflowers and wildfire management. The series will close on National Hunting and Fishing and National Public Lands Day, September 27, with a fun run through the Sinlahekin and a celebration of the hunting and fishing heritage that is the backbone of WDFW wildlife area management.

More information about the Sinlahekin's 75th anniversary events will be available at http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/sinlahekin/. The Sinlahekin headquarters is roughly between Tonasket, Conconully, Loomis and the mountains. For detailed driving directions, please see http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/sinlahekin/Sinlahekin/. For details on the Okanogan Big Day Birdathon call Heather at 429-8167.

The mission of the
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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."

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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.

Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest

By Julia Leach, Leavenworth

Join us the 3rd weekend in May to explore spectacular habitats ranging from sunny ponderosa pine forests to flower-covered hillsides to lush shorelines. Enjoy birding by boot, boat, bike, and bus, on field trips led by expert guides. Fun for novice to experienced birders of all ages! Bird Fest honors International Migratory Bird Day, and celebrates the incredible journey of migratory birds returning from their wintering grounds in Mexico and Central and South America. The festival begins shortly after dawn with early bird walks, hikes, and pontoon boat trips, and continues 'til well after dark with events such as our Birder's BBQ and Friday presentation, keynote address, and Owl Prowls. Along the way, take part in van tours, strenuous hikes, mellow family-friendly walks, bike trips, river rafting, music and dance performances, family activities, art exhibits and workshops on many topics related to birds and the environment of the Wenatchee valley. There is something for everyone at Bird Fest! For more information, and to register online for many events, please visit our website at www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com.

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Spring and courtship are in the air! Have you noticed? At my place hummingbirds zing up and down declaring territory and hoping to attract a mate. Woodpeckers and sapsuckers drum on every available surface. Swallows are choosing boxes with their mates. Wrens chitter away constantly saying that everything is theirs. And grouse still boom across our hill. Up in the forest a couple days ago, one Dusky Grouse decided that my car might make an attractive mate and he puffed up and showed us his feathered finery.

This is the time of year to learn your waterfowl, if you haven't already. They are stunningly beautiful with their springtime plumage. Take a few moments and go to the river or the lake or pond nearby and watch them with your binoculars. You will be impressed.

Spring is also the time of birding festivals. Leavenworth's Spring Bird Fest is a big one with lots of activities for all ages and abilities. Also, on Memorial Day weekend, the Wenas Audubon campout happens in the forest between Yakima and Ellensburg. This is a great event to learn about migratory songbirds and native wildflowers.

Bird Watcher's Digest recently came out with their annual 'Optics Buyer's Guide' and one item they mentioned is an adapter to attach your smart phone to your spotting scope. The Phone Scope is custom made for your phone and scope combination and allows you to digiscope with your smart phone. Now this is a tempting thing for me. Have you seen one or used one? I'd like to hear some firsthand experiences using this device. The buyer's guide has some good articles on backyard binoculars, a travel scope review and binoculars for kids. It was a free download from the 'Optics and Gear' section of their website.

Dusky Grouse walking along the road and then displaying photos by Teri J Pieper



NCW Recent Bird Sightings

compiled from the ncwabird email list and Tweepers

This time of year, everyone is seeing their 'first of the year' (FOY) something or other. Ospreys and Turkey Vultures were reported arriving throughout our four-county area this past month. In the Chelan area, there were Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Tree swallows, Wood Ducks, Green-winged Teal and a Eurasian Wigeon.

In the hills above Winthrop a male Northern Harrier was 'sky dancing' – doing a series of steep dives – to attract a mate. At Beebe Springs, a Virginia Rail was seen and a Canyon Wren was heard. Rattlesnakes are also beginning to make appearances on warm days. At my house, Rufous Hummingbirds arrived early in the month followed closely by the Calliope's and now they are joined by the Black-chinned Hummingbirds. Vesper Sparrows and Brewer's Sparrows are singing in the shrub-steppe hills and Yellow-rumped Warblers are flitting about in the blooming serviceberry bushes. Also in the serviceberry, I am seeing lots of Ruby-crowned Kinglets!

A Ferruginous Hawk was reported in the Beezley Hills! A Common Loon was seen on Jameson Lake. A group of 25-30 Mountain Bluebirds were reported 'kiting' near Balky Hill, just outside of Twisp. Harlequin Ducks showed up at the confluence of the Methow and Chewuch Rivers in Winthrop in mid-April, about the exact same time they arrived last year. White-crowned Sparrows are being reported in large flocks under most people's feeders. I also see them on gravel roads. It's good to go through these flocks carefully. I have seen at least one Golden-crowned Sparrow in a group.

At Nighthawk in northern Okanogan County, a group of 91 Wood Ducks was reported. That is the single largest group of this species ever reported in Washington. Western Tanagers and Cinnamon Teal have arrived in the Chelan area and a Cinnamon Teal was reported at Pearrygin Lake this week. The first Western Kingbird was reported near Bridgeport along with a late Snow Bunting!



Ring-necked Ducks on partially frozen Black Pine Lake photo by Teri J Pieper

Birding Honduras

article and photo by Heather Findlay, Okanogan

In March 2014, I traveled to Honduras for a birding trip with High Lonesome Bird Tours, who specialize in small, quality birding trips. The trip was a complete success under the expert guidance of Stephan Lorenz, an international birding guide and biologist. During the combined two weeks, which included the Central Highlands and Lake Yojoa Extension and a week at Pico Bonito, we netted nearly 350 species with many highlights.

During the first week visiting La Tigra National Park, Panacam Lodge, Lake Yojoa and more off-the-beaten-track locales like Opatoro, we saw fantastic birds in every location. Some of the highlights include Resplendent Quetzals with scope-filling sightings where it was tough to fit head and streamers into one view; hummingbird highlights including the near endemic Green-breasted Mountain-gems and Wine-throated Hummingbirds; a pair of Blue-throated Motmots in the scope; and at the end of a very long day a Fulvous Owl that perched in full view for two minutes. Moving on to Panacam Lodge we came across a pair of Prevost's Ground Sparrows in a new location and the birds showed extremely well.

Somewhat less exciting for us, but very rare for the region was an adult male Cape May Warbler. At the lodge, we found Barred Parakeets visiting a seeding tree and had scope views of them perched - an extremely rare sight. A pair of difficult-to-spot Keel-billed Motmots was perched for two hours in full view, an unprecedented experience! Other highlights included: Sungrebe; Mayan Antthrush; Black-crested Coquette; Mottled Owl; Spot-breasted Orioles; Blue-and-white Mockingbird; Rufous-collared Thrush; Black Thrush; Bushy-crested Jays and many, many more!

In week two, the Lodge at Pico Bonito as always, had great food, amazing accommodations and unforgettable birding. Memorable highlights were fifteen Lovely Cotingas on our first morning and twelve Honduran Emerald hummingbirds during our visit to the emerald reserve. Many other great birds included Sungrebe; Sunbittern; Spot-breasted Orioles; White-vented and Scrub Euphonias; White-faced Quail-dove; Black-striped Sparrows; Chestnut-colored Woodpecker; Canivet's Emerald; Lesser Roadrunner; Yucatan Vireos; and Black-throated, Slaty-tailed, and Black-headed Trogons. We had a great show of migrant warblers in the rain and Keel-billed Motmots seen on three occasions! I saw 85 life birds on this trip, and the Honduran



Keel-billed Motmot at Panacam Lodge, Honduras

Emerald was my 1000th bird species, a very exciting milestone.

I enjoy the wonderful bird life we have here in North Central Washington, but definitely enjoy the adventure and education of seeing fabulous birds in foreign locations.

My personal favorites of the trip were the

fabulous views and flyovers of the Resplendent Quetzals, the

beautiful Keel-billed Motmots and the numerous mixed feeding flocks that we encountered. These explosions of multiple species of colorful tropical birds moving quickly through the forest with their bright feathers and distinctive calls are gone in a flash but are quite the sight to behold. Honduras is a wonderful place to visit and I hope to enjoy birding there again.

Birding and Batting in Texas

By Jenny Graevel, East Wenatchee

editor's note: this is a description of a short part of a primarily birding trip to Texas.

We closed this memorable trip with a trip to the Frio Bat Cave. The rain and mist had badgered us all day. It was explained to us that the bats did not emerge from this gigantic cave; 1/2 mile deep and 100 yards wide, if it was raining outside. As we climbed the gravel dirt road leading to the cave, the sun peeked out from behind the clouds and cast long, sherbet-colored rays across the dynamic landscape of rock, oaks, juniper and mesquite allowing us a final moment of reflection of this journey. A Canyon Wren's spiraled song accompanied the sinking sun and left a quiet hush in its finale. All heads turned to the gaping mouth of the cave as the first wave of bats emerged from its depths. Little did we know it was merely the tip of an iceberg for soon, the mouth of the cave was obscured by the sheer number of bats exiting. Eight to ten million Mexican Free-tailed bats use this cave as a maternity chamber. You could feel the soft vortex of air that was moved by the flapping of ten million pairs of wings. The sound was subtle and mesmerizing. We could see the long, twisting ropes of bats as they winged their way down into the valley below us. Red-tailed Hawks flew in through the throng, and adeptly picked off the unfortunate few, who would not be returning to the cave ever again. My heart too, winged across the valley and to the hills beyond, a wondrous journey. I look forward to what lies beyond those hills.

Community Collaboration for Kids

by Larry Tobiska, Wenatchee

Talk about partnerships within the community! A great example of groups getting together to complement each other's programs is the Spring Paddle Camp that ran the first week of April.

The Wenatchee City Parks Department made this available and the day programs filled up with 4th through 6th graders. The Wenatchee Row and Paddle Club made the program possible with paddling activities on the Columbia in the large Voyageur canoes plus a variety of other boats owned by the Club, including surf skis, canoes, rowing shells and stand up paddle boards. The children got to

experience all of these types of human powered boats carefully supervised by several adults. The North Central Washington Audubon Society made the program more meaningful by conducting an educational program for the kids including the kid-popular "What's That Bird?" exercise in which life-like birds are planted in various trees and each kid gets a check list and information to help identify them, as well as real water bird identification with binoculars for every child. Thanks to all the volunteers from the Row and Paddle Club and Audubon for their time and work. The value of the program was obvious on the faces of all the children who participated.

Geology of Moses Coulee

by Art Campbell, Winthrop

If you're driving State Route (SR) 28 between East Wenatchee and Quincy, a stop at the mouth of Moses Coulee provides a chance to view some spectacular geology. SR 28 is a busy road and it's best to turn off onto the side road (CRO Road) that intersects SR 28 just before (if you're heading north toward East Wenatchee) or after (if you're heading southeast toward Quincy) milepost 15. Immediately after turning off of SR 28 take another right onto Nelson Siding Road and park on the shoulder. From this vantage you can look east up impressive Moses Coulee, carved by ice age floods about 15,000 to 13,000 years ago. Visible on the south side of Moses Coulee are excellent examples of side valleys left "hanging" as floods rapidly eroded the floor of the coulee. One half mile to the east of your location, the floor of Moses Coulee sits 100 feet below you, and one mile west, the Columbia River is 300 feet below you. You're standing near the crest of an immense pile of debris dropped by the floodwaters as they exited the mouth of Moses Coulee. This, the Great Gravel Bar of Moses Coulee, has been designated a National Natural Landmark (NNL) by the U.S. Department of Interior, one of several NNLs in central Washington associated with the ice-age floods.

editor's note: Not only is this a fabulous place for geology, nearby you will also find good shrub-steppe birding and wildflowers on land owned by the Bureau of Land Management and The Nature Conservancy. For more information, please see www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/washington/placesweprotect/moses-coulee.xml

Nest Box Suggestions

by Teri J Pieper, Methow Valley

In last month's Phlox I asked if anyone had experience keeping paper wasps out of nest boxes. While no one jumped up and said 'oh yes, I know what to do' one person googled it and came up with these suggestions. Paint or rub a bar of soap over the inner roof of the box or line the roof with aluminum foil. The idea is to make the surface slick enough that the hanging wasp nest cannot be attached to the roof. We need to file this away until nest box cleaning time after this season. The swallows are already laying claims to our boxes and nest gourds.

If you are building your own nest boxes, here is something to keep in mind. Plans for boxes come with specific dimensions based on the kinds of birds you hope to attract. These dimensions are listed for a reason. This message came over one of the birding list-servs and describes what happened in one place in Colorado: *A group, wanting to replicate a Tree Swallow nest-box program, had a volunteer build 30 nest boxes that were then placed around some ponds. Unfortunately, the boxes weren't constructed to plan, with the absence of doors being a notable oversight. My offer to*

replace the boxes that appeared to already be occupied by swallows with our surplus boxes was accepted, and I began knocking the roofs off the boxes a couple weeks ago. On completion, I had found no nest-initiation, but instead found twenty dead adult swallows (with some boxes housing two to three dead birds), and three live swallows. An examination revealed that a lower-than-normal floor (below the bottom of the walls, rather than within them) contributed to an entrance hole that was 1.5 - 2 inches higher than boxes used in the Basin. That greater depth, combined with the slick inner surfaces of never-been-used boxes, created a trap from which the weak-legged swallows couldn't escape. A nest box will never seem quite so simple a device to me again.

Whenever my husband builds a new nest box, he always 'roughs up' the inside wall just below the opening so that the young birds can get hold of it when they are climbing out.

If you need nest box plans, you can contact Ken Bevis with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Small Forest Landowner Stewardship Program at Ken.Bevis@dnr.wa.gov

Using Raptors to Protect Crops

by Geraldine Warner and Richard Lehnert
reprinted with permission from
Good Fruit Grower, March 1, 2014

One might infer that birds aren't too smart—hence the term “bird-brained.” But when it's ripe fruit time, birds know it and are quite effective at getting to it, defeating all kinds of devices, even nets. But one ruse that causes nuisance birds to panic and flee is other birds—birds of prey, raptors such as hawks and falcons. This has encouraged the growth of businesses that provide, as a service, predator birds like Peregrine and Aplomado Falcons and Harris Hawks to drive nuisance birds away from orchards, vineyards, and blueberry plantations. Justin Robertson with Advanced Avian Abatement, based in Missouri, said he became hooked on working with falcons when he was about eight years old. “It was a lifestyle that became a career,” he said. “You have to be passionate about it. It takes years to learn how to do it well.” When a grower hires Robertson or his partner Robert Payne, it's usually for a season that would run for about six weeks. The idea is to start early, before the fruit is ripe, and then to keep nuisance birds scared away as the fruit ripens and attracts more and more birds.

Robertson brings three to five birds, usually different species. The Aplomado Falcon, native to Peru, is a great bird to work with, he says, because it not only soars above the trees, it comes right into the trees and makes true believers out of magpies, robins, starlings, grackles, waxwings, blackbirds, and others that invade, hide and feed in bushes and canopies. Aplomados are a relatively new falcon abatement species in the United States, he said, only receiving abatement approval from fish and game officials in the last seven to ten years. Aplomado is an unusual Spanish word for “lead-colored.” Aplomados have great stamina and can work hard in hot weather, he said. Peregrines are larger birds that can fly higher and cover more ground. He's there with his birds from dawn to dusk each day, rotating birds throughout the day and resting (weathering) them during the heat of the day. “The idea is to keep a bird in the air constantly,” Robertson said. “If you take an hour off for lunch, the birds will figure that out. You'd better not take the same hour every day.” The raptors themselves need to take a break every few hours. And they'll not be satisfied just chasing away birds. At the end of a session, they'll be allowed to catch a bird. “That's what they're there for,” Robertson said. “They want to catch things.” The raptors can be trained to merely chase and not to catch—if they're given some other suitable reward, some other food. The falcons are not pets like dogs or cats and don't relate that way to their handlers. “It's all about rewards given for them behaving the way you want them to,” he said. That doesn't mean there's not a partnership. The falcons come to their handlers for rewards, and work with their handlers. Robertson says sometimes he'll walk an orchard, flushing out birds, and the falcons will follow and chase them away.

Nuisance birds are quick to learn, and one thing they learn is what is a real threat to them and what isn't. They learn that propane cannons and other noisemakers won't hurt them and that scarecrows won't either. Robertson tells of being hired by a grower who had netted his orchards - and needed him to scare the birds out from under the nets. The birds had found ways to squeeze through nets, finding or making holes to enter. One thing nuisance birds don't seem to get used to is those other birds that want to eat them.

Payne has been taking his birds to Washington tree fruit orchards and blueberries for several years. He's going again later this spring to help a cherry grower in the south central part of the state. He said the Peruvian Aplomado Falcon is the perfect falcon species to use in fruit crops like grapes, cherries, blueberries, and apples because it likes to chase small- to medium-sized birds - the same sizes that give growers the most problems. “They'll go after birds as small as House Finches and as large as magpies,” said Payne, adding that peregrine falcons like to chase larger prey. “But for aplomados, starlings, robins, and such are the perfect size for them to eat.”

Brad Felger, a partner in Airstrike Bird Control, Inc., breeds falcons and estimates he has between 70 and 80 birds at his base in Mount Vernon, Washington. The company operates in Washington, Oregon, and California, and is headquartered in Paso Robles. He finds that different types of falcons work together effectively. The aplomados are good at finding birds undercover, while the peregrines are good at pushing big flocks of birds out of the sky. Airstrike works primarily with larger growers. Felger said it takes a certain amount of acreage for hiring falcons to make sense economically and logistically. The greater the value of the crop, the easier it is to justify. “When they start getting into hundreds of acres, it really is inexpensive for them - it's a fraction of what netting would cost,” he said. “But the guy with 20 acres, he's going to be better off by far doing the netting.” Airstrike sometimes provides falcons for groups of smaller growers who are in the same vicinity and the growers just share the cost at the end of the season.

Although birds do get accustomed to scare devices, they can be integrated with falcon control for contiguous fields, Felger said. The falconer will fly falcons for a period at one of the fields and then move on to the next. When he leaves, he switches on an electronic device playing bird distress calls in his absence. “The birds believe there's a falcon there because they've just seen it,” he said. “By the time they figure out it's not real, he's coming back again.”

See photo next page.

Notes from Mazama

It's Sunday and I am looking out the window at a Mallard drake who is so big that he almost dwarfs the nine Wood Ducks and two other Mallard drakes swimming in a formation like an aircraft carrier with smaller escort vessels. There are at least four duck ladies, two each per species. He must be one of the "regulars" that return every year, and somehow escaped the ravages of the Northern Goshawk that killed three of his kin in four days last year. I have been nervous about that pesky predator since the duck herds came in from the lone prairie somewhere south of here. Or swamp. My misgivings have been lessened with no sign of the hawk and it occurred to us that the ice was on the pond when the attacks occurred. This year, the free corn kitchen will shut down at the first sign of the slightest skiff of ice and the ducks will be discouraged even if it means unleashing my Red Ryder Official Frontier BB gun. Better a BB than eight

article and photo by Bob Spiwak, Mazama

talons (I didn't count) and a pruning shears beak.

On a lesser scale, with no social caste implications (for this is hardly Downton Abby), the little birds keep coming in. Last week the red and yellow finches arrived at about the same time, just ahead of the first hummingbird that preceded three more that arrived as soon as Ms. Gloria put out the sterilized feeder. That same day, a hummer buzzed a guy from Mazama in his garage. He was wearing a red jacket, said his wife. Anyhow we have them, the finches, woodpeckers and at least one flicker making things colorful. And for those who read this from afar, this Easter Sunday it was divined that the last mounds of snow ought to be gone this week. But every time the temp hits 52, Ms. G. And I remember a May day one year with heavy snow falling. The temp was +52. Such is Methow life.

When Hearing is Believing

by Victor Glick and Libby Schreiner, Winthrop

Sometimes hearing something outside can be nearly as interesting and exciting as seeing. Such was the case as we hiked the trail leading from Elephant Hill to Chesler Park, then on to Druid Arch, in the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. It was just after dawn and we were enjoying the snow-free environment knowing that back home in the Methow Valley snow would melt and early spring would come without our presence as we roamed the canyons of southern Utah and Arizona. The trail traversed a mixture of slick rock benches and sandy washes. We entered a slickrock slot canyon where vertical cliffs rose several hundred feet on each side and where there was just enough room between the cliffs for juniper to grow tall. We were stopped dead in our tracks by the unmistakable sound of an owl call from high up in the cliff wall. The sound seemed to come from everywhere amplified by the towering cliffs. We did not speak as we both ran familiar owl sounds through our memory bank. Nothing matched. The call stopped. We continued to glass the rocky perches hoping the source would become visible but like many other things wild, this one seemed to vanish. Then Libby turned to me and whispered SPOTTED OWL. I zipped open my pack and pulled out my mini iPad, touched the Sibley icon, then Spotted Owl, and with the volume turned to very low touched the play arrow. Very close we agreed.

The final approach to Druid Arch was a series of slick rock pouroffs, then a scramble up a steep boulder field but the effort was rewarded with a grand view of this magnificent structure.

Back at the Ranger station, we timidly asked the biologist if perhaps it could have been possible that we heard a Spotted Owl call in the area we described. "Of course", she answered. "A team from the University has documented a nesting pair just where you heard the call." That warm feeling one gets when connected to wild fellow travelers spread through my body and appeared as a smile on my face. It would take more than one neuron to hold this memory.

Spotted Owls are described as three subspecies, the Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), the California Spotted Owl (*S. o. occidentalis*), and the Mexican Spotted Owl (*S. o. lucida*). The Owl we heard was most likely the Mexican Spotted Owl. For lots more information, go to the Cornell site Birds of North America.

Swallows

Lined up on the wire
slender battalion
of vivid blue, sky rocket
swallows
resting in the
breeze on a
perfect wire perch,
long smooth open
easy launch
up on the hill

Something happens!
All together!
Now go!

Ride the glorious sky...

by Ken Bevis



Justin Robertson and one of his aplomado falcons. Courtesy Amy Stroth for Advanced Avian Abatement

May Wild Phlox

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| May 14 | Birding at Mountain Home | With the Chelan Douglas Land Trust. See www.cdlandtrust.org/ or call 667-9708 for more info. |
| May 17 | Bugs, Blooms, Butterflies | With the Chelan Douglas Land Trust. See www.cdlandtrust.org/ or call 667-9708 for more info. |
| May 15 - 18 | Spring Bird Fest | In Leavenworth. See page 2 |
| May 18 | An Evening with Bill McKibben | In Winthrop. See www.methodowconservancy.org/ |
| May 25 - 27 | Wenas Audubon Campout | Birds and Wildflowers abound! www.wenasaudubon.org/ |
| June 7 | Hike at Horse Lake | Chelan Douglas Land Trust leads an exploration of the habitats and wildlife of the Horse Lake Reserve. See www.cdlandtrust.org/ or call 667-9708 for more info. |



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 www.ncwaudubon.org