HawkWatch Guided Tours September 14

articles by Richard Scranton, Wenatchee

In place of HawkFest this year, the Chelan Ridge HawkWatch group will host raptor experts to guide visitors on Saturday, September 14. Participants need to be at Chelan Ridge by 11 am, 1 pm, or 3 pm to meet the guides.

The drive to Chelan Ridge takes about an hour from either Chelan or Pateros. Visitors will be responsible for their own transportation on maintained Forest Service roads. Carpools are encouraged. The HawkWatch staff will put up easy-to-follow signage along the route. Please bring optics, sturdy shoes, water, snacks and dress for all types of weather.

Directions: **From Wenatchee**: Go north on Highway 97 past the Chelan turn-off to Milepost 244. Turn left at the Apple Acres Road sign and drive 1.5 miles. Turn right on

Antoine Creek Road which turns into Forest Service Road 8140. On the ridge top, go right at the T intersection on Forest Service Road 8020. Keep right for another mile to the second parking area. **From Twisp/Methow**: Go south on Highway 153 past the town of Methow for 4.5 miles and turn west (right) on Black Canyon Road aka Forest Service Road 4010. Drive nine miles to the junction with Forest Service Road 8020. Turn south (left) and drive 3.5 miles along the ridge to the parking area (look for the colored flagging and porta-potties).

See page 5 for more guided trips at Chelan Ridge Questions? Contact Richard Scranton rscran4350@yahoo. com.

Raptor Migration and Identification Workshop September 13

Friday, September 13, Dr. Dave Oleyar from HawkWatch International (HWI) will offer a raptor migration and identification workshop at the Chelan Chamber of commerce (102 East Johnson Ave in Chelan) starting at 7 pm.

Dave Oleyar, Ph.D., joined HWI as Senior Scientist in November 2013. He earned a BS in biology at Baylor University, where he worked with Eastern Screech Owls and Red-Tailed Hawks. After Baylor, he studied the impacts of the 2002 Winter Olympics ski area development at Snowbasin Resort, Utah, on the breeding ecology of Flammulated Owls. Dave comes to HWI after teaching upper level undergraduate courses in population ecology and conservation biology in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Science at the University of Idaho.

Questions? Contact Richard Scranton rscran4350@yahoo.com.

Chelan Ridge HawkWatch History

After exploratory surveys at Chelan Ridge in 1997, Hawk Watch International, in partnership with the USFS Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, began annual standardized counts at the site in 1998 to monitor and learn more about raptors migrating through the east Cascades of Washington within the Pacific Coast Flyway. Counts typically range between 2,000-3,000 migrants of up to 17 species per season. The most commonly seen species are the Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Golden Eagle, and American Kestrel. HWI has also been banding raptors at Chelan Ridge since 2001 and has used the site to conduct satellite tracking research. For more information see https://hawkwatch.org/chelan



Juvenile Red-tailed Hawk photo by Teri J Pieper

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

October Social

by Merry Roy, Wenatchee and Ken Bevis, Methow Valley

Join us on October 24 at the Wenatchee Valley Museum for a fun program entitled, "Songs of Nature", featuring Methow Valley singer/songwriter Ken Bevis, Okanogan Valley guitarist, Keith Kistler (and other surprise guests) for an evening of original songs and stories about the fish and wildlife that make our world home. Program begins at 7 pm. There will be time to meet new people and connect with ones you already know and there will be refreshments. This social evening is co-sponsored by North Central Washington Audubon Society and the Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group. More details in the October Wild Phlox!



Common Loon chick, Lost Lake photo by Teri J Pieper, Methow Valley

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To join the National Audubon Society which also includes a subscription to the Wild Phlox, please see their website at www.audubon.org

It's hard to be optimistic when it seems that our natural world is under attack on all sides.

Today the news is full of reports of the Amazon, the lungs of our planet as I've heard it

Editor's Notes

described, burning. The Endangered Species Act is under attack. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is being gutted. Birds continue to be killed by outside cats and collisions with buildings. Our night skies are disappearing due to unfettered lighting. And the list goes on and on.

Efforts are being made on a national scale by groups such as the National Audubon Society to help turn the tide or perhaps prevent it from getting worse at this point. Many efforts are made on a local scale too. Here in the Methow Valley, a new group has been formed to inform the public about how excess lighting destroys views of the night sky. Excess lighting can also hurt bird migration. Our local land conservancies – Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, The Methow Conservancy and the Okanogan Land Trust – work to preserve land and create interesting

partnerships and educate the public about the importance of open spaces and habitat.

And here at North Central Washington Audubon Society, we work to educate people, from kids to adults, about the natural world and its importance to all of us – the birds, the insects, all the other animals and us humans. We also work on conservation issues near and dear to us. And we offer field trips so that people can learn about birds and their habitats first-hand.

I guess what I'm getting at, is that there are lots of resources and organizations that work hard to protect our planet and all of us need to support them through active involvement, writing letters, or supporting with cash and volunteer time.

And yes, I am trying to encourage myself to not lose my sense of optimism and that we will get through this dark period in our history.

This morning I enjoyed a nice walk with a friend and our dogs along Patterson Lake and through the forest, some of it on public land and some on private land. Methow Trails partners with agencies and private landowners to maintain an enormous network of trails for all abilities and many interests. We speculated about bears that were probably in the area and saw some birds including an Osprey, a Pileated Woodpecker and heard Cassin's Vireos, nuthatches and chickadees. We are lucky to live in North Central Washington, an area with abundant public land with miles and miles of trails for all of us to enjoy.



Red-breasted Sapsucker photo by Janet Bauer, Winthrop

NCW Recent Bird Sightings

Chelan County: White-headed Woodpeckers and a Lazuli Bunting were seen at The Sleeping Lady. Lazuli Bunting and Calliope Hummingbird were seen at Hay Canyon. An albino Common Loon was seen on the Columbia.

Douglas County: A Black Tern was at the pond on Heritage Road. Two Whimbrels, a Pacific Golden Plover, four Marbled Godwits, a Semi-palmated Sandpiper, a Peregrine Falcon and two Baird's Sandpiper were seen at Atkins Lake. A White-winged Scoter was seen on the Columbia between Brewster and Bridgeport.

Ferry County: A Clay-colored Sparrow was seen on Forest Road 6120. A Northern Waterthrush and a Short-billed Dowitcher were seen at the Kettle River Campground. A

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

Long-eared Owl was seen flying back and forth on Forest Road 2160.

Okanogan County: Sandhill Cranes were seen on Buck Mountain near Winthrop. Black-headed Woodpeckers were seen in last year's McLeod fire northwest of Winthrop. A Stilt Sandpiper was seen at Little Twin Lake. A Spruce Grouse was seen near Harts Pass and another on the Honeymoon Pass trail near Tiffany Lake. A Red-necked Grebe was seen on Big Twin Lake. A Swainson's Hawk was seen at Slate Peak. A Red-necked Phalarope and a Gray Flycatcher were seen at Buck Lake on Frost Road. Two Sooty Grouse were seen near Harts Pass. A Semi-palmated Plover was seen at Patterson Lake.



You can't be suspicious of a tree, or accuse a bird or a squirrel of subversion or challenge the ideology of a violet.

Birds (especially) and sometimes trees or squirrels or flowers ... these unite us. We watch birds, alone and with others. We teach kids (and adults) about birds. We count birds and share data.

NCWAS members invest in bird futures, with their energy (as volunteers) and with their money (another kind of energy). We are now, and always, grateful that you are parts of the whole.

We list below folks who made donations from mid-January to mid-August 2019. Donations made from September 2018 to mid-January 2019 were acknowledged in the February 2019 Phlox. Larry and Penny Tobiska are "first responders" for donations received. The list of donors is derived from their data.

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Plus two anonymous donors just as appreciated as those above.

The symbols designate gifts of special generosity:

* = \$100 (Great Blue Heron)

** = \$200 (Greater White-fronted Goose) *** = \$500 (Magnificent Frigatebird)

Consider Becoming a Wenatchee Naturalist by Susan Bal

by Susan Ballinger, Wenatchee

If you are looking for a way to deepen your connection to both the natural and human aspects of our collective home, consider becoming a Wenatchee Naturalist! Registration is now open for the next 50-hour Wenatchee Naturalist course offered by Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) Continuing Education, September 18 - December 11. The course is designed to allow participants to meet new friends, discover lovely local places to visit again, and to gain new eyes for the natural wonders of North Central Washington. To date, over 200 people, ages 12 - 81, have completed the course and become Wenatchee Naturalists.

Instructor Susan Ballinger teaches the Wednesday evening course and four Saturday field trips on September 21, October 12, November 9, and December 7. Field trips explore habitats along the White, Entiat, Columbia, and Wenatchee River corridors, guided by expert guest field scientists.

The interdisciplinary course includes readings, lectures, handouts, guest scientists, labs, and nature journaling. Field trips explore three ecosystems (shrub-steppe, riparian, & dry forest) focusing on 100 common species of the Wenatchee watershed. Every class includes hands-on activities and practice using a science field journal. Tuition is \$365 and includes supplies, a field journal, and a loaned min-library and hand lens. Clock hours are available for teachers.

The course is offered once/year in the fall. If you have questions, contact the course instructor, Susan Ballinger (skylinebal@gmail.com; 669-7820). Visit the newly launched Wenatchee Naturalist website at www.wenatcheenaturalist. com/. Register for the WVC Continuing Education course at www.wvc.edu/directory/departments/conted/

Summer Shorebirds Field Trip Summary

by Joe Veverka, Cashmere

The August 3 shorebirding trip to eastern Douglas County was a great success. Eight of us began our birding about 7:20 at Atkins Lake immediately finding a Pectoral Sandpiper among a few Least and Western Sandpipers. There were several species of waterfowl in eclipse

plumage. Gull species were few. We found Ring-billed Gulls, California Gulls, and a couple mystery gulls. Farther around the lake we found two social Solitary Sandpipers.

We moved onto Heritage Road's flooded field. Highlights here included four Baird's Sandpipers, very close views of Least Sandpipers, a sizeable flock of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs offering splendid comparisons, and a Black-necked Stilt.

The wetland at Road 6 and N held 15 Black-necked Stilts. A small flock of six peeps circled over the flats

before alighting in front of our party. We picked out one Semipalmated Sandpiper among five Least Sandpipers. One Common Nighthawk made a few passes overhead. We made a quick stop at Jolly's Pond East on Road 6 to see a



Least Sandpiper photo by Marilyn Sherling

Black-crowned Night-Heron lift out of the rushes.

Slipping into Grant County we stopped at Coulee City Park which didn't produce much and was fairly busy on a warm Saturday. We had one adult Herring Gull among Ring-billed and California Gulls. Our final stop was at the

Coulee City water treatment ponds. Heat distortion put our birding skills to the test. It was easy to pick out eight American Avocets. A couple of peeps and a handful of gulls present were left unidentified.

With our birding itch scratched we stopped at Dry Falls Interpretive Center around 12:30. Here the highlights were iced coffee, ice cream and White-throated Swifts. A fantastic way to close out a day of August birding!

We saw a total of 66 species 13 of which were shorebirds. This is a great

time of year (late July - into September) to get out and scan wetlands and mudflats for this spirited group of birds. Waves of different species will be peaking throughout this season providing exciting birding.

More Guided Trips at Chelan Ridge HawkWatch

by Susan Ballinger, Wenatchee

Imagine standing on a rocky ridge high above Lake Chelan on a windy fall day, scanning the sky for eagles and hawks. This could be you! Janet Millard, USFS Chelan Ridge HawkWatch project leader, is offering two field trip dates to Wenatchee Naturalists and NCW Audubon Society members and friends. Sign up now to participate on either Friday September 27 or Monday September 30 (9am-4pm). You'll get to scan the skies while talking with volunteer biologists who are perched on the ridge during daylight hours collecting data for the ten-week monitoring period. Janet Millard will be our on-site host.

This year marks the 21st year that HawkWatch International (https://hawkwatch.org/) has conducted annual standardized counts at Chelan Ridge. The mission of HawkWatch is to conserve our environment through education, long-term monitoring, and scientific research on raptors as indicators of ecosystem health. Staffed late August through October, community science volunteers count numbers of raptors using our North Cascades migratory flyway. Observers record species, sex, age, color morph, quantities, and behaviors of daytime seasonal migrating raptors. Trained staff conduct trapping and banding, often giving visitors the chance to see a live raptor up-close before it is released to continue its migration south.

The project is a long running partnership between the USFS Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest and HawkWatch International, part of network of eight western U.S. monitoring sites. Data is shared with partners who scientifically assess population status across the Americas, inform the public, and contribute to effective conservation of migratory raptors. You can explore all prior years data for Chelan Ridge and the other seven locations at https://hawkwatch.org/our-work/publications-and-reports/item/403-migration-reports

Registration and Logistics: Limited to 16 people per day (4 vehicles). Time: Meet at 8:45am, with a planned return time around 4:00 or 4:30 pm. Transportation: We will meet and carpool from the Olds Station Park-and-Ride at 320 Penny Road in Wenatchee. Please volunteer to drive or bring cash to help cover gas costs. The drive takes almost two hours and much of it is on bumpy dirt roads, so high clearance vehicles recommended. Bring lots of clothing layers, water, snacks, lunch, and binoculars.

To register for Friday Sept. 27, email Susan Ballinger (skylinebal@gmail.com)

To register for Monday Sept. 30, email Richard Scranton (Rscran4350@yahoo.com)

June 1, Four-County Results

The final results are in for our Four-county Count held on June 1, and it was a tremendous day. The 63 participants counted a total of 11,334 birds in 180 species. We intend to hold this count in future years and hope to determine long-term trends in our area's breeding bird population. But even this one year of data is revealing.

Not surprisingly, the species with the highest number of individuals recorded was Red-winged Blackbird. These birds, with their strident voices and, in males, flashy red and yellow epaulettes, seem to inhabit every marsh and wetland, no matter how small, in our area. Other species with high numbers of individuals included Canada Goose, Mallard, Violet-green and Cliff Swallows, and American Robin, all familiar, common birds.

Were any birds found that are rare in our four-county area? No extremely rare birds were found, but our area is at the periphery of the ranges of several species that were counted in small numbers on June 1. One example is the Bushtit, a small, drab, gray bird common in the Puget Sound region west of the Cascades. Although there are isolated, small populations of Bushtits east of Cascades south of Chelan and Douglas counties, the species is rare in our area. On June 1, a Bushtit was found in Number Two Canyon west of Wenatchee.

Another species at the periphery of its range in our area is the Black-necked Stilt. This elegant, long-legged, black-and-white shorebird breeds mostly in the southwest and southeast US. Due probably to drought in the Southwest, the species moved northward into Washington state in the 1970s and since then has been found breeding every year in central and eastern Washington. On June 1, 10 stilts were found in the Atkins Lake area on the Waterville Plateau.



Three male Harelequin ducks at Patterson Lake photo by Janet Bauer, Winthrop

A final example of a species in our four-county area at the edge of its range is the Least Flycatcher, a small grayish, bird that's often hard to find in its preferred riparian habitat. This species breeds across the southern part of Canada and the northern Midwest and eastern states in the US. Its breeding range just reaches into northeast Washington, and the species is found in small numbers in our four-county area. On June 1, three Least Flycatchers were recorded, one in Chelan County and two in Okanogan County.

Among the vast changes we humans have brought to the natural world, the introduction of animals and plants to by Art Campbell, Winthrop and Joe Veverka, Cashmere

areas outside their natural ranges is surely among the most significant. Several non-native bird species occur in our area and were counted on June 1. Rock Pigeon (common pigeon), Eurasian Starling, and House Sparrow are familiar non-native species, but California Quail, Chukar, Ring-necked Pheasant, and Wild Turkey are also non-native species deliberately introduced into our state, primarily for hunting.

And as a last example of a non-native species, there is the amazing story of the Eurasian Collared-Dove, a bird that occurs in much the same habitat as the familiar Rock Pigeon. In the 1970s, this species, native to the Indian subcontinent and having expanded into Europe in the 17th through 20th centuries, was brought to the Bahamas and Guadaloupe for captive breeding. Escaped or released, this species made its way to Florida, where it was first recorded in the late 1970s. The species' range expansion in North America since then, partially aided by additional releases, has been described as "explosive". The species was first recorded in Washington state in the first years of the 21st Century, and since then has spread throughout the state. On our June 1 count, more collared doves were recorded (66) than pigeons, and collared doves are only likely to increase in number in the future.

Non-native species aren't the only birds to benefit from human activities. Peregrine falcons were extirpated as

breeders in eastern
Washington in the mid-20th
Century, mostly due to the
effects of DDT, but since
then have been recovering
in our area partly due to
deliberate re-introductions.
A peregrine was recorded in
Ferry County on June 1.

The tiny Anna's Hummingbird, originally limited in range to California, expanded northwards in the second half of the 20th Century

into Oregon, Washington, and southern British Columbia. The species' expansion is thought to be due to increases in hummingbird feeders and suburban and urban landscaping, and perhaps climate change. This species is now regularly found in the Wenatchee River valley and around Chelan, and four Anna's hummingbirds were recorded.

I've touched on only a portion of the results from this year's Four-county Count (the complete list of results is shown on the next page). We've already started planning next year's count, so look in future issues of the Phlox for information on how and when to participate.

Canada Goose	448	Golden Eagle	13	Marsh Wren	4
Wood Duck	65	Northern Harrier	7	Bewick's Wren	2
Blue-winged Teal	42	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	American Dipper	1
Cinnamon Teal	60	Cooper's Hawk	3	Golden-crowned Kinglet	8
Northern Shoveler	152	Bald Eagle	30	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	48
Gadwall	121	Swainson's Hawk	2	Western Bluebird	25
American Wigeon	30	Red-tailed Hawk	56	Mountain Bluebird	32
Mallard	371	Flammulated Owl	9	Townsend's Solitaire	13
Northern Pintail	18	Great Horned Owl	11	Varied Thrush	4
Green-winged Teal	27	Barred Owl	3	Veery	21
Canvasback	9	Belted Kingfisher	11	Swainson's Thrush	38
Redhead	128	Williamson's Sapsucker	3	Hermit Thrush	32
Ring-necked Duck	61	Red-naped Sapsucker	7	American Robin	348
Lesser Scaup	26	sapsucker sp.	3	Gray Catbird	49
Harlequin Duck	4	Lewis's Woodpecker	28	Sage Thrasher	4
Bufflehead	8	Downy Woodpecker	7	European Starling	272
Barrow's Goldeneye	42	Hairy Woodpecker	14	Cedar Waxwing	88
Hooded Merganser	10	White-headed Woodpecker	4	Evening Grosbeak	20
Common Merganser	57	Pileated Woodpecker	7	House Finch	171
Ruddy Duck	178	Northern Flicker	109	Purple Finch	24
duck sp.	2	American Kestrel	33	Cassin's Finch	104
California Quail	213	Peregrine Falcon	1	Purple/Cassin's Finch	5
Chukar	28	Olive-sided Flycatcher	7	Red Crossbill	105
Ring-necked Pheasant	6	Western Wood-Pewee	156	Pine Siskin	246
Ruffed Grouse	11	Willow Flycatcher	18	American Goldfinch	85
Dusky Grouse	5	Least Flycatcher	3	finch sp.	2
Sooty Grouse	1	Hammond's Flycatcher	27	Grasshopper Sparrow	1
grouse sp.	2	Gray Flycatcher	1	Chipping Sparrow	79
Wild Turkey	10	Dusky Flycatcher	45	Brewer's Sparrow	9
Pied-billed Grebe	44	Hammond's/Dusky Flycatcher	25	Lark Sparrow	4
Horned Grebe	1	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	5	Fox Sparrow	3
Red-necked Grebe	1	Empidonax sp.	4	Dark-eyed Junco	64
Eared Grebe	12	Say's Phoebe	66	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	1
Western Grebe	4	Western Kingbird	86	White-crowned Sparrow	36
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	38	Eastern Kingbird	83	Vesper Sparrow	33
Eurasian Collared-Dove	66	flycatcher sp (Tyrannidae sp.)	3	Savannah Sparrow	8
Mourning Dove	157	Loggerhead Shrike	3	Song Sparrow	95
Common Nighthawk	9	Cassin's Vireo	27	Lincoln's Sparrow	13
Common Poorwill	19	Warbling Vireo	66	Spotted Towhee	122
Vaux's Swift	15	Red-eyed Vireo	6	sparrow sp.	1
White-throated Swift	72	Canada Jay	1	Yellow-breasted Chat	39
Black-chinned Hummingbird	31	Steller's Jay	19	Yellow-headed Blackbird	241
Anna's Hummingbird	4	Black-billed Magpie	59	Bobolink	17
Rufous Hummingbird	18	Clark's Nutcracker	25	Western Meadowlark	143
Calliope Hummingbird	62	American Crow	121	Bullock's Oriole	128
hummingbird sp.	4	Common Raven	88	Red-winged Blackbird	641
Virginia Rail	3	Horned Lark	30	Brown-headed Cowbird	153
Sora	14	N. Rough-winged Swallow	106	Brewer's Blackbird	274
American Coot	299	Tree Swallow	292	Northern Waterthrush	3
Black-necked Stilt	10	Violet-green Swallow	341	Orange-crowned Warbler	3
American Avocet	14	Bank Swallow	159	Nashville Warbler	44
Killdeer	82	Barn Swallow	8	MacGillivray's Warbler	37
Wilson's Snipe	38	Cliff Swallow	396	Common Yellowthroat	37
Wilson's Phalarope	15	swallow sp.	36	American Redstart	4
Spotted Sandpiper	70	Black-capped Chickadee	41	Yellow Warbler	200
Greater Yellowlegs	1	Mountain Chickadee	36	Yellow-rumped Warbler	67
Ring-billed Gull	12	Bushtit	1	Townsend's Warbler	31
Black Tern	8	Red-breasted Nuthatch	70	Wilson's Warbler	17
Common Loon	6	White-breasted Nuthatch	9	warbler sp. (Parulidae sp.)	3
Double-crested Cormorant	38	Pygmy Nuthatch	31	Western Tanager	148
American White Pelican	36	Brown Creeper	9	Black-headed Grosbeak	115
Great Blue Heron	12	Rock Wren	5	Lazuli Bunting	128
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1	Canyon Wren	7	House Sparrow	238
Turkey Vulture	17	House Wren	105		
Osprey	46	Pacific Wren	1		
					2010

September Wild Phlox

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North Central Washington Audubon Society Calendar

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

1st and 3rd Wednesday	Beebe Spring Bird Walks	With Virginia Palumbo. www.ncwaudubon.org/events.html		
Every 3rd Wednesday	Horan Area Monthly Bird Walk	www.ncwaudubon.org/events.html		
Septemer 13	Hawk ID Workshop	In Chelan. See page 1		
September 14	HawkWatch tours	Chelan Ridge! See page 1		
September 14-15	Beaver Celebration	In Winthrop. https://methowconservancy.org/news/entry/beaver-celebration		
September 18	Become a Wenatchee Naturalist	WVC Class goes through December 11. See page 4		
September 26	NCWAS Board Meeting	In Chelan. Contact Art Campbell for more information		
September 27 & 30	Chelan Ridge HawkWatch Tours	Another opportunity. See page 5		
October 24	NCWAS Social in Wenatchee	At the Museum. Live Music. Food. Friends. Mark your calendar. See page 2.		



You can find the Wild Phlox online at our website - www.ncwaudubon.org
The beautiful photos are even nicer in color.



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

