



The Wild Phlox

Published by the North Central Washington Audubon Society
Connecting People with Nature since 1966



Artwork © 2018 Heather A. Wallis Murphy

Volume 54 #2 October 2020

Early Report from the Fires in Eastern WA

By Dr. Kim Thorburn,
WDFW commissioner

The fires have been devastating. Washington's shrub-steppe ecosystem was already one of its most endangered at 40% of its historic extent due to agricultural and other human development and fragmentation. Huge swaths of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) wildlife areas in Okanogan, Douglas, and Lincoln Counties that are owned as protected areas for Greater Sage-Grouse and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse have been consumed.

The day after what we're calling the "worst Labor Day ever," initial on-the-ground assessment found 33 Sharp-tailed and Greater Sage-Grouse leks burned in Douglas and Okanogan Counties. Sage-Grouse winter habitat has been severely impacted on the Douglas Plateau. In Lincoln County, with which I am most familiar, 90% of Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area burned. We've lost all sharp-tailed leks and the only sage-grouse lek. The sage-grouse population was a restoration of a previously extirpated population. It had been in precarious shape, so we figure it's the nail in the coffin.

What we saw after the 2014 Carlton Complex fires was that Sharp-tailed Grouse counts (based on lek surveys) plummet for a year or two but once the grass grows back, the birds return. One positive piece is that all our wildlife areas have undergone extensive field restorations and with some minimal post-fire re-seeding, the grass and forbs can return healthily, supporting

sharp-tailed reproductive areas. Wintering shrubs and trees can be a little trickier.

The sage-grouse will fare far worse because they need shrubs and their return will be slow. Gray rabbitbrush grows back quickly but is not preferred for either nesting or forage. The needed sagebrush and bitterbrush return much more slowly (we're talking decades) and the current moonscape appearance looks like extensive shrub destruction. The Swanson Lakes wildlife area manager told me he hasn't seen any sagebrush since the fire blazed through.

Swanson Lakes is going to be an unfortunate natural experiment for both species. The Sharp-tailed Grouse population there is completely isolated from other population groups and has little nearby escape for either reproductive or wintering habitat.

Also, the largest of three pygmy rabbit enclosures is a complete loss as well as one of the release areas. There are still pygmy rabbits, including a few free ranging but the population was hit hard. Other state species of greatest conservation need off the top of my head that are impacted include Short-

eared Owl, Sage Thrasher, Sagebrush Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, sagebrush lizard, pygmy short-horned lizard, both species of jackrabbit, Washington ground squirrel, and American badger. While not species of greatest conservation need, we've also lost huge amounts of habitat for important mule deer herds and the recently re-introduced pronghorn.



Some of the burned area near Moses Coulee
photo by Bruce McCammon, Wenatchee

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”

Winter Raptor Surveys

from East Cascades Audubon

Become a winter raptor survey project volunteer, completing a monthly driving route in our area, November through February, to record birds-of-prey. Full project information at www.ecaudubon.org/winter-raptor-survey. Routes are currently available for Othello, Warden, Moses Lake, George, Quincy, Ellensburg, Beverly to Smyrna, Orondo to Waterville to Palisades. Contact Jeff Fleischer at raptorrunner97321@yahoo.com. This is an excellent socially distanced way to volunteer with members of your household, mostly inside your vehicle. Using a camera allows you to consult with local experts to confirm species ID.



Red-necked Phalarope
 photo by Janet Bauer, Winthrop

North Central Washington Audubon Society

Officers, Chairs, Board Members:

President - Art Campbell | rapakivi@methow.com

Vice President | OPEN

Treasurer | Larry Tobiska | ltobiska@nwi.net

Secretary | Penny Tobiska | ptobiska@nwi.net

Conservation | Mark Johnston | S697striata@frontier.com

Education and Outreach | Merry Roy | merry8roy@gmail.com
 and Mark Oswood | moswood@nwi.net

Field Trips | Janet Bauer | jsrbauer@gmail.com

Membership | Mark Oswood | moswood@nwi.net

Newsletter | Teri J Pieper | teripieper@hotmail.com

Science Officer | Don McIvor | puma@methownet.com

Festival Coordinator | Richard Scranton | rscran4350@yahoo.com

Social Media | Monica Maxwell | monicalynnm1979@gmail.com

Bruce McCammon | bruce.mccammon@gmail.com

Julie Hovis | jahovis711@gmail.com

Joe Veverka | joe_everka@yahoo.com

Communications | Treesa Hertzell | autumn207@comcast.net

Website - www.ncwaudubon.org

Subscribe to our email list at www.ncwaudubon.org

Email us at ncwaudubon@gmail.com

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.

North Central Washington Audubon Society Wild Phlox Subscription Form

Subscribe to NCW Audubon Wild Phlox One Year, Nine Issues - \$15 Suggested donation

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



It seemed like our region was going to get past fire season mostly unscathed. Until Labor Day. Howling wind pushed fire from Omak to the Columbia and then across into Douglas County, burning habitat for birds and people, destroying houses, outbuildings, shrub steppe and rangeland. Over 400,000 acres burned, and one child died. It is truly tragic in all ways. For birds like Greater Sage-Grouse and Sharp-tailed Grouse, it may cause their extirpation in this region. And what of the human fire refugees? Where are they now? Do they have safe living accommodations in this covid-19 world?

Another fire burned between Yakima and Ellensburg destroying still more valuable shrub-steppe habitat. I drove up the Yakima Canyon a few days ago and the fire burned all the way to the railroad tracks through most of the canyon. And I have read that much of the Wenas Wildlife area, a favorite birding spot for many Audubon folks, also burned. Many of the birds that nest in these arid areas may have already started their fall migration. What will they do when they return next spring? Where will they nest?

And migration on the west coast must be hard on many birds with the devastating fires in western Oregon and in California. I wonder if birds can navigate through the dense smoke? And where do they rest? While we were still shrouded in thick smoke, a friend said she heard Sandhill Cranes calling as they flew south.

Did you read about the massive numbers of migratory birds that died in New Mexico? Some speculated that it may have been due to wildfire smoke. According to an article on the American Birding Association website, www.aba.org/the-data-behind-mysterious-bird-deaths-in-new-mexico, it looks like they did not have enough food and died of hypothermia during a sudden cold spell. Most of the birds were insect eaters – swallows, flycatcher, warblers. When the temperature dropped from 96° to 40° overnight and an unseasonable snowstorm occurred in the mountains, insects died or quit flying and the birds were unable to eat. Swallows at that time of year usually weigh around fifteen grams. The dead birds weighed less than ten grams.

Are you looking for learning opportunities? Try looking at websites for the Wenatchee Naturalist, the Methow Conservancy, HawkWatch International, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Washington Native Plant Society. Many non-profit organizations are providing online classes to get us through these challenging times. Mary Gallagher reports that the game Wingspan is addicting after just two tries at it, once via Zoom. Yes, we can all go birding with our household people, but we also need connections with others.

Don't forget to vote. Fill out your ballot and drop it off at the nearest ballot box.



Pectoral Sandpiper
photo by Peter Bauer, Winthrop

NCW Recent Bird Sightings

Chelan: A Red-necked Phalarope was seen at Fish Lake. An American Three-toed Woodpecker and a Sooty Grouse were seen on the Blue Lake trail. A California Scrub Jay was seen near Wenatchee. A Great Egret and a Baird's and Semi-palmated Sandpiper were seen at Walla Walla Park. A Red-necked Grebe was seen at Lake Wenatchee. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were seen in the Enchantments. Chestnut-backed Chickadees were seen in Chelan. A Black-backed Woodpecker was seen at Scotty Creek.

Douglas: Wilson's Phalaropes and Lark Sparrows were seen at Atkins Lake before the fire. A Least Sandpiper was seen at Atkins Lake, following the fire. After the fire a Say's Phoebe, an Osprey, Western and Pied-billed Grebes and Ring-necked Ducks were seen at Jameson Lake.

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

Ferry: Red Crossbills were seen at Inchelium. A Sora and American Pipits were seen at the Kettle River campground. Evening Grosbeaks, a Northern Pygmy Owl and a Red-naped Sapsucker were seen on Mikalson Road.

Okanogan: A Clay-colored Sparrow was reported at the Winthrop national fish hatchery and also at Pearrygin Lake State Park. A Zone-tailed Hawk was seen between Twisp and Winthrop. A Pectoral Sandpiper was seen near Winthrop. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen on the Beaver Pond Trail near Winthrop. An Eared Grebe was seen at the Starr boat launch. Boreal Chickadees and a Boreal Owl were seen near Mazama. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches and a White-tailed Ptarmigan were observed at Slate Peak.

What's In A Name?

by Merry Roy, Wenatchee

I am two lessons into Cornell's Shorebird Identification Class. It is fascinating to learn how shorebird behavior makes identifying these birds easier - the way a bird forages on the beach or where it forages in relation to water.

National Audubon published a recent article about how birds get their Spanish names. According to the article, English common names for birds focus on field marks or ornithological legacies, but many Spanish names describe the bird's behavior.

Audubon Field Editor Kenn Kaufman released his North American Birds Field Guide in Spanish in 2005. NCW Audubon uses this Spanish language field guide in "What's That Bird" programs. It is rewarding to see light in the eyes of Hispanic parents who accompany their children's classes, as they say, "Yes, I know that bird!"

The National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity in Mexico (CONABIO) has worked to alleviate confusion in the diverse common bird names from different regions of Mexico. The commission selected names for more than a thousand birds that relate to the birds' appearance or behavior, choosing names that were easier to remember and helped in identification.

How smart is that! This is a time when we are considering changing eponymous bird names for names that reflect the bird rather than the person who "discovered" it. Name changes are always ticklish, but how much more encouraging for new birders to know that the bird they see is a "Red-capped Seedeater" rather than "Susie's sparrow".

Listen and Then Act

by Merry Roy, Wenatchee

Dr. Drew Lanham, author, poet, and wildlife professor at Clemson University in South Carolina is a strong voice for Black Birders. In 2013, he wrote a piece for Orion Magazine titled *9 Rules for the Black Birdwatcher*, drawing attention to the lack of Black birders and diversity in general among naturalists. In 2016 he wrote *Birding While Black*. And in 2017 he published an award-winning memoir titled *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*. His first book of poetry *Sparrow Envy* (2016) was reissued in 2019.

Dr. Lanham stresses the interconnection of environment and humanity. Whether we work for social justice or to preserve the habitats of birds, we are working for the health of all. We need to widen our lens, widen our range, and expand our experience across lines of privilege. We do this through listening to each other's stories and acting to solve the problems of injustice.

In speaking of solving problems of racial injustice he uses the word "inclusion" rather than "diversity". He says inclusion is an embracing word rather than a dividing and counting word. It is a mindset and an action.

In his talks Dr. Lanham says his heroes are the Dr. Seuss characters the Lorax and Horton the elephant who listened to the tiny overlooked Whos and advocated for them. These characters teach environmental lessons we need to learn; listen and then act to protect people as well as the earth.

A Dipper's Dream Stream

by Mary Gallagher, Lake Wenatchee

Fast and furious,
rolling and rollicking,
boulders and rocks,
benches, crannies, and nooks.
Take a close look ---
This could be a dipper's dream stream.

Twists and turns,
somersaults and splashes,
cradled glaciers melting
on this sun-filled July day.
Between mossy edges there are no bridges ---
This could be a dipper's dream stream.

Mosquitoes and flies,
hover about my eyes.
Clouds of insects dance above, deep
underwater a caddisfly larva creeps.
A smorgasbord for a swimming passerine ---
This could be a dipper's dream stream.

Icy cold stings my toes,
I am not adapted
to swim or walk or sing here.
The roar smothers my voice.
To be heard, I must scream ---
This could be a dipper's dream stream.

Did I imagine
a sharp zeet?
Silence surrounds the commanding voice
of this growing cascade. But wait,
a bubbling jingle erupts, grows louder,
my vision is true:
This is a dipper's stream.

Luis Aggasiz Fuerte and *The Birds of America* by Susan Sampson, Wenatchee

After John James Audubon, but before Roger Tory Peterson and David Allen Sibley, the most acclaimed bird artist in the United States was Luis Aggasiz Fuerte (1874-1927). It was his paintings that illustrated *Birds of America*, the 1936 single-volume work prepared “Under the Auspices of the University Society, edited by T. Gilbert Pearson, president emeritus of the National Association of Audubon Societies.” (It’s not clear that a three-volume 1917 version was illustrated with Fuerte’s color prints.)

Fuerte was born and raised in Ithaca, New York. He was a gifted observer of birds.

When he was sixteen, he sent a sample of his drawing of a bird to the Smithsonian, where it was received with high praise. He graduated from Cornell in architecture, then entered an apprenticeship with the painter Abbott Handerson Thayer, who painted not only birds, but also portraits and angels. Fuerte then undertook expeditions such as the Harriman Expedition to explore the coast of Alaska. Besides drawing and painting birds, Fuerte mimicked the sounds of birds so well that he did a record of bird impressions for the Victor Talking Machine company. He illustrated many books of birds and animals, and designed dioramas for the Museum of Natural History. He accumulated 4,000 specimens of birds to work from but was noted to have a photographic memory of birds so that he could observe them in the

field without making sketches or notes, and draw and paint them later. He was credited with giving expression to the faces of the birds he painted and drew.

Fuerte was killed in an auto collision with a train in 1927 when he was 53 years old. Ten years later, the director of the Museum of Natural History, Frank M. Chapman, wrote an essay in “Natural History” magazine entitled “Fuertes and Audubon: A Comparison of the Works and Personalities of Two of the World’s Greatest Bird Artists.” He compared Fuerte’s works favorably to those of

Audubon, because Audubon worked under grueling conditions of poverty and without many predecessors to learn from. Chapman said that to deny that Fuerte was more accomplished than Audubon was to ignore the advances in ornithology and the better working circumstances that favored Fuerte. He expected that later artists would be better yet.

I discovered Fuerte when I was prowling through an antique store in my hometown of Florence, Oregon and happened to pick up a copy of the 1936 book. Like Audubon’s paintings, Fuerte’s plates depict birds in motion with some indication of their habitat. The editors praised their own work for presenting birds with more than scientific data, adding details that makes birdwatching charming, they say. However, they don’t mention Fuerte in the text, other than to note that they used his paintings with permission of the New York State Museum.



Williamson’s Sapsucker pair painting by Luis Aggasiz Fuerte

Plant Endemism and the Wenatchee Flora

by Ann Fink, The Native Plant Society

The Wenatchee Valley Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society invites you to join Walter Fertig, state botanist, Washington Natural Heritage Program, Washington Department of Natural Resources, via a Zoom webinar, *Plant Endemism and the Wenatchee Flora* on Wednesday, October 7 at 7:00 PM.

Plant geography is a branch of botany that focuses on how and why plant species are distributed where they are. It combines aspects of taxonomy, evolutionary biology, ecology, and natural history and plays an important role in setting priorities for conservation. This talk will discuss general patterns of plant distribution in Washington and then focus on the interesting case of the Wenatchee Mountains, one of the state’s hotspots for plant endemism.

You must register online for this event ahead of time at <https://www.wnps.org/events>. Scroll down until you find the event listed and click view more. This will open a page where you may register by entering your email. A reminder of the presentation will be sent to you prior to the event.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Needs YOU!

by Mary Gallgher,
Lake Wenatchee

On August 17, 2020, the current administration released the Record of Decision to adopt Alternative B of the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Environmental Impact Statement. This is the Alternative that will allow for the entire 2,443 square miles (over 1.56 million acres) to be leased to the oil industry. Alternative B does not address the major concerns that native people, other government agencies, scientists, and many of you sent in pointing out the negative impacts of this option.

A recent poll by Yale Climate Connections found that 67% of United States voters oppose drilling in the Arctic Refuge. This majority needs to be heard. Five of the six major banks that operate in the United States of America: Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, and Wells Fargo have said, along with many banks around the world, that they will not fund any new oil and gas development in the Arctic Refuge and across the Arctic region.

Fifteen state attorney generals have filed a lawsuit against the current administration on the grounds that what happens in the Arctic Refuge affects their fish, wildlife, and physical environment. For example, New York has Tundra Swans, American Golden-Plovers and Whimbrels that migrate from the Arctic Refuge and contribute to their four-billion dollar

birdwatching industry. In Michigan, waterfowl hunting is a significant source of income and some of the targeted species reproduce in the Arctic Refuge. California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington are the other states. Attorney General Bob Ferguson, from our State, is taking the lead.

Two other lawsuits have also been filed against the current administration on this issue. One led by the Gwich'in Steering Committee and includes the Alaska Wilderness League, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society-Yukon Chapter, Defenders of Wildlife, Environment America, Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, National Wildlife Federation, National Wildlife Refuge Association, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society and Wilderness Watch. The other by Earthjustice representing the National Audubon Society, Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of the Earth and Stand.Earth. Many of the above organizations, which together represent over 27 million members, have sent letters asking the heads of Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp., ConocoPhillips and Hilcorp Energy Co. to forswear Arctic Refuge drilling rights.

What can you, a person who cares about the birds here in North Central Washington, do?

Use your VOTE: Election day is November 3. Take time now to know where the candidates stand on this issue. As soon as your ballot arrives, fill it out and take it to a drop-box well ahead of November 3.

Use your VOICE: Contact your Senators and Congressional Representative, let them know how you feel. Thank them if they have supported this issue. If they have not, stress that you would like them to start supporting NOT drilling in the Arctic Refuge. Remind them you will be voting. Contact Attorney General Bob Ferguson and thank him. If you or your family live in one of the other fourteen states, please call and thank your Attorney General. If your State has not joined the lawsuit, call and ask your Attorney General to join the others. Contact Bank of America and ask them to join the other banks and PLEASE not finance Arctic Refuge drilling. If you bank with them, this is a critical action for you to take. Contact Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp., ConocoPhillips and Hilcorp Energy Co. and ask them to forswear Arctic Refuge drilling rights.

Share this with your family and friends in person, via email or social media. Write a letter or two to the editor of your local newspaper. Thank your Congressional Representative or publicly ask them to show support for not drilling. Thank the banks by name that have signed on. Thank your Attorney General by name or ask them to join the other fifteen in the lawsuit. If you need some tips, check out this great on line toolkit: <https://alaskawild.org/letters-to-the-editor/>

Use your MONEY: Donate to those candidates that have stood up for the Refuge. Donate to those organizations, like National Audubon Society, that have filed lawsuits on behalf of the Refuge. Don't bank with Bank of America. Think about where you buy your gas. Use the gas you do buy wisely.

Get INSPIRED: Watch: *Gwich'in Voices for the Arctic Refuge* <https://vimeo.com/449430496>. Watch *The Sacred Place Where Life Begins Gwich'in Women Speak* <https://youtu.be/9qOBsDCUpNE> "We are not protecting the Arctic Refuge for ourselves. We are protecting it for everyone. Let's work together."

READ a book that, in my opinion, is a must read for every citizen of the United States: *That Wild Country: An Epic Journey through the Past, Present, and Future of America's Public Lands* by Mark Kenyon. This book is part history, part travelogue. It is about working together. It is about enjoying our public lands. We are all public-land owners. We own the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We own 640 million acres, 28% of the land that makes up our country. I learned so much from this book. I hope you do too.

Kenyon writes: "Thinking back 114 years to the most famous camping trip in our nation's history... President Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir... In the words of historian Douglas Brinkley, "They vowed to let their biographies be intertwined for the sake of the conservation movement... In effect, the Sierra Club joined forces with the Boone and Crockett Club---hikers and hunters forged an alliance."

Grab your binoculars, go look and listen for birds in your favorite parcel of your public land. Enjoy!

Wildfire and Wildlife: What happened to Bambi?

By Ken Bevis, DNR Stewardship Wildlife Biologist

The forest is on fire! Raging flames tear through the canopy and trees explode in an apocalypse full of flame and smoke. Bambi and his furry little friends run frantically away from the raging front of giant orange flames. Trees fall all around our hero as he barely escapes with his life. Remember that scene? Yes, we all do.

What really happens to the wildlife? Fire outcomes for wildlife are not simple, with a multitude of factors to consider, especially time. Fires vary by forest type, terrain effects and the vagaries of what the fire was doing when it reached a certain place (i.e. wind, temperature, fuel loading). In many cases the long term effect on wildlife habitat can be positive, particularly in ecotypes where fire was once a common occurrence and has been removed for many years by our management. Let's examine a few angles on wildlife response to fire:

Large, free moving wildlife, such as deer, elk, bear, coyote, and most birds, are mobile enough to get out of the way of hot, fast fire. They might get caught in place, as stories of incinerated animals pop up, but most move away and survive in the short term.

Small, less mobile animals however, can be in trouble. Reptiles, some birds and small mammals caught above ground with only vegetative cover, will die. Many animals go underground, burrowing into cool soil or using tunnels created by other animals such as gophers or voles. Some crawl into moist rotting wood where it occurs. These have the possibility of survival depending on heat intensity and whether their cover is adequate for the burn over.

Amphibians are generally associated with moist areas and can survive well due to their habitat choice. This is where beaver wetlands really show their value as fire refugia.

The biggest impact from fires is on habitat. Changes are profound and will effect populations for many years after the burn. After fire passes, vegetation can be massively changed. Much of the food and cover is gone, at least for now, and animals that do survive will need to move to find these necessary elements. Sometimes animals not usually seen in certain places will appear in the aftermath of fires, as they are looking for a place to survive. This mid-term can be make or break for many of the animals that managed to escape the fire.

Low intensity ground fire has a somewhat different effect in that wildlife living in the large trees that survive the low intensity burns still have essential habitats. Cones are still there, cavities in large snags are still there. The shrub layer and low trees are diminished or gone, so that habitat element will not be available for a few years.

Habitat changes associated with fire generally favor species adapted to open and early seral habitats. Many tree and shrub species are adapted to having the tops burn off and the root crowns rapidly re-sprout after fire. For example aspen is

well adapted to fire and recovers to lush green in just a few years. Other species that sprout back include serviceberry and chokecherry. Local shrub species vary in their response, but many will recover in a few short seasons to lush, browser-edible foliage. Many grasses and forbs will re-sprout following a fire, sometimes in the same year depending on moisture. Much of the new growth is incredibly lush, benefiting from the flush of nutrients provided by the ashes left by the fire.

Some wildlife species are specifically adapted to fire. A good example is the Black-backed Woodpecker, a medium sized picoides species with a (you guessed it) black back! They show up in burned areas in the seasons after the fire gleaning bark and excavating for the beetles and other insects in the burned wood. They are not common in unburned forests and are thought to move across the landscape in response to fire.

Large ungulates such as mule deer, elk and moose can actually benefit from fire as their preferred foods can become super abundant in the years after fires, before the forest canopy closes back in.

Here is an article from Montana about fire effects on deer and elk. Mule deer and elk appear to benefit from fire's effects on habitat. Whitetails, not so much. It is explained here: www.montanaturalist.org/blog-post/how-do-wildfires-impact-deer-elk/

Good news. Bambi probably got out of the way. Bad news, he'll be in your backyard for the next few months. Good news, the shrubs will be more nutritious next year and there will be more deer eventually. Bad news, they are gone this year. Good news, lots of snag recruitment. Bad news, overstory mature trees are dead. Good news/ Bad news. That's the way of the world it seems.

The increasing number of fires and longer dry seasons each year are thought to be driven by climate change. There is also an increasing human presence on the landscape especially in the Wildland Urban Interface. Lightning, wind, and all of the other factors associated with fire are complex and daunting.

Fall rains will be welcome.



Long-billed Dowitchers
photo by Janet Bauer, Winthrop

October Wild Phlox

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



North Central Washington Audubon Society Resources

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

BirdNote	Grouse The troubled bird that's dividing the West	https://www.birdnote.org/listen/birdnote-presents/grouse
Wildflowers	WA Native Plant Society Webinars	Learn online. www.wnps.org/ Scroll to the bottom of the page
Bird Sightings	Report your sightings and contribute to community-based science	www.wabirder.com/county_yearlist.html or www.ebird.org/home
From Hawk Watch	What's That Raptor? Identifying Eagles, Vultures and More	October 2. Register at https://hawkwatch.org/events/lectures-other-outreach/576-raptor-id-4
Where to Go Birding	Socially distanced, of course	www.ncwaudubon.org/BirdingSite/index2.php and www.wabirdguide.org/
CDLT Field Guide	Native plants, weeds and trails around Wenatchee	www.cdlandtrust.org/trails-access/field-guide
Enjoy birds from home	Watch Bruce McCammon's wonderful videos of local birds	<i>Songbirds of NCW</i> and <i>The Beauty of Birds</i> at www.ncwaudubon.org/
Learn MORE	Ornithology: Comprehensive Bird Biology	From Cornell https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ornithology-comprehensive-bird-biology/

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



Printed on Recycled Paper

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

