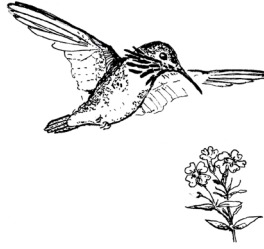


The Wild Phlox

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Volume 54 #7 April 2021

Cashmere Canyons Preserve Bluebird Boxes

by Joe Veverka, Cashmere

Cashmere Canyons Preserve is a 2100 acre private property owned by Hay Canyon Ranch. In partnership with the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, this beautiful section of foothills, located 2.5 miles north of Cashmere, will open ten miles of hiking trails to the public this spring! The trail system begins at a parking area 2.5 miles up Nahahum Canyon Road. Trails will take visitors from the valley bottom through grassland and remnant shrub-steppe up into ponderosa pine and Douglas fir forest, offering spectacular views of the Wenatchee River Valley, the Enchantments, and other snowy peaks of the Cascades.

North Central Washington Audubon, in cooperation with Hay Canyon Ranch and the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, placed thirteen bluebird boxes on existing fence posts throughout the Cashmere Canyons Preserve. Both Western and Mountain Bluebirds can be found using the grasslands and open forests in the foothills. They require a surprising 300

yards of space between nest sites depending on the quality of habitat. NCW Audubon designed the boxes with entrance holes small enough to exclude European Starlings and placed the boxes far enough from human habitations and outbuildings to likely exclude use by House Sparrows. Native species such



Joe Veverka installing a nest box
photo provided

as Violet-green Swallows and Tree Swallows will undoubtedly compete with bluebirds for the nest boxes. The nest boxes will provide crucial places for these native cavity nesters to raise their young. Lack of suitable nest sites is often a limiting resource for many populations of cavity-nesting species. NCW Audubon will be monitoring the nest boxes to see what species are using them from year-to-year and to ensure they are properly maintained. The addition of bluebird boxes will enhance the native bird life and in so doing enrich the Cashmere Canyons Preserve.

For current information regarding the Cashmere Canyons Preserve's allowed uses and its official opening please visit: <https://www.cdlandtrust.org/> or <http://www.cashmerecanyons.com/>

Douglas County Kestrels Need Your Help

by Kent Woodruff, Twisp

In November I shared an article with NCW Audubon members for replacing American Kestrel boxes that burned in the Cold Springs fire on Labor Day 2020. For the last thirty years, those boxes have provided nest sites for hatching and fledging thousands of kestrels. Since kestrel populations are declining, new boxes are a helpful way to augment their numbers. Richard Hendrick was a dedicated volunteer who annually checked boxes, banded young birds, and maintained the entire network on the Waterville Plateau. Sadly, we not only lost nest boxes last fall, we also lost Richard, who passed away near the end of 2020. This project is a possible way to carry on his passion.

In response to the November article several of you reached out to me and one enthusiastic carpenter, Ken Smith from

East Wenatchee, jumped in to help build fifty boxes, so far. I clumsily misplaced connections to others of you who offered to help. If you are still willing, now is the time we need you.

We need a project organizer who can be a point of contact for other volunteers, several box installers, a map maker to record all the locations (hopefully the same one I talked to last fall), a record keeper, and several box monitors to check to see how many young are ready to fly. We need these volunteers so this project can be successful and continue Richard's legacy.

If you are interested, connect with me via email at kentwoodruff@gmail.com and let me know how you would like to assist. I am ready to capture your energy for helping and I promise I will not let it slip through my fingers.

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”

Drive-In Movies

from The Okanogan Highlands Alliance

The Okanogan Highlands Alliance is hosting two free drive-in movies at Chief Tonasket Park, 511 Railroad Avenue, Tonasket. Films will take place across from the splash park. Tickets are free but car space is limited so the online ticketing system is our way of making sure we have enough car space for everyone. Find the link on our website www.okanoganhighland.org or email jen@okanoganhighlands.org to register. You will be able to watch the film from your car or bring a blanket and chairs and sit outside. We will transmit sound through an FM radio station, so you can listen with your car radio, or outside with a portable radio.

April 2 at 7:00 pm. *Intelligent Trees, The Documentary* – English language.

How trees communicate and care for each other - a scientific journey into the “wood wide web” featuring scientist Suzanne Simard and forester Peter Wohlleben.

April 16 at 7:00 pm. *Vuelo de las Mariposas/ Flight of the Butterflies* – Spanish language

Experience the most incredible migration on Earth...and one man’s search to unravel its mysteries.

Drive-In events are free; donations and event sponsorships are always welcome!

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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.

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Donation: I would like to support NCW Audubon’s programs of education and conservation. Enclosed is my additional donation of \$_____

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Why do we want your email? We may need to contact you regarding your donation. Also, we occasionally send email notifications about events or opportunities. You can unsubscribe at any time. We will not share your email address with others.

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



Spring is showing up all over our four-county region. At our house, much of the snow has melted and tiny wildflowers have appeared – steershead, a lomatium and yellow bells, so far. Say's Phoebes are calling before dawn. Mountain and Western Bluebirds are exploring the nest box options. Red-tailed Hawks soar and screech back and forth in the afternoon sunshine while Turkey Vultures ride the thermals, rarely flapping their wings. It is a great time to be outside.

We took a short trip out to the Washington coast last week. It was a good change of scenery even if the weather was less than ideal. Birding in sideways rain is not pleasant. I did get a chance to spend time photographing Sanderlings as they fed in front of incoming waves, back and forth, back and forth. As I stayed in one place, they moved about in front of me, sometimes getting closer and then running back down on the sand as the wave receded. According to the American Bird Conservancy, "Unlike other members of its family, the Sanderling lacks a hind toe, a modification that helps this bird run across sandy surfaces." One afternoon, we watched two Bald Eagles, an immature and an adult, tussle over some food item on the beach. After they were done, the adult just stood on the beach, in the rain, for the longest time. It looked thoroughly miserable to me. We also took a side trip to the Quinault Rain Forest and enjoyed the chattering of Pacific Wrens and the song of the Varied Thrush.



Sanderlings on the coast
photos by Teri J Pieper, Methow Valley



With vaccinations becoming more widespread around the region, NCW Audubon Society is researching when it will be safe to have field trips and other events again. Everyone has missed getting together to watch and learn about birds and their habitats. Hopefully, you have all been enjoying birds on your own. Judging from the eBird reports, many people have been out and about finding interesting and unusual birds for our area. There were at least two, seldom seen around here Yellow-billed Loons on the Columbia in our region last month.

NCW Recent Bird Sightings

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

Chelan: A California Scrub-jay was seen on Horse Lake Road and in the Chatham Hill area. A Swamp Sparrow was seen at Walla Walla Park. A Red-breasted Merganser was seen from Confluence Park. A White-winged Scoter and a Yellow-billed Loon were seen on the Columbia, upstream from Entiat. A White-throated Sparrow was seen near Cashmere and at the Horan Natural Area. A Black-chinned Hummingbird and a Swamp Sparrow were seen at Beebe Springs. A Green Heron was seen at Walla Walla Park. Yellow-shafted Northern Flickers were seen in Chelan and Wenatchee.

Douglas: Snowy Owls were seen at Atkins Lake. White-winged Scoters, Red-necked Grebes, Pacific Loons, a Clark's Grebe and a Yellow-billed Loon were seen on the Columbia near Bridgeport. Another Yellow-billed Loon and a Spotted Sandpiper were seen on the river near the Lone Pine fruitstand. An Eastern Towhee was seen in East Wenatchee. A Eurasian Wigeon was seen from Bridgeport Bar. Long-eared, Northern Pygmy and Great Horned Owls were observed on Badger Mountain. A Western Screech

Owl was seen at Douglas Creek.

Ferry: A Blue Jay spent the winter in eastern Ferry County. A Trumpeter Swan was seen at Barnaby Creek campground.

Okanogan: Western Bluebirds wintered in Winthrop. Pine Grosbeaks, Gray-crowned Rosy-finches and Northern Pygmy Owls were seen in the Okanogan Highlands. White-winged Scoters, Red-necked Grebes, Pacific Loons and a Yellow-billed Loon were seen on the Columbia near Pateros. Rusty Blackbirds were seen around Twisp. A Red-throated Loon was seen near the mouth of the Methow River. A pair of Long-tailed Ducks were seen from Washburn Island. Washburn also had early reports for Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Brown-headed Cowbird. Several hundred Gray-crowned Rosy-finches were seen in the hills a few miles up the Twisp River. A flock of Common Redpolls were seen near Molson. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Bridgeport State Park.

Looking at Christmas Bird Counts in North Central Washington

by Bruce McCammon, Wenatchee

I've long wondered about what happens to all the data collected during the annual Christmas Bird Counts in North Central Washington and other areas. For those who are not fully aware, Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) began on Christmas Day, 1900. The first "Christmas Bird Census" was proposed by Frank Chapman to count winter birds as an alternative to the Christmas "Side Hunt" which was a contest to see which hunter could create the biggest pile of dead birds. Today, the CBC is 120 years mature and represents one of the longest and largest "community science" efforts, involving the United States and twenty other countries.

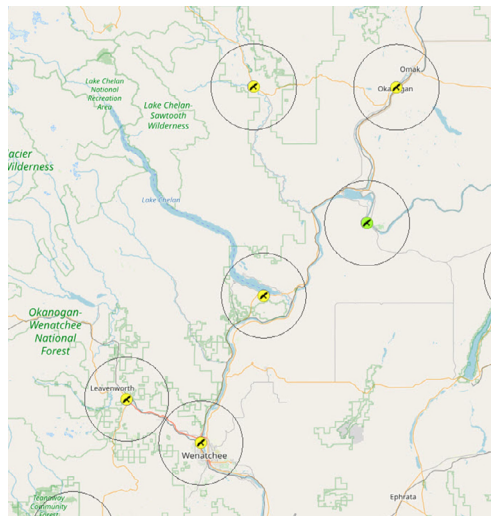
Christmas Bird Counts are organized around "count circles" with fifteen-mile diameters. There are six active count circles in North Central Washington: Wenatchee, Bridgeport, Omak-Okanogan, Twisp, Leavenworth, and Chelan. Once a circle is declared the data gathering begins. Each year between December 14 and January 5 groups of

volunteers assemble to venture out on a single day. No matter the weather, out they go. Teams are assigned routes within each circle with members filling roles of "birder", recorder, leader or casual observer. Some view these efforts as an annual social event, which they are, but the end result is another set of data that describes winter bird species in terms of numbers and species represented. When viewed over a large area, like the United States, the data becomes a tool to assess bird populations and, over time, the detection of population trends. The data set allows us to see the arrival of the Eurasian Collared-Dove and the range expansion of the Anna's Hummingbirds in our area. As the data set grows, both in geographical number of circles and in years of record, the value of the data increases. With over 100 years of data in some locations, the data is a unique and highly valuable snapshot of the birds in the area.

Where does the data go once it is collected? Today, the data is submitted electronically to the National Audubon Society where the records are organized and stored. Historic data is available to download from the Audubon CBC website: (www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count). You can retrieve the data in a wide variety of formats including PDF files or spreadsheets. The data is free to access and use. I downloaded all the historic records for the six count circles in our area and summarized the data in a report that is available on the North Central Washington Audubon Society website: <https://ncwaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/>

CBC_data_analysis_V1-5_144ppi.pdf. Up front, the report may not be for everyone. It is very graph intensive and is decidedly not meant for leisure reading. It is best viewed as a PDF so you can appreciate the colors used and the ability to zoom in and out to look at details.

Volunteers are the backbone of most nonprofit organizations. The NCW Audubon Society takes great pride in being a totally volunteer group. Your donations and volunteer participation in events make that possible. Thank you. One of my goals while preparing the CBC report mentioned before was to honor the multitude of volunteers who have contributed their time to annual CBC counts in our area. I'll start with a simple "THANK YOU". You helped build a great winter bird resource for our area. Here are a few factoids and observations I made as I studied the list of people over the periods of record – 60+ years in the Wenatchee count circle!



Six CBC count circles in NCW
Map by Bruce McCammon

- 691 individuals have been involved in historic CBC efforts in the six active count circles.

(Wenatchee: 236, Bridgeport: 79, Omak-Okanogan: 60, Twisp: 245, Leavenworth: 78, Chelan: 129)

- Many people participate in several circles each year. There are 2,549 "person-circles" in the data if duplication of names is allowed to occur. For example, in 2020 Steve Easley participated in counts in the Bridgeport, Chelan, Okanogan, and Wenatchee count circles = 4 "person-circles" in 2020.

- The number of volunteers who participate in a count circle varies over time. On average, the number of people

volunteering in each count circle each year are:
Wenatchee: 17, Bridgeport: 17, Omak-Okanogan: 24, Twisp: 24, Leavenworth: 23, and Chelan: 15.

- The average number of "team-hours" spent each year in each count circle are: Wenatchee: 62.6, Bridgeport: 52.8, Omak-Okanogan: 24.3, Twisp: 51.9, Leavenworth: 65, and Chelan: 53.
- In total, nearly 1.75 million birds have been counted in the six active count circles.
- On average, the number of bird species counted in each circle are: Wenatchee: 86, Bridgeport: 89, Omak-Okanogan: 59, Twisp: 62, Leavenworth: 64, and Chelan: 77.
- The most abundant birds: American Coot and Canada Goose – no surprise there.

Continued on page 5

Goose Week

by Joe Veverka, Cashmere

Each year from April 15-ish through the 22-ish, 7:30 am to noon, if you listen carefully you may hear the distant honking clamor of geese overhead. "Goose Music" Aldo Leopold called it. If your eyes are keen you will see the noisy ribbons high above. On any given day during goose week, you can see large flocks of Canada, Cackling, Snow, and Greater White-fronted Geese on their annual migration flying north-northwest up the river valleys, high over the foothills, along the eastern slope of the Cascades.

Since moving to the Wenatchee Valley four years ago I make a point of being outside during key hours of goose week. Usually, I am doing yard work and getting the gardens ready - some activity that makes me feel productive while allowing me to listen for geese. April 18, 2018 was one of these days. In a period of less than two hours I counted 1,000 Canada Geese, 225 Snow Geese, 2,000 Greater White-fronted Geese, and 13,000 geese of undetermined species! From my yard, an estimated 16,225 geese in under two hours! Just another great day during "Goose Week"!

Native Plant Appreciation Month Events

by Ann Fink, Wenatchee

April is Native Plant Appreciation Month! Join the Washington Native Plant Society as it celebrates the beauty and importance of our state's native flora and its interrelation to our native pollinators, our wildlife, and ultimately, ourselves. This month's celebration will be virtual and there is a huge line-up of virtual events from chapters around the state as well as a catalog of recorded events from the past year. Visit www.wnps.org/wnps-annual-events/npam to register for upcoming events or go to www.wnps.org/wnps-annual-events/virtual-events to choose from a recorded event.

Be sure to join us for the featured event of the Native Plant Appreciation Month, A Guide to Restoring the Little Things that Run the World on April 10, 2021. Our featured speaker is Dr. Doug Tallamy, a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 104 research publications and has taught insect related courses for 41 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. He has authored several books including *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*, *The Living Landscape*, and *Nature's Best Hope*, published in 2020. This program is a LIVE EVENT and will not be recorded and there will be no other opportunity to view this inspiring presentation, so register now at www.wnps.org/wnps-annual-events/npam.

CBC article, continued from page 4

When faced with an abundance of data about people and their volunteer experience over time, it seems natural to ask "Who has participated the most?" or "Who are the top 20 participants?" The following list shows the names of people followed by the number of times they have participated in a Christmas Bird Count in our area.

Steve Easley (69), Meredith Spencer (56), Richard Hendrick (45), Dan Stephens (42), Harold Stout (34), Michael Schroeder (32), Wayne Doane (31), David St. George (29), Jennie Smith (27), Phil Archibald (25), Sue Hoover (23), Phyllis Madden (22), Howard Oswood (22), John Page (22), Jenny Graevell (21), Wayne Graevell (21), Gail Roberts (21), Will Moonie (20), Teri Pieper (19), Dan Smith (19), Jerry Tangren (19), and Kent Woodruff (19).

A list of total participants in each circle is included in the report mentioned at the beginning of this article. A special shout-out to all the people who have led the CBC efforts over time. Without your diligence to organize and shepherd the results to the National Audubon Society the efforts would be lost. Thank you!

Last, I'd like to encourage everyone to visit the National Audubon Society website for CBC ([link provided earlier](#)) and click on the link to "Join the Christmas Bird Count." Make a family outing of it. What better way to spend time during the holidays if you love birds?

Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest

from Wenatchee River Institute

Come bird with us, discovering the natural beauty and wonders of Central Washington! Celebrate the return of migratory birds in the midst of peak wildflower season. Enjoy the excitement of birding field trips and workshops. Take part in speaker events, music, visual arts, picnics, and activities for all ages and abilities. All of this is happening in beautiful Leavenworth and throughout the Wenatchee Valley. Bird Fest happens in association with World Migratory Bird Day. Bird Fest contributes a list of all birds seen during the festival to ebird, the world's largest biodiversity-related community science project. Leavenworth's Spring Bird Fest will take place May 13 – 16. This year's festival will follow a hybrid event model that will include both virtual events and small, in-person field trips. In-person field trips will include: Owl Prowl, Birding by Pontoon Boat, Birding Cashmere Canyons, and more. Virtual workshops will include: Landscaping for Birds, Owls, Photography, Art, and more. The keynote speaker will be Dennis Paulson, presenting on *The Wonderful Adaptations of Birds*. Event registration will open in early April. All the current event information can be found at www.wenatcheeriverinstitute.org.

John Burroughs: The Birder, the Feud, the Medal

by Susan Sampson, Wenatchee

Among American naturalists like Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), John Muir (1838-1914), and Theodore Roosevelt (1858-to 1919), the name John Burroughs (1837-1921) keeps popping up. They lived in a time of immense interest in natural sciences. In 1871 Burroughs published *Wake Robin* and became a best-selling author.

Wake robin is another name for the trillium flower, but the book is about birds. It reflects Burroughs's acute observations of birds in his home areas, southern New York and Washington, D.C. However, one chapter isn't about birds directly: He and three companions took a camping trip to fish for trout and got lost. Despite being in peril, Burroughs never stopped documenting the birds he saw on that trip. Burroughs's book is no mere journalistic report; it is lyrical to the point of being poetic and a pleasure to read. I can envision a person's reading it aloud to the whole family, although today it would be read with a warning label. He refers to nomadic herders as "savages." He describes seeing a snake swallow a chick, and he tells of shooting birds to identify them, like John James Audubon. Burroughs articulates the reason for his style, "Though written less in the spirit of exact science than with the freedom of love and old acquaintances, yet I have in no instance taken liberties with fact. ...Literature does not grow wild in words. Every artist does something more than copy nature; more comes out in his account than goes into his original experience."

He describes the Field Sparrow as singing "Two or three long, silver notes of peace and rest, ending in some subdued trills and quavers." My copy of *The Sibley Guide to Birds* describes the same sound as "An accelerating series of soft sweet whistles teew teew tewtewtetetitetitititi." Describing a sound in print impossible. At best, the rhythm of a bird's call can be described, like the Olive-sided Flycatcher's call of "Quick, three beers!" However, that doesn't convey tone quality. Burroughs's descriptions are more musical to read aloud than are Sibley's.

Burroughs wrote another 29 books. In 1899, he joined the Harriman Expedition, a railroad magnate's two-month cruise staffed with scientists and artists to explore the coast of Alaska. Burroughs was the expedition's chief writer and wrote most of the first of five volumes that were published about the trip.

By the 1900s, Burroughs was harshly critical of some other nature writers' excessive anthropomorphism, sentimentality, and outright falsehoods. His own works are not pure. He describes some birds as expressing pride, grave silence, or indignation. To him, the movement of Wood Thrush "...picking a worm from the mud, pleases

like a stroke of wit or eloquence." He wrote in the *Atlantic Monthly* about "Real and Sham Natural History," singling out Ernest Thompson Seton and William J. Long for "fantastical" representations of wildlife. They wrote out of an interpretation of *Origin of Species* (1859). Since humans developed, so too could animals have developed enough intelligence to think, learn, reason, and teach. By their theory, an oriole's weaving its sock-shaped nest was not instinctive behavior, it had been taught. Seton argued that his stories of animals were true, just compassionate, and realistic, like the animals in *The Jungle Book* (1894). Andrew Carnegie mediated a truce between the two. Long was a different story; he fought back, asserting that science dealt with "stuffed specimens." He claimed having had seen an oriole "deliberate" construction of its nest then incorporate a thread that it secured by tying a knot. He claimed to know that a bird with a broken leg could cast its leg with clay and straw.

Burroughs asked Theodore Roosevelt to comment; they had camped together in Yellowstone in 1903. Roosevelt denounced "Nature Fakers," calling their supposedly naturalistic stories "the yellow journalism of the woods." The *New York Times* supported Burroughs and Roosevelt in an editorial. Long, in turn, called Roosevelt "A man who takes savage delight in whooping through the woods killing everything in sight." Roosevelt asked whether Long would empty natural history museums. Thereafter, Long wrote under the pseudonym "Peter Rabbit."

Burroughs died in 1921, and the John Burroughs Association was established to preserve his cabin and to award an annual medal for excellence in nature writing. It has been awarded most years since 1926. The foundation also awards a medal for an essay and for a book for young readers. Only two of the awards have been fiction; one was a special award to poet Pattiann Rogers. Some of the award books include Roger Tory Peterson's *Birds Over America*, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* and Bernd Heinrich's *Mind of the Raven*. Ironically, one medal went to Ernest Thompson Seton.

Selected Resources

The University of Washington maintains a digital archive including photographs of the Harriman expedition.

The "nature fakers" dispute is documented in *The Nature Fakers: Wildlife, Science, and Sentimentality* by Ralph H. Lutts, published in 1990 by the University of Virginia Press.

Burroughs cites the written works of John James Audubon, available from the Library of America.

Chelan County Shoreline Management Plan Update

by Jane Zanol and Susan Ballinger, Wenatchee

Chelan County is a beautiful place to live because it has such a variety of landscapes, everything from shrub-steppe to forested mountains. The water that flows from mountain peaks to the arid hills and plains is an important part of the special character of our county. The Columbia, Entiat, and Wenatchee rivers, and their tributaries, bring beauty, sustain fish, wildlife, and human populations, and provide recreation opportunities. Lake Wenatchee and Fish Lake are accessible, special mountain lakes in our county. The combination of public ownership (greater than 50% of each lake's shoreline), established public access sites, and private homes allow people from near and far to enjoy the magnificence of these forested mountain lakes.

In 2018, after years of working on updating the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), Chelan County reduced the protections provided to trees and shrubs along the shorelines across the county, and significantly reduced protections along the shores of Lake Wenatchee and Fish Lake. These protections, that had been in place from 1994-2018, struck a balance and allowed people and wildlife to coexist at the lakes. Many species of birds that the state of Washington designates as Priority Species, such as the Trumpeter Swan, Common Loon, Western Grebe, Great Blue Heron, and Vaux's Swift all regularly live or migrate through Lake Wenatchee and Fish Lake. Cavity-nesting birds such as Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers produce young there. Lake Wenatchee is home to endangered spring chinook, threatened steelhead, threatened bull trout, and, a favorite of local anglers, sockeye salmon. Other wildlife like western toad, river otter, and over 150 total bird species thrive here as well.

Adjacent to Fish Lake, private land borders a special floating bog that enjoys US Forest Service protection as a rare habitat. This bog is the only site east of the Cascades where the native cranberry grows. The 2018 SMP reduced shoreline protections at Fish Lake and challenges the bog, its rare plants, and its wildlife habitat.

There are changes at Lake Wenatchee since Chelan County reduced protections for shoreline trees and shrubs in 2018. New and larger houses have been built, and trees were cut

along a swath of hillside to improve a cabin view. The reason people come to Lake Wenatchee is to enjoy and appreciate its beauty. Part of that natural beauty is the lake, the birds, and the fish that live there. There was a balance of people and nature that may have been taken for granted. The protection of native shoreline trees and shrubs is essential to maintaining that natural beauty and balance because they keep the water cooler, they filter pollutants from roads and lawns, they provide habitat, and their falling leaves provide essential nutrients for the ecological food web that supports fish and wildlife.

Salmon are an icon of the Pacific Northwest, playing an important role in our economy, culture, history, and environment. In the past 20 years, over 55 million taxpayer dollars have been spent protecting and restoring salmon habitat in Chelan County. The 2018 reduction in shoreline protections for trees and shrubs across the county is counterproductive to recovery efforts and jeopardizes the public investment made to date.

As Chelan County Commissioners again work to revise the Shoreline Management Plan in 2021, please think of the valuable, irreplaceable resource we have in our rivers and lakes. Please let our commissioners know you want to protect them - their wildlife, their water, their trees, their native plants along the shoreline. We enjoy them now. Let's also plan to enjoy them for many generations to come.

Please consider contacting the Chelan County Commissioners about restoring the pre-2018 shoreline protections to Lake Wenatchee, Fish Lake, and rivers throughout the county. Written comments can be submitted to <https://chelancountysmp.com/contact-us> or cd.comment@co.chelan.wa.us and must be received by April 17, 2021. Learn more on the NCWAS Webpage at <https://ncwaudubon.org/conservation/>

Jane Zanol and Susan Ballinger are residents of Chelan County who participate monthly in a longterm Forest Service citizen science bird survey at Fish Lake, Lake Wenatchee, and the White River drainage. This eBird data tracks changes in bird populations and migration patterns.



Sanderling
photo by Teri J Pieper, Methow Valley

NCW Audubon Photo Contest

Have you entered the NCW Audubon Society bird photo contest yet? Photos will be accepted up until April 10. The contest is free to enter, and you may submit up to three photos. Photos must be from our four-county region – Chelan, Douglas, Ferry and Okanogan Counties. The NCW Audubon Society adheres to the National Audubon Society's code of ethical bird photography (<https://www.audubon.org/get-outside/audubons-guide-ethical-birdphotography>). Photos of captive birds or birds that have been baited to a photo stage are not allowed. Feeder birds, however, are allowable. For more information, please see our website. <https://ncwaudubon.org/>

April Wild Phlox

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Home Schooling?	Wild Washington Lesson Plans	From WDFW. Reaching 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, and 9th-12th grades. https://wdfw.wa.gov/get-involved/environmental-education-curriculum
Now til April 10	NCW Audubon Society Photo Contest	Get those photos in by April 10. See https://ncwaudubon.org/ for details.
Bird Sightings	Report your sightings and contribute to community-based science	www.wabirder.com/county_yearlist.html or www.ebird.org/home
Where to Go Birding	Socially distanced, of course	www.ncwaudubon.org/BirdingSite/index2.php and www.wabirdguide.org/
April	Native Plant Appreciation Month	Washington Native Plant Society has lots of online opportunities. See page 5 for more information
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/
May 13-16	Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest	Participate virtually and in person. See page 7 for more information.

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

