

The Pygmy Owl



Volume 29
Issue 2
Oct. 2020

The Newsletter of the
Spokane Audubon Society

October 14, 7:00 p.m.

This meeting will again be via Zoom on-line since pandemic-prevention restrictions continue to keep us from meeting in person. To join the Zoom meeting (ID# 813 7299 0199, passcode 561823), link to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372990199?pwd=aDIJTVZ2Ny9CUFFNLUl0IGVUVjJhFpzdz09>.

Featured Presentation: Saltese Flats Wetland Restoration: Restoring a Natural Landscape

Saltese Flats is an area located about 15 miles east of Spokane. Historically a natural shallow lake, about 1000 acres was drained for agricultural use around the turn of the 20th century. In 2003, Spokane County purchased approximately 600 acres of the former lake bed as a potential place to discharge Class A reclaimed water from their new water reclamation facility. Several water control structures were installed in late 2018 to admit local runoff to the Flats while being able to also control the natural water surface elevation. In addition, a habitat management plan has been implemented to control invasive species and enhance wildlife habitat. Moving forward, Saltese Flats will be a natural area meant for potential reclaimed water introduction, wildlife habitat and a place of recreation and enjoyment for all who visit.



**Looking southeast over Graham Pond
by Nicki Feiten**



**Newly constructed elevated trail near Henry Road
by Nicki Feiten**



**Smartweed dominated riparian area
by Nicki Feiten**

Nicki Feiten is a Water Resource Scientist who has spent years training in the field. Her background is in wetland ecology, fisheries management and water quality monitoring. Currently working for Spokane County Environmental Services, she collects field data for multiple ground and surface water projects. Nicki's primary focus is managing the Saltese Flats wetland restoration project. This includes planning multi-year vegetation control and native species re-growth, documenting pre- and post-restoration wildlife habitat, adjusting water control structures and building community partnerships.



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Spokane Audubon Society
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Owl illustrations on pg. 1 and pg. 8 © Jan Reynolds.



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Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge

The gates are open at Turnbull for birding and just walking about in a beautiful setting. The offices are closed but the trails are open. The following information is from The Washington Audubon website.

The 18,217 acres of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge encompass a glacial landscape called the Channeled Scablands. This combines outcrops of basalt rock, prairie, ponderosa pine forest, and more than 130 marshes and lakes totaling more than 3,000 acres of wetlands. Located less than 20 miles southwest of Spokane, Turnbull is home to nesting waterfowl, marsh birds, shorebirds, and an array of songbirds.

Seventeen species of waterfowl nest here, most notably Trumpeter Swan. (Tundra Swan appears in migration.) Nesting ducks include Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, and Ruddy Duck. Others breeding in wetlands include Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, American Bittern, Osprey, Virginia Rail, Sora, Wilson's Snipe, Black Tern, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. American White Pelican is seen on refuge lakes in summer.

Explore grasslands and forest along walking trails or the 5.5-mile auto-tour route for summer sightings of California Quail, Northern Harrier, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Red-naped Sapsucker, Say's Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Pygmy Nuthatch, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, or Black-headed Grosbeak.



Trumpeter Swans
© Carlene Hardt

Rare Birds and eBird

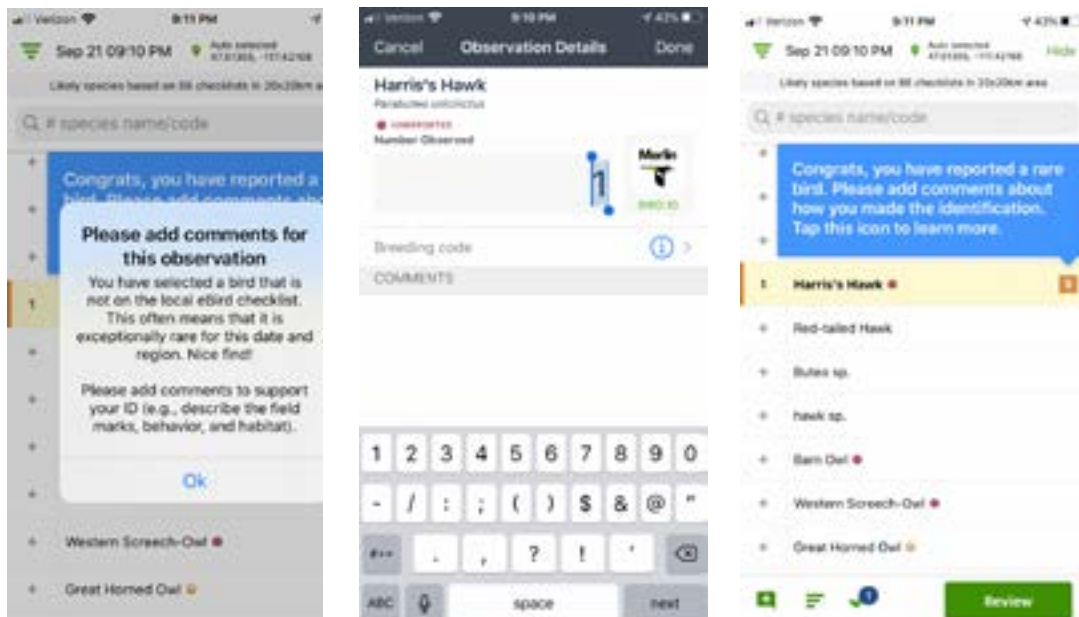
by Alan McCoy

I want to follow up last month's article with a word about eBird, especially for those who are new to it. What I want to discuss is what happens when you submit a checklist that includes a sighting that is deemed a Rare bird. A rare bird is one that is either one rarely seen at that time of year, or in that region. In the mobile app, when you record a bird that is rare, a red dot and a capital R will appear next to the sighting. You will need to provide details to support the observation such as a photo or a recording. Having neither photo or recording, you will need to write a complete description of the bird that includes field marks and vocalizations, as well as detailed comparisons to similar birds that are more common in this area. Good quality photos and recordings offer better support than a written description.

Recently there was a Yellow-throated Vireo reported near Airway Heights. This is only the second time this species has been recorded in all of Washington, so this certainly qualified as a rare bird. In this case, the birder got a definitive photo of the bird so the observation was confirmed even though no one else got to see it (though many tried!). If there had been no photo (or a poor image that was inconclusive), the birder would have had to submit the bird with a written description only. In this case, getting other

birders to corroborate the sighting would have been critical to it being confirmed. So, what happens in this scenario, i.e. when there is scant evidence and no corroboration?

eBird wants the data in the database to be as accurate as possible. Thousands of checklists are submitted to eBird every day. eBird (Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology) could not possibly handle this alone so they enlist volunteer expert birders from all over the world to serve as quality control in each region. Their job is to evaluate submissions of rare birds, and to confirm whether or not a sighting is accepted into the database. If you are in this situation, having submitted a checklist with a rare bird sighting but only a written description, you should expect an email asking you for more information. Several times I have submitted observations of rare birds. After a good back and forth email exchange with the eBird expert, I have inevitably learned more about the species and usually I've concluded that I had the wrong species. To me, this is a win-win; I learned more about that species and the eBird database is accurate. And the really cool thing I have noticed about learning in this way is that I retain the information permanently.



Free-ranging cats are deadly to birds and other wildlife

by Madonna Luers

Americans' most popular pet is also one of the most harmful to backyard wildlife.

Our 84 million or so pet cats, plus perhaps at least that many homeless feral cats, kill billions of birds, small mammals, and other wildlife each year.

Extensive studies of the feeding habits of free-roaming domestic cats have been conducted throughout the world for many decades. They show about 60 percent of the wildlife cats kill are small mammals, about 30 percent are birds, and about 10 percent are amphibians, reptiles and insects.

Some free-roaming cats kill more than 100 animals each year. One well-fed cat that roamed a wildlife experiment station was recorded to have killed more than 1,600 animals over 18 months. Rural cats take more prey than suburban or urban cats. Birds that nest or feed on the ground, such as California quail, are the most susceptible to cat predations, as are nestlings and fledglings of many other species.

Well-fed cats kill birds and other wildlife because the hunting instinct is independent of the urge to eat. In one study, six cats were presented with a live small rat while eating their preferred food. All six cats stopped eating the food, killed the rat, and then resumed eating the food. Well-fed cats become "super predators" of wildlife because they are in such healthy condition.

Other studies have shown that bells on collars are not effective in preventing cats from killing birds or other wildlife. Birds do not necessarily associate the sound of a bell with danger, and cats with bells can learn to silently stalk their prey.

About one-fifth of injured wildlife brought to wildlife rehabilitation centers were harmed by cats, and most of them die. Cats carry many types of bacteria and viruses in their mouths, some of which can be transmitted to their victims. A victim that looks healthy may die from internal hemorrhaging or injury to vital organs.

Keeping your pet cat indoors not only helps the birds in your neighborhood, it's healthier for the cat. The lives of free-ranging pet cats are often cut short by vehicle collision, disease, poisoning, parasites, territorial fighting, and predation by coyotes and other animals. According to the Humane Society,

indoor cats, and those confined or controlled when outdoors, average at least three times the lifespan of free-ranging cats.



Cat owners can provide plenty of stimulation for indoor cats with the use of climbing and scratching posts, poles and other devices, catnip and other grass patches, toys, and time spent with them. Many responsible cat owners have installed outdoor enclosures adjacent to their homes that allow cats to come and go through "cat doors." Some have even trained their cats to walk outdoors on a leash like a pet dog.

More information about keeping cats indoors is available from the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) "Cats Indoors! The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats" at <https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/cats-and-birds/>

This campaign recently announced yet another good reason to keep cats indoors – SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, can infect and be transmitted between domestic cats. Research indicates transmission may occur from humans to cats, but there is no evidence to date of transmission from domestic cats to humans. However, veterinary and public health scientists are recommending that owners keep their cats indoors to prevent cat exposure to the disease and the possibility that a cat may transmit the virus to its owner via its fur (just as may occur from any surface).

If you're not a cat owner but like to help homeless animals, be aware that feral cat colonies are just as deadly on wildlife as domestic pets.

The idea of trapping, neutering, and releasing (“TNR”) and leaving food out for feral cats is misguided. The theory is that TNR programs eventually reduce feral cat colonies, but such claims are not substantiated.

Cats are solitary animals, but groups of feral cats often form around an artificial feeding source, such as garbage dumps or food put out for them by well-meaning but uninformed people. Contrary to TNR proponents, colony cats do not keep other cats from joining. And many individuals become too wary to be caught for neutering/spaying. These populations grow very quickly because it only takes two intact cats to start multiplying, with up to three litters of four to six kittens each year. Feral cat colonies also grow because they often become a dumping ground for other unwanted cats.

These feral cat colonies can have significant impacts on wildlife populations and feeding doesn’t prevent them from following predatory instincts. Feral cat colonies can also cause significant health risks to other cats and humans.

Trying to maintain a feral cat colony often overwhelms the ability of well-meaning people who genuinely want to help animals. But it also undermines efforts by responsible pet owners who keep their cats indoors to help birds and other wildlife.

Olive Opportunity

by Mary Jokela

Consider “*Olives ...and Migrating Birds*” in our June issue. Most olives and extra virgin olive oils are produced in Europe where harvest spans October through January, often at night, including horrifying migrant bird destruction! Millions of sleeping birds—warblers, thrushes, wagtails, finches, robins and likely even endangered species—sucked from their roosts during migration. And the dead birds end up for human consumption in local rural hotels.

Want to make a positive difference? Buying produce and other foods locally helps sustain our home region and the planet we share with others, birds and creatures huge and miniscule. But if local opportunity doesn’t fit with, say, olives and olive oils, buy those produced in the USA, usually California, not night-harvested by vacuuming machines. Stop eating European night-harvested olives.

Stop using oils or olives blended with European. We’ll pay a few dollars more than European. But brands like Pearl (Musco Family Olives), Cobram Estates, California Olive Ranch, Napa Valley (Rich and Robust label), Santa Barbara Olive Company—often available at Rosauer’s, Yokes and Costco—indicate on their respective labels “California” and/or“USA”.

Read labels and support robust bird populations!

Membership Report

by Alan McCoy

Update of Members’ Status

August 20 through September 19, 2020:

Welcome and thanks to our **new members**:

Family: Russell Spivey, Georgina De La Garza

Supporting: Pam Gallaher

Many thanks to our **returning members**:

Individual: Pam Wolfrum, Nita Hamilton, Mary Jokela

Family: Mike & Eileen McFadden, Buck & Sandy Domitrovich, Patricia & Gerald Johnson, Harold & Karen Cottet, James & Mary Prudente

Supporting: Edward Gibb & Family, Brenda Klohe, David Goss

You can help us reduce our costs and energy use and save paper by switching to our electronic publication. Please send your email address to me, Alan McCoy at ahm2352@gmail.com and I will make sure you get the Pygmy Owl in your email inbox. Another way to get the Pygmy Owl is to go to our website: <https://www.audubonspokane.org/the-pygmy-owl>.

Field Notes

Bird Sightings for the Inland Northwest, compiled by Jon Isacoff

Smoke Season came on us with a vengeance, putting a temporary damper on our ability to see the lovely birds. But fortunately the worst seems past and we're back in business. A number of neat birds have been seen in our region, including a very rare YELLOW-THROATED VIREO in Airway Heights, just the second record for Washington State. The peak of migration has also seen a nice share of rare shorebirds including a bonanza around Potholes Reservoir. Also pleasing many observers has been a recent push of White-throated Sparrows throughout the region. Especially rare sightings are listed in all caps:

Long-tailed Duck: Kettle Falls (9/2-RoB)

Anna's Hummingbird: Moscow (9/15-NP)

Clark's Grebe: Liberty Lake (9/10-TO)

American Golden-Plover: Saltese Wetlands (9/9-TO)

CURLEW SANDPIPER: Potholes Reservoir (8/31-MY)

RUFF: Potholes Reservoir (8/21-MY)

Short-billed Dowitcher: Potholes Reservoir (8/21-MY); Saltese Wetlands (8/22-JI)

RED PHALAROPE: Philleo Lake (9/7-JE)

Sabine's Gull: Heyburn SP (9/12-KD); Sprague (9/19-JE)

Franklin's Gull: Sprague (8/22-TL); Sandpoint (9/5-TL)

ARCTIC TERN: Potholes Reservoir (9/20-MY)

PARASITIC JAEGER: Potholes Reservoir (9/20-MY)

Broad-winged Hawk: Saddle Pass (9/6-JI); St. Joe Baldy (9/18-NP); Moscow (9/20-NP)

Lewis's Woodpecker: Pullman (9/10-JW)

Blue Jay: University of Idaho (9/18-eBird); Harrison (9/18-eBird); Bonner's Ferry (CP and LP)

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: Airway Heights (9/6-JP)

Pine Grosbeak: Mt. Spokane SP (9/3-JI)

White-winged Crossbill: Mt. Spokane SP (9/15-MW)

White-throated Sparrow: Spokane (9/3-JI); University of Idaho (9/7-CL); Lyons Ferry Park (9/7-eBird); Calispell Lake (9/9-TL); Pack River (9/16-FF); Potlatch (9/18-CH); Washtucna (9/19-RB); Palouse Falls SP (9/19-eBird)

Golden-crowned Sparrow: Sprague (9/6-eBird); Davenport (9/15-MW); University of Idaho (9/18-CL); Lyons Ferry Park (9/19-RB)

Black-throated Gray Warbler: Grant (8/19-MY)

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: Washtucna (9/15-BF)



Yellow-throated Vireo

© Adam Caparelli

Observers: RB-R.J. Baltierra; RoB-Robert Bond; BB-Ben Bright; WB-Will Brooks; MaC-Marlene Cashen; SC-Stacy Crist; WC-Warren Current; RDC-Rich Del Carlo; KD-Kas Dumroese; KiD-Kirsten Dahl; SE-Shannon Ehlers; JoE-Johnna Eilers; JE-Jacob Elonen; BF-Bob Flores; FF-Fred Forssell; MF-Marian Frobe; LH-Lindell Haggin; CH-Cameron Heusser; JI-Jon Isacoff; SJ-Steve Joyce; BK-Bob Kemp; DK-David Kreft; GL-Greg Lambeth; TLa-Terry Lane; TL-Terry Little; CoL-Courtney Litwin; CL-Carl Lundblad; CM-Curtis Mahon; AM-Alan McCoy; JM-Jennifer Michaels; NM-Nancy Miller; SM-Stuart Muller; TO-Tim O'Brien; PO-Peter Olsoy; JP-Jim Patten; CP-Chris Pease; NP-Neil Paprocki; MR-Mary Rump; JR-Jethro Runco; MS-Mike Scott; SS-Sandy Schreven; KS-Katie Sorenson; CS-Charles Swift; ST-Susan Treu; DW-Doug Ward; JW-John Wolff; MW-Michael Woodruff; DY-David Yake; MY-Matt Yawney

Fran Haywood

by Madonna Luers

Fran Haywood, who has been with Spokane Audubon Society for at least 40 years, says she would have been part of the chapter even longer if she had found it sooner.

Back then, she says, it wasn't a locally well-known group. But with her lifelong interest in birds, she heard about a February field trip to look for snowy owls and decided to participate since her husband Brad was off hunting. At the field trip meeting spot she asked if she could carpool with someone and ended up in the middle of a pick-up truck seat between Don Carroll and Bart Whelton – two "characters," she recalls, but also superb birders.

They drove west of Spokane towards Davenport and she added rough-legged hawk and northern shrike to her life list before Don slammed on the brakes and said "Snowy owl!" Neither she nor Bart could see anything on the snowy landscape. Bart told her "He's just showing off, he doesn't see anything." But Don drove determinedly cross-country, set up his scope, and produced a good look at Fran's first snowy owl.

"I learned that Don had a reputation for ending every field trip in a tavern to celebrate a day of birding with beers," Fran recalls. "So I ended up with those two and four other guys at a bar and buying a pitcher for the table with the money I had intended



Fran at Turnbull NWR
© Sandy Rancourt

to give Don for gas. What an introduction to the Spokane Audubon Society!" Fran Richards was born in 1941 at Ft. Lewis, Washington where her father in the U.S. Army had been transferred from Spokane. The second of 10 children, Fran was a baby when the family returned to Spokane. As a five-year-old she remembers moving to a 9-acre property off Thorp Road near Geiger Field they called "the ranch."

"I remember taking the family dog to wander that countryside where I loved finding birds and wildflowers," she said. "I was interested at that early age in finding out what they were."

At 16, Fran met Brad Haywood when he was dating her cousin who broke up with him because he wasn't Catholic. She married him in 1959, a few months before turning 18.

Fran worked as a manager for W.T. Grant department stores and later at Silver Lanes Bowling Alley where she organized the leagues they played in. Brad worked at Kaiser Mead, then spent 40 years at United Paint & Coating, retiring as vice-president in charge of production.



Fran and Brad birding

Brad, who died last November, was "an amazing, wonderful man with a great sense of humor," Fran says. They shared a love of the outdoors, especially birdwatching and fishing. They also shared three children -- a daughter whom they lost to breast cancer when she was just 51, and two sons who live in New Hampshire and New York City – and four grandchildren and two great granddaughters. Two weeks after Brad died, Fran lost a brother, and earlier this year she lost another brother.

Birds, and her long memories of birding trips and activities, help her deal with those losses.

In their Spokane Audubon early days, she and Brad both dove into the many needed tasks and "odds and ends errands," like picking up hundreds of printed newsletters and mailing labels, conducting folding parties, answering the chapter phone line, conducting bird counts at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, and whatever else needed doing. When field trip chairman Brian Miller had to step down due to illness, Fran and Tom Rogers stepped in to coordinate field trips for at least six years. She and Brad both served on the board for many years, and Fran

(cont on page 8)

led the chapter as president for two terms, including work with the state office and annual conferences. She had a few personal causes during her tenure, including "harassing" public land managers to cover outhouse vents with mesh screens to keep birds from flying in and being trapped, and installing J-shaped PVC pipes for fishing line disposal on shorelines to keep birds from entanglement. She and Brad volunteered in Washington's first Sagebrush Songbird Survey in the Tri-Cities area.

She learned a lot about birds from fellow members, including her husband. She recalls that Brad would winter fish on the Spokane River near Ft. Spokane, and in his travel loop to that area one winter he saw eight snowy owls. When member Marian Frobe heard that, she was skeptical, so Fran took her along Brad's route to find them. "The trick that Brad passed along was that wherever you saw gray partridge, there would be no owls because the partridge would hide when owls were present," she said. "Marian and I found all eight snowy owls."

When the Haywoods retired from working, they sold their Spokane home and traveled full-time in a fifth-wheeler with a goal to bird, fish and participate in VolksWalks (non-competitive fitness walking) in all 50 states. Fran recalls marking state travel maps in three colors – one for birding hotspots,



Fran and Brad in Hawaii

one for scheduled 10-K VolksWalks, and one for their Passport America club discounted sites for parking their home-on-wheels. Wherever the three intersected the closest, they traveled. Across 49 states they saw hundreds of bird species and put around 10,000 miles under their feet.

They spent their 50th anniversary volkswalking in Hawaii, and had planned

to volkswalk in Alaska during a cruise port stop but Fran's sciatica nixed that one.

They've birded in Connecticut near Roger Tory Peterson's hometown, in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeast Arizona, in South Dakota's Blackhills and Custer State Park, in Central Park with a New York City actress and birder named Star Sapphire, and in Florida's Everglades with its species seen nowhere

else in the country. Fran has even birded in Japan when she flew there to meet her grandson born to her daughter and son-in-law stationed there during their military service.

But Fran's favorite birding memories are from Texas, a place she says all devoted birders must visit because of the mix of eastern and western species in migration, the variety of residents in the variety of Texan habitats, and the Mexican birds. She and Brad spent five winters and a month during Spring migration in the Texas Gulf Coast area where he also did a lot of fishing. Fran recalls that other fishermen used to tease Brad about being a birdwatcher until they encountered a rainbow of birds that he identified for them – crimson-collared grosbeaks, blue buntings, white-throated thrushes, golden-capped warblers, blue mockingbirds, pyrrhuloxias, hook-billed kites, and more.

"Every direction you go in Texas you find different birds every day," she said, from frigatebirds chasing ferries for handouts, to Wilson's and Piping plovers and other shorebirds walking with people on beaches, to Colima warblers in Big Bend National Park. Texas invented the Great Birding Trail map idea that the Haywoods brought home and encouraged adoption of in Washington.

High Island, which is actually a peninsula in Galveston County with four Houston Audubon sanctuaries, is a destination for birders from all over the world during spring migration, Fran says. Scarlet tanagers, yellow-billed cuckoos, painted buntings and many other colorful species are common. She once saw rose-breasted, black-headed and crimson-collared grosbeaks all in one tree there. Songbirds migrating non-stop for over 15 hours across the Gulf of Mexico can "drop in" or "fall out" at High Island for a break, especially with headwinds or a storm; Fran recalls seeing 29 species of warblers in one hour in such a situation. One of her most memorable moments on High Island was almost tripping over another birder on his hands and knees on a boardwalk, spellbound by an ovenbird that he described to her as "strutting and prancing"; the zealous birder turned out to be world-renowned birding tour founder Victor Emanuel.

Fran says if she had to choose a favorite bird it might be the scissor-tailed flycatcher or swallow-tailed kite, "although really my favorite is what I'm looking at in the moment."

Her tip for new birdwatchers who want to learn birds is to connect with a Spokane Audubon field trip, or if traveling, to look up a local chapter to join a trip.

Her biggest concern for the future of birds and birding is loss of habitat, which is exacerbated by climate change. “We should fight to save everything we can,” she said. “The late and long-time Spokane Audubon member Dr. Dick Rivers said you can fight for 50 years to save something like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but if you lose one battle you can lose it forever.”

Fran’s also concerned about teaching the next generation to appreciate the outdoors and wildlife. “If they don’t love it,” she said, “they won’t save it.”

As Fran gets her sciatica under control with regular exercise, she hopes to get back to volunteering on chapter projects like education outreach at Turnbull. With her deep experience, we hope she does!



Fran leading a youth group at Turnbull NWR
© Sandy Rancourt

Sandhill Cranes Fall Migration

by **Madonna Luers**

Sandhill crane watching in central Washington is usually thought of as a spring activity, but the big birds make stopovers at this time of year, too. On their way south in the fall, thousands of sandhill cranes are scattered throughout the Columbia Basin from mid-September to mid-October. It’s a shorter, less concentrated stay than their two-to-three-month stopover in Spring when they’re on their way to breeding grounds in southern Alaska. But there’s still opportunity now to catch sight of these large, long-legged birds with wing-spans of more than six feet.

An estimated 25,000 sandhill cranes migrate through Eastern Washington, and they’re amazing to both watch and hear, as they communicate to each other with high-volume calls. The best areas for viewing are near Othello, Washington.



Courtesy The Nature Conservancy

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps Good from July 1 to June 30 each year.



After all the wildfires across the west and with the recently reported deaths of migrating song birds falling out of the sky, why wait? Conservation stamps are more important than ever. Now is the time to help.

Why Do Duck Stamps Matter?

Produced annually since 1934 by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Duck Stamps are vital tools for wetland conservation. Ninety-eight cents of every dollar generated by the sale of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly to buy or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Besides serving as a waterfowl hunting license and a conservation tool, a current year's Federal Duck Stamp also serves as an entrance pass (for the whole year) for national wildlife refuges where admission is charged.

Our Pricing:

Each stamp is \$25. The online fee covers our cost of providing them on our website. Normally, the stamps are also available at our meetings but, of course, our meetings are temporarily on hold due to concerns over Covid-19. To avoid the online fee, it may be possible to purchase a stamp by arrangement. Please contact us at info@audubonspokane.org.

# Stamps	Online Fee	Total
1	\$2.25	\$27.24
2	\$2.50	\$52.50
3	\$2.75	\$77.75
4	\$3.00	\$103.00
5	\$3.25	\$128.25

Pygmy Owl Contributions

Spokane Audubon Society members who want to contribute to the Pygmy Owl newsletter can submit articles on, and photos of, birds and bird conservation issues to info@spokaneaudubon.org for publishing consideration.

The newsletter deadline is the 20th of the month for the next month's edition.



Canyon Wren
© Lindell Haggin

2020 Field Trips at a Glance

Due to the pandemic, organized field trips are on hold until further notice



California Quail
© Alan McCoy

Spokane Audubon Society Membership Form

Annual Membership:

Student (under 21): \$10 per year _____

Individual: \$20 per year _____

Family: \$30 per year _____

Supporting: \$50 per year _____

Contributing: \$100 per year _____

Lifetime: \$500 _____

Other: _____

Annual memberships provide ongoing support for our many conservation and educational activities.

Joining

Renewing

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



Please make check payable to: Spokane Audubon Society

Send this form and your check to:
Audubon Membership
Attn: Alan McCoy
615 W Paradise Rd
Spokane WA 99224

Join us, or renew your membership, online at our website:

<https://www.audubonspokane.org>.

Click "Support Us" or "Join Us" We accept PayPal, credit/debit cards or Apple Pay.

Receiving duplicate newsletters? Errors or other changes needed on your mailing label? Contact Alan McCoy: ahm2352@gmail.com



The Pygmy Owl
Spokane Audubon Society
P.O. Box 9820
Spokane, WA 99209-9820

October 2020

To:

*The Spokane Audubon Society advocates
for birds and their habitats in the Inland Northwest
and connects people with nature.*

Visit our website: <https://audubonspokane.org>

At this time we are not offering any field trips. Our hope is that by early spring 2021 we can resume a full schedule of field trips.

We always encourage and enjoy carpooling on birding field trips to save fuel, lower our carbon footprint, and share sighting information more easily.

But with the current need for “social distancing” to help minimize the spread of coronavirus, we need to shift gears. Please consider the following on your next birding field trip:

- Carpool only with people you live with or at least feel comfortable and confident with in the close quarters of a motor vehicle.
- Don’t share binoculars, scopes, cameras, or mobile units with birding apps; if you need or want to share, clean equipment with disinfecting wipes between users.

- Maintain the Centers for Disease Control and other public health official “social distancing” guidelines of staying at least six feet away from each other when you reach a birding site where you leave your vehicles.

These steps may seem extreme, but they are simply part of our collective, responsible pre-emptive action to slow the spread and impacts of this virus and disease. We’d all rather be safe than sorry. Happy birding!