

The Pygmy Owl



Volume 29
Issue 7
Mar. 2021

The Newsletter of the
Spokane Audubon Society

March 10, 7:00 p.m.

This meeting again will be via Zoom on-line since pandemic-prevention restrictions continue to keep us from meeting in person. To join the Zoom meeting (ID: 848 6457 1862, Passcode: 666469), link to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84864571862?pwd=cWs1Q0pKd1V5T2U1K3J3K1NRUnVTZz09>

Hawkwatching in Texas

by RJ Baltierra



Unbaited Sharp-shinned Hawk (selfie)

In this presentation I will share my experiences during one Fall in Corpus Christi at the most diverse and numerous hawkwatch in the country!

HawkWatch Corpus Christi

Prior to 1997, local volunteers, working under the auspices of the Hawk Migration Association of North America, routinely had conducted limited counts of the fall raptor migration through the "Coastal Bend" area of Texas and knew that the flight there was significant. In 1997, encouraged by local enthusiasts, HawkWatch International stepped in and initiated full-season, standardized counts at Hazel Bazemore County Park, which sits at a horseshoe bend on the southern bank of the Nueces River, about 17 miles west of Corpus Christi, near the town of Calallen. The 1997 count recorded more than 841,000 migrants, which immediately ranked this flight as the largest ever recorded in the United States and Canada! The next year,

the count rose to an even higher total of 992,950 migrants and included 28 species, one of the most diverse assemblages ever recorded at a North American migration site! Then in 2004, the count exceeded 1 million migrants, which is the first time any site-specific count in North America outside of Mexico reached that milestone



My name is RJ Baltierra. I am currently a field biologist working various bird-related field jobs across the country. I have been birding since I was about 8 years old, when my grandma began taking me on Audubon field trips in Oceanside, California.

In 2015, I landed my first bird-related job doing point count surveys in the backcountry of Idaho. I did that for four summers, including 2018, which is when I graduated from Washington State University with a B.S. in Zoology. That summer I also landed a volunteer

hawk counter position at the Corpus Christi Hawkwatch along the coastal bend of Texas.



The Pygmy Owl

Volume 29 Issue 7 Mar. 2021

The Pygmy Owl, the newsletter of the Spokane Audubon Society, is published monthly, September through June.

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

Owl illustrations on pg. 1, 11 and 12 © Jan Reynolds.



Officers

President

Alan McCoy

Vice President

Lisa Langelier

Treasurer

Lindell Haggin

Secretary

Madonna Luers

Elected Board of Directors

Bob Cashen
Marlene Cashen
Gary Lee
Jenny Michaels

Committee Chairs

Field Trips

Alan McCoy

Programs

Gary Lee

Education

Joyce Alonso
Lindell Haggin

Conservation

Greg Gordon

Hospitality

Jan Strobeck

Membership

Alan McCoy

Publicity

Madonna Luers

Pygmy Owl

Joanne Powell

Volunteer Coordinator

Website

Jenny Michaels

Membership Report

by Alan McCoy

Update of Members' Status January 23, 2021 through February 20, 2021:

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

Student: Rebecca Strauch

Individual: Richard Waldt

Family: Alice Moravec, Carole Asche, Chris Loggers & Kathy Ahlenslager, Sharol Sanders, Stephanie Zurenko, Sheryl Nice-Smith, Pamela Smith

Supporting:

Michael & Simone McKay

Many thanks to our **returning members**:

Individual: Susan Millies, Norma Trefry, Mary Marsh, Chris Flanagan, David Smith

Family: Michael & Crystal Atamian, Bill McMillan, Lea Galland & Dean Chapman, Rich & Sharon Leon, Megan & John Bastow, Richard & Sandy Sollie, Charlene & Jerry Michael, Sallye & Tom Prenger, Betty Hubbard

Supporting:

Bill & M'Lou Safranek, Ladd Bjorneby, Jim Acton

Contributing: Doris & Rodney Butler,

If you change your email address, please send your new 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>

Spring birding festivals have gone “virtual”

by Madonna Luers

With state restrictions and federal recommendations to prevent the spread of the coronavirus pandemic still in place, most spring birding festivals have gone “virtual”. That means that large-group bus field tours, presentations, and other in-person group activities are off; but on-line activities via the Internet and social media are on.

For example, one of our closest and most popular events – the annual mid-March Othello Sandhill Crane Festival in the Columbia Basin – has videos, photo contests, and other activities underway at <https://www.facebook.com/Othello-Sandhill-Crane-Festival-204363422909694> .

Of course, the 35,000-some sandhill cranes that make migration stopovers in the Columbia Basin at

Birding Festival in western Washington’s Blaine, Semiahmoo, Birch Bay area will have live webinars, video bird walks and kids’ activities on-line March 19-21. The Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival, April 24-30 at Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge near Hoquiam, WA, will also have on-line activities in place of in-person events.

You can find the links to these and many other upcoming birding events in the Pacific Northwest at <https://www.audubonspokane.org/birding-festivals>. If you plan to travel to other parts of the country for unique spring migration birding and similar festivals, check those event websites for updates on likely shifts to virtual activities.



this time on their way to breeding grounds in Alaska, are still there and available for individual birder viewing. But when you make your trip to see them, be prepared to use face masks, social distancing, and personal hygiene practices if you stop at local businesses.

One way that you can support the future of the Othello Festival, which is coordinated by the Grant County Conservation District, with contributions from volunteers, local business sponsors, and wild-life and agriculture experts, is by purchasing a festival t-shirt through the link above.

Other popular festivals a little further afield have also gone virtual. The Wings Over Water Northwest



Cranes in flight by Leonard James

Field Notes

Bird Sightings for the Inland Northwest, compiled by Jon Isacoff

A relatively mild, brown winter was just interrupted as I write this by 4 inches of new snow. That followed 4 days of minus zero wind chills. Well, so much for consistency! As is often the case, the winter has been a little boring, though two extremely rare birds, a BRANT and COMMON GRACKLE graced the region. These, along with the ongoing Blue Jay irruption and an in-progress Cassin's Finch irruption, have been a welcome delight for many birders. From now till later March/early April, not much exciting may happen except the hordes of ducks and geese that will start pouring into the region in March. It will be interesting to see if there are sufficient "puddles" for the puddle ducks to use as they stop in our region on the way to breeding grounds further North.

BRANT: Nine Mile Falls (1/30-TL)

Snow Goose: Syringa (2/3-NP); Spokane Valley (2/8-MC)

Long-tailed Duck: Lake Pend Oreille (2/5-TL)

Red-breasted Merganser: Sandpoint (1/29-TL); Coeur D'Alene (2/12-RC)

Anna's Hummingbird: Spokane Valley (2/11-MC)

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Heyburn State Park (2/7-JI); Coeur D'Alene (2/14-RC)

Pacific Loon: Lake Pend Oreille (1/31-eBird); Liberty Lake (1/23-JI and MS)

Northern Goshawk: Medimont (2/2-eBird)

Blue Jay: University of Idaho (1/23-KD); St. John (1/30-RB); Sandpoint (2/3-RC); Spokane Valley (2/9-MC); Bonner's Ferry (2/12-JR); Pullman (2/14-eBird); Kettle Falls (2/14-DB)

Pine Grosbeak: Mt. Spokane State Park (1/21-TL); Moscow (1/24-CS); Elmira (1/30-eBird); Viola (2/4-eBird)

White-winged Crossbill: Boulder Creek (1/22-TL); Sandpoint (2/1-FF); Elmira (2/3-eBird); Mt. Spokane SP (MW-2/7)

Lesser Goldfinch: Latah (1/22-MC)

White-throated Sparrow: Northport (2/2-eBird)

COMMON GRACKLE: University of Idaho (1/20-CL)



Common Grackle
© Suzette Labbé

Observers: RB-R.J. Baltierra; DB-Donna Bragg; BB-Ben Bright; MaC-Marlene Cashen; RC-River Corcoran; 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; CG-Cierra Gove; LH-Lindell Haggin; JH-John Hanna; JI-Jon Isacoff; LJ-Louise Johnson; 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; BM-Ben Meredyk; NM-Nancy Miller; RM-Roy Meyers; RuM-Russ Morgan; TO-Tim O'Brien; PO-Peter Olsoy; JP-Jim Patten; CP-Chris Pease; NP-Neil Paprocki; JR-Jethro Runco; PS-Pall Sieracki; SS-Sandy Schreven; MS-Mark Selle; DS-Doug Shoenwald; KS-Katie Sorenson; AS-Adam Stepniewski; CS-Charles Swift; DW-Doug Ward; SW-Steven Warren; JW-John Wolff; MW-Michael Woodruff; MY-Matt Yawney

Member Profile:

Jim Acton

by Madonna Luers

Jim Acton's enthusiasm for birds goes back to kindergarten days when he remembers trying unsuccessfully to form a bird out of clay. "I was always inquisitive about the sights and sounds of birds," he says.



By the time he was ten, he was delivering the Spokane Chronicle newspaper on a bicycle route that took him along Latah Creek where he could hear and see all kinds of birds. That made for many "work delays," he recalls; but the job earned him money to purchase his first bird identification guide, "Birds of America," with color plates by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. From there it's been "onward" in a life of birding that has included some state record species documentations and support for bird habitat acquisitions.

James Acton was born in 1935 in Fargo, North Dakota. The Dust Bowl and Great Depression moved his family west to Spokane in 1937. He graduated from Gonzaga High School (now known as Gonzaga Prep) in 1954.

He took a job with Great Northern Railroad as a "gandy dancer", a section hand who maintained the railroad tracks between Monroe Street in Spokane and Fairchild Air Force Base. It was another job that had him outdoors, mostly on the West Plains, where he could hear and see birds. He joined the Washington Air Guard and became a fulltime technician, working on aircraft logistical maintenance support

throughout the Northwest for 34 years, retiring in 1989, just as the work shifted to KC-135 tanker refueling at Fairchild.

Since 1951, Jim had been involved with the Spokane Bird Club, headed up by Warren A. Hall, a biology teacher at Lewis and Clark High School. Jim became the group's field trip chairman in 1963. Warren and Jim found the state's first record of a Barred Owl in the Blueslide area north of Cusick in Pend Oreille County in 1965. They and others helped form the Spokane chapter of the Audubon Society in 1969. Jim found the state's first record of a Broad-winged Hawk in the Indian Canyon area of Spokane on Sept. 11, 1970. He's been doing Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Bird Counts, and other field work for the chapter ever since.

Jim's impeccable record-keeping on bird sightings made him a natural charter member of the Washington Ornithological Society (WOS) when it formed in 1988. His species records at the spring migration stopover at Reardan Audubon Lake in Lincoln County – including photographing the state record of an elusive Piping Plover discovered there by another birder in 1990 – helped document it as an Audubon Important Bird Area and part of the Northeast Washington Birding Trail. Jim's data helped support the 2006 acquisition by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (via a Spokane Audubon and Inland Northwest Land Conservancy temporary holding purchase) of the 277-acre Reardan's Audubon Lake Wildlife Area (now with an additional 150 acres since a 2018 acquisition.) His late, long-time birding partner Warren Hall is memorialized in a plaque at the area's southside viewing blind.

Jim has many memorable birding experiences in his travels throughout Eastern Washington. On Sept. 15, 1992, while watching two sanderlings on the east beach of Soap Lake in Grant County, he recalls the relative quiet "shattered by the bugle calls" of a flock of about 30 high-flying, south-bound Sandhill Cranes. That group was followed by another and

another, and after two hours of scoping the airway above the Lower Grand Coulee, he estimated that over 13,000 cranes were moving out of Douglas County, passing directly over Soap Lake at multiple altitudes, going to Oregon. After his sighting report appeared in WOS News, Jim received a letter from Gordon H. Orians of the University of Washington Department of Zoology in Seattle, who had been traveling with his family in Alaska, between Fairbanks and Anchorage on the Richardson Highway, on Sept. 12, when they witnessed thousands of cranes moving south. "Professor Orians thought they were the same cranes I saw three days later at Soap Lake," Jim recalls. "If true, there was probably a time record of travel there."

On Jan. 22, 2004, Jim and another birder witnessed an estimated 15,000 Snow Buntings and Horned Larks crossing back and forth like a swirling snowstorm over Coffeepot Lake Road in Lincoln County. On Nov. 22, 1962, he watched at least 1,500 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches "leap-frogging as they do" down a fence line along Road L-NE, east of Banks Lake in Grant County. On June 30, 1973, while he and Warren Hall were conducting the Keller Breeding Bird Survey along Ninemile Road at a point where they could see the Columbia River, they could hear a Common Loon singing in the distance; that, he recalls, was memorable enough, but then more than 30 Black Swifts winging up from the river passed within just feet of them.

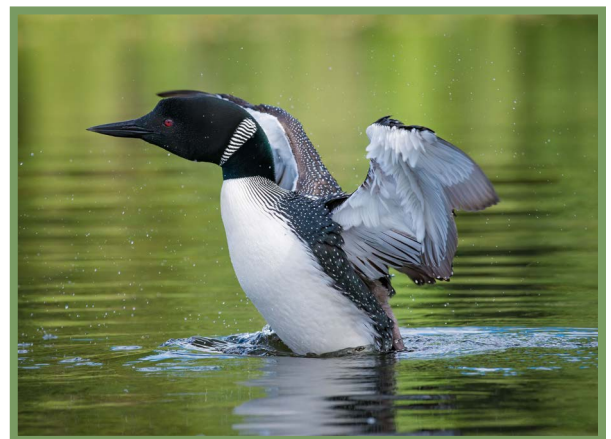
Among Jim's favorite birds are Sandhill Cranes and Common Loons because of their distinctive calls that can be heard over a mile away. He also loves the Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees that almost have become tame pets at his Spokane home where they'll land on his hat when he comes out to fill bird feeders. "The Mountain Chickadees know instantly when I am offering crunchy peanut butter and they want it NOW!" he says.

His greatest concern for the future of birds and birding is human encroachment on habitat. His own family's first home in Spokane was displaced by the building of Interstate 90 and Hwy. 195. "People will build anything everywhere," he says. "Sagebrush is burned to plant fruit trees. The West Plains are wall-to-wall storage facilities. I tell my retired farmer

friend in Davenport that the sprawl from Spokane is coming his way. And that's just us. Look what's happening around the world, from California to Brazil."

Jim notices that birds he used to see regularly he no longer does, partly from that habitat loss, but also because of competition by non-native species, including House Sparrows, European Starlings, and now Eurasian Collared Doves. He remembers photographing Lewis' Woodpeckers at High Bridge Park, but hasn't seen any there for quite a while. Violet-green Swallows used to be common nesters near his home, but now he doesn't even see them. He vividly recalls a House Sparrow throwing a Western Bluebird chick out of one of his nest boxes.

But, like most avid birders, Jim is always hopeful for more bird encounters. His tip for new birdwatchers is to listen for and work to memorize songs and call notes, since so many birds are more often heard than seen.



Common Loon
© Joanie Christian



Mountain Chickadee
© Laure Wilson Neish

2022 Spokane Audubon Calendar Photograph Contest Guidelines

Submission Period: April 15 – May 15, 2021

Submit photos to: sauduboncalendar@gmail.com

Requirements

- All photographs must be submitted by a Spokane Audubon Society member in good standing (i.e., a current member).
- A maximum of four photographs may be submitted per person.
- Photographs must be submitted electronically via email to sauduboncalendar@gmail.com.
- Each photograph must be submitted in jpeg format, be in landscape orientation with dimensions of 9.25" wide by 6.75" high, have a resolution of at least 300 pixels per inch, and be no larger than 10MB in size.
- Submitted photographs shall not have the © symbol with the photographer's name or other inserted script.
- For images selected for the calendar, the photographer maintains copyright and agrees to provide perpetual use of the photograph(s) to Spokane Audubon Society for the calendar and other promotional and educational purposes.
- All photos must be of wild birds and must be taken in Eastern Washington or Northern Idaho. Please include the species name(s) and location where each photograph was taken.

Call for Entries

Photographers may submit entries starting Monday, April 15th. The deadline is Friday, May 15th; no entries will be accepted after that date.

Judging and Selection

- Selection will be made by a panel of three to five impartial judges, at least one of whom is a Spokane Audubon Society board member. At least some panel members will have moderately advanced bird identification skills and experience with bird photography.
- Photographers who submit entries will not be judges.
- The bird in a natural setting must be the focus of the photograph. Preference is given to interesting behaviors, unusual or hard-to-see species, and eye-catching compositions. Habitat and artificial features should not overpower nor draw attention away from the bird(s).
- Judging criteria are photo composition, technical excellence, artistic merit, and overall impact. Normal processing is allowed, but over-processed or altered photos will be rejected.
- Submissions must comply with the specified size requirements.
- Following selection, all entrants will be notified of the decisions.

Publication

Each photograph will be published with the common name of the bird species and © with the name of the photographer.

Special Note: Photographers whose images are selected for the calendar may need to provide a TIFF version of the photograph for printing purposes.

Spokane Audubon Society Constitution and Bylaws Review

The Board of Directors of Spokane Audubon Society has undertaken a review of our Constitution and Bylaws, and we are requesting that all current members vote on proposed changes. Most of these changes were motivated to improve clarity and to better reflect how we are conducting (and would like to conduct) business electronically.

You should have already received an email about how to vote. If you haven't, please contact us at "spokaneaudubon@gmail.com". You can review the proposed changes online at the following link:

<https://www.audubonspokane.org/constitution-and-bylaws>

As per the current Bylaws, any changes have to be approved by a majority of members present in person or by proxy at a regular or special meeting for which members have been notified that such a vote will take place. There is no provision in the current Bylaws regarding email votes, nor is there anything that prohibits such a vote. Thus we are calling a Special Meeting that consists of votes being cast via email or other written communication. Your email or written vote is considered to be a proxy vote, and the number of members present is the number of members who submit a vote.

If you have questions, please ask them by sending an email to "spokaneaudubon@gmail.com" prior to March 21, 2021. Questions and answers will be posted on the website at the above link.

We (the board) strongly encourage you to vote, as it will facilitate our smooth running as an organization.

Seeking Members Interested in Serving on the Spokane Audubon Society Board of Directors.

Our annual meeting, as outlined in the Spokane Audubon Society bylaws, is in May. In addition to our monthly program, we will vote for our board of directors and officers. Directors and officers serve a two-year term. During the election we will select people to serve in the following officer roles: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, as well as up to five additional persons to serve as board members. If you are interested or know someone you would like to recommend for a board position, please contact the Nominating Committee (Lisa Langelier, Madonna Luers, or Jenny Michaels) by March 20, 2021, via email at Spokaneaudubon@gmail.com. Your involvement supports our mission to advocate for birds and their habitats in the Inland Northwest and connect people with nature. The April newsletter will include a preliminary slate of officers and board members submitted by the nominating committee.



Clean out those nest boxes

by Madonna Luers

If you haven't done so already, clean out your bird nest boxes this month to welcome newly returning birds looking for a home.

Cavity-nesting birds – including bluebirds, chickadees, nuthatches, swallows and wrens – instinctually build their own nest with their choice of materials. Some will remove old nesting material before doing so. But many will build on top of the old material, which raises the nest dangerously close to the box entrance hole where predators are more likely to reach young.

Leaving old, dirty nesting material in nest boxes also risks spreading disease or parasites. Old egg shells, infertile eggs, dead nestlings, soiled nesting material, and insects – mites, lice, fleas, flies, wasps, hornets, etc. – can harm young birds.

When cleaning out the old nest material, spread it away from the nest box so that it doesn't create a smell, which will attract predators. Your inspection may reveal the need to tighten screws, loosen lag bolts, unblock drainage holes, and make other repairs.

If you find a nest box not used at all last season, consider moving it to a better location for the species you are trying to attract. Perhaps it's too near human or pet traffic, too close to another nest box that was used, or maybe even the wrong size (including entrance hole) for the cavity-nesting birds in your area. Learn more about nest box dimensions, locations, and other details at <https://www.audubonspokane.org/bird-houses>.



RAPTORS

by David Ringer

What do you think when you hear the word raptor? Those of us from generation Jurassic Park can't help but think of the terrifying dinosaurs nicknamed "raptors," horribly Hollywoodified versions of Velociraptor, that were, as it turns out, way too naked. Yes, Velociraptor had feathers, and arguably, it and the other dromaeosaurs could even be called birds; but given what we know right now, that's just a matter of taste; and I doubt that it suits most people's. Feathers run much deeper in the dinosaur tree than anyone had imagined; but oh my, look at the time! I've already spent far too long on a subject I didn't intend to touch at all.

The modern, living birds called raptors are generally (but not always) predators with hooked bills for tearing flesh and strong, piercing talons for grabbing and holding prey. Hawks, eagles, vultures, kites, ospreys, falcons, and owls are all among the birds sometimes considered raptors, or birds of prey, raptor coming from the Latin verb rapere, to grab, to seize, to carry away, which entered English many times over the centuries, also giving us rapid, rapt, rape, rapacious, rapture, ravenous, ravish, and raven, as in ravening wolves, not the bird. Raven as a bird's name is of ancient Germanic origin, quite unrelated to the other word. And there I go again.

Early taxonomists grouped diurnal birds of prey and owls because of certain similarities, and in the early 1800s, these groupings were called variously Raptatores, Raptores, and Rapaces. Owls have long since been removed by most scientists, their similarities attributed to convergence.

The order Falconiformes, containing all diurnal birds of prey, enjoyed broad recognition through much of the 20th century; and though true ornithological consensus was never reached, the idea that all diurnal raptors are related, and therefore that raptor, excluding the owls, is a taxonomically meaningful term, became fixed in many people's minds. (Sibley and Ahlquist have an interesting review of the historical classifications.)

Sibley and Ahlquist shattered that fantasy in 1990, asserting that "New World" vultures were very likely stork relatives and belonged in Ciconiiformes, not Falconiformes. Most people still haven't recovered.

But we're way past that stork-vulture thing now, folks, and new generations of genetic studies are leading to hypotheses that are perhaps even more counterintuitive, and more wonderful.

First, "New World" vultures and condors are not stork relatives. (I keep putting New World in scare quotes because fossil evidence indicates that they once ranged widely in the Old World too.) Their relationships are still not entirely clear, but it's likely that they are sister to a major clade of hawks, eagles, and other diurnal raptors (more on that in a minute). This relationship is distant and tenuous enough that the American Ornithologists' Union South American Checklist Committee prefers to place them in their own order, Cathartiformes, a position also adopted by the IOC, but not by the AOU's North American Checklist Committee.

Much work remains to be done, but for now, it appears that our old conception of "raptors" is gone. The word can and will still refer to birds with certain adaptations for hunting and carnivory, but we can

The new order Accipitriformes contains two oddball members, the Secretarybird and the Osprey, and a group of more than 200 hawks, buzzards, eagles, kites, harriers, goshawks, and the "Old World" vultures. It's a fantastic group of birds, from familiar, rodent-loving buteos to songbird-sized insect-eaters, enormous bone-smashers, tool-users, and even a flexitarian or two. John Boyd has a great rundown on what we know about systematics of the Accipitriformes.

no longer lump them all together as close relatives. Pressed for analogy by a birding friend, I said, hawks are to falcons as cats are to bats. I'm sure there are flaws in the analogy (that's why we have a comments section!), but the point, I think, is made.

But the distance between two such similar-seeming groups is only half of the story. Consider this: That robin eyeing you from the garden is a raptor without talons. Beware. Beware.

David J. Ringer is exploring the world one bird at a time. His fascination with birds and nature began at the age of four or five, and he now works full time in conservation. He is a writer and communicator whose day jobs have taken him to six continents and more than 25 countries, including Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Kenya, and Cameroon. Follow him on Twitter at @RealDJRinger.



Secretarybird (*Sagittarius serpentarius*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), White-bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*) © David J. Ringer

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.

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



Drawing courtesy Dreamstime

Spokane Audubon Society Membership Form

Annual Membership and Donation:

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.

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 to your email address?

Contact Alan McCoy at ahm2352@gmail.com or (509) 999-9512.



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

March 2021

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 Fall 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. We’d all rather be safe than sorry. Happy birding!