

The Pygmy Owl

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The Newsletter of the
Spokane Audubon Society



Birding Columbia

with Kim Thorburn and Lindell Haggin

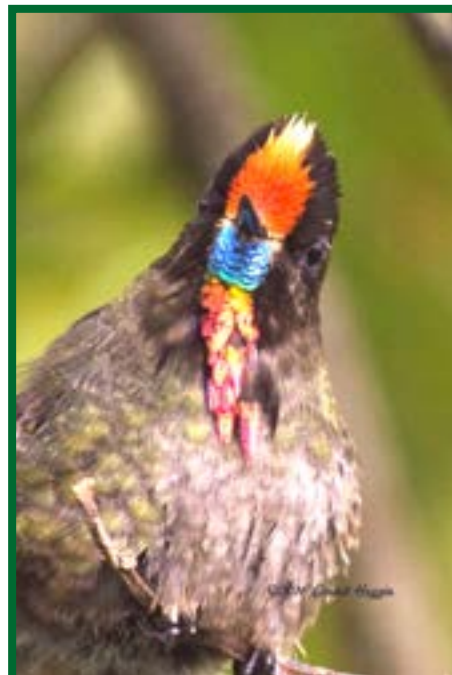
Kim Thorburn and Lindell Haggin spent two weeks in Colombia birding with the man who wrote the book on it, Pablo Flores. They saw hummingbirds at 14,000 feet, Aplomado Falcons and Oilbirds at 1400 feet and everything in between. Even in July near the equator, down coats felt comfy. The variety of habitats and elevations yielded a huge variety of birds and vegetation. Come explore Colombia and enjoy the beauty. (All photos by Lindell Haggin.)

Chestnut Antpitta



Columbia Countryside

Rainbow-bearded Thornbill



Passion Flower

The Pygmy Owl

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Owl illustrations on pg. 1 and pg. 8 © Jan Reynolds.



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Rainbow-bearded Thornbill



Rainbow-bearded Thornbill

photo by Kim Thorburn

Like other thornbills, the Rainbow-bearded Thornbill has an extremely short bill for its size. These thornbills are best identified by the large white splotches at the tip of the outer tail feathers, their rufous crowns, and their overall large size. The throats of males also glitter with color in good lighting. Rainbow-bearded Thornbills typically forage individually and generally cling to flowers when extracting nectar. They also hunt for insects and when foraging on the ground, they flick insects into the air and catch them in their mouths or fly at their prey with bills opened. These hummers inhabit shrubby páramo, stunted woodlands, and rocky slopes below the actual páramo.

Citation

Schulenberg, Thomas S., and Carolyn W. Sedgwick. 2013. Rainbow-bearded Thornbill (*Chalcostigma herrani*), Neotropical Birds Online (T. S. Schulenberg, Editor). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; retrieved from Neotropical Birds Online.

Spokane Audubon's next meeting will be:
Wednesday, May 11th at 7:30 p.m.
Social Hour 7:00

Deadline for June P.O. submissions
is May 19th.

Field Notes

Bird Sightings for the Inland Northwest, compiled by Jon Isacoff

Spring is finally here, slightly late by recent standards. As this is written, the first wave of migrants is coming in. Look for Ruby-crowned Kinglets, White-crowned Sparrows, and Yellow-rumped Warblers anywhere and everywhere. With careful scrutiny you might find a more interesting companion traveling with them. Within 1-2 weeks millions of songbird and shorebird migrants will pass through the Inland Northwest. Be sure to go out and see some of them! Recent notable sightings are below:

Snow Goose: Moscow (3/3-BB); Pullman (3/10-TB); Sandpoint (3/27-RDC); Ewan (4/2-JI); Colville (4/12-WC); Reardan (4/13-CM); Sandpoint (4/13-ShS); Sprague (4/-14-TL)

Greater White-fronted Goose: Saltese (3/22-TO)

Trumpeter Swan: Ewan (3/5-RB); Jared Marsh (3/23-TL); Davenport (3/25-MC); Valley (4/8-LC); Reardan (4/18-JI)

Ferruginous Hawk: Ewan (4/8-RB); Sprague (4/-TL)

Sandhill Crane: Rock Lake (3/5-RB)

BAND-TAILED PIGEON: Moscow (4/20-KD); Kettle Falls (4/22-DK)

Snowy Owl: Davenport (3/10-MC)

Barred Owl: Newman Lake (4/11-TL)

Peregrine Falcon: Sandpoint (3/27-RDC); Rock Lake (4/16-SG)

Loggerhead Shrike: Moscow (3/12-JA)

Blue Jay: Hayden (3/30-DW)

BLACK-CAPPED X MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE HYBRID:
Hole-in-the-Ground (4/2-JI)

Bohemian Waxwing (unusual in April): Moscow (4/10-CS)

Sagebrush Sparrow; Swanson Lakes (3/31-KT)

Common Redpoll: Sandpoint (3/23-CE)

Observers: JA-Jesse Amesbury; DB-Don Baker; MB-Missy Baker; RB-R.J. Baltierra; MaB-Matt Bartels; TB-Tom Besser; DB-Donna Bragg; BB-Ben Bright; MaC-Marlene Cashen; MC-Mike Clarke; LC-Lee Crawford; WC-Warren Current; RDC-Rich Del Carlo; KD-Kas Dumroese; MD-Mike Dunn; CE-Charlotte Eberlein; MF-Marian Frobe; SG-Stan Gough; LH-Lindell Haggin; JH-John Hanna; LH-Lisa Hardy; FH-Fran Haywood; BH-Bettie Hoff; RH-Ray Hoff; DH-Dave Holick; MH-Michael Hobbs; JI-Jon Isacoff; SJ-Steve Joyce; BK-Bob Kemp; RK-Russ Koppendrayer; DK-Dave Kreft; JL-Joshua Little; TL-Terry Little; CoL-Courtney Litwin; CL-Carl Lundblad; CM-Curtis Mahon; AM-Alan McCoy; EM-El-iot Miller; NM-Nancy Miller; RM-Roy Myers; TO-Tim O'Brien; JP-Jonathan Pafford; ER-Eric Rasmussen; JR-Jan Reynolds; JR-Jethro Runco; ShS-Shane Sater; SS-Sandy Schreven; SS-Shirley Sturts; CS-Charles Swift; KT-Kim Thorburn; NT-Norma Trefry; DW-Doug Ward; RW-Roger Wing; TW-Tina Wynnecoop; MY-Matt Yawney; WY-Will Young



Barred Owl
photo by Sandra Rothenberg

FFF Festival

Turnbull NWR/Cheney MayFest

May 13, 2017

Floods

Flowers

Feathers

Turnbull NWR Activities

- Auto Tour Bike Ride
- Bird & Wildflower Walks
- Bird Banding Demonstration
- Can You Find That Bird? Scavenger Hunt
- EWU - Mosquito/tick activity
- Fire Fighting Demonstration
- Ice Age Flood Institute Geology Tour
- Live Raptors
- Photography Walk
- Pond Life
- Refuge History and Management Tour

*All activities are free but some require reservations.
Details/Times: www.fws.gov/refuge/turnbull.*

**Help us celebrate!
Turnbull's 80th Anniversary**

MayFest Activities-Cheney

Booths and Displays:

- CWMA - Weed Management
- Ducks Unlimited
- EWU - synammcut Residence
- EWU Biology Dept.
- Friends of Turnbull
- Ice Age Floods Institute, Cheney-Spokane Chapter
- Inland Northwest Wildlife Council
- Spokane Clean Air
- Turnbull NWR Animal Tracks
- West Plains Beekeepers
- ...and many more!

“WORDS ABOUT BIRDS”

Come Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day

Saturday May 13, 2017, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Auntie’s Bookstore, 402 W. Main, Spokane, WA.

Two authors known for their love of nature debut their spirited program “Words about Birds” at Auntie’s Bookstore, Saturday, May 13, 2017. The tandem reading will celebrate birds as well as International Migratory Bird Day’s 2017 theme: “Helping Birds Along the Way.” At 2:00 p.m., falconers with live birds and presenters from Spokane Audubon Society and West Valley Outdoor Learning Center will open the event. At 3:30 p.m. the reading begins.

Biologist/essayist Lisa Langelier will read from *The Wild Eye: Field Notes from a Wildlife Refuge* (2016). A former wildlife refuge manager at Little Pend Oreille and Turnbull Refuges in eastern Washington, Langelier has chronicled the natural world for 35+ years. She was a columnist for the *North Columbia Monthly* for five years. Langelier resides on the West Plains, near Cheney.

Poet Laurie Klein will read from her collection *Where the Sky Opens* (2016). A Thomas Merton Prize recipient, Klein lives in Deer Park. Her work has been aired on NPR and appears in numerous journals and anthologies, including *River of Earth and Sky: Poems for the Twenty-first Century*, *All We Can Hold*, and *Washington 129*. Klein is an award-winning audio book reader.

The Pygmy Owl Goes Digital

Joyce Alonso

"The times...they are a'changin..." and so are organizations, their members and their ways of doing things. Spokane Audubon Society is no exception.

Our chapter's long-standing practice of compiling and mailing out a monthly newsletter appears about to change...for several reasons. Your volunteer governing board wants everyone to be informed about the issues that have contributed to this situation.

1) Cost is a factor. Printing, postage, and mailing permit amount to about \$190 per month for two hundred fifty 8-page newsletters;

2) Increasing use of technology provides an alternate way of communicating. We have a functioning website, for which we also pay fees. We need to make more use of it;

3) By converting to a digital format, we would be saving trees by using less paper and members would be able to appreciate the talents of our photographers in marvelous color.

Joanne Powell, who served as our editor years ago, kindly agreed to put the news into form for 2016-17, and is willing to continue to produce a digital edition as long as she is sent sufficient material in a timely manner;

Meanwhile, we need to provide for the changes that will be forthcoming. It is imperative that our Pygmy Owl recipients (this means you!) communicate with us in the next few weeks so that we can keep you up to date with both the changes in the newsletter and the activities which our chapter continues to offer to its members and the public.

Please send one or the other of the following messages to: Dave Plemons (Membership) at davep_nublado@me.com and Joanne Powell jopowell39@aol.com. (Your comments also will be taken into consideration as we move through this transition).

I wish to receive my Pygmy Owl newsletter in digital form. My e-mail address is:

or

I still want my newsletter in print form sent to my current address. (If you do not have internet capabilities, please call Joyce Alonso at (509) 939-0120 to communicate your preference). _____

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

To find details go to

(www.spokaneaudubon.org)

May 8, 10, 12: Mon-Wed-Fri evenings.
Bird Identification Workshops
and May 13, 2017, Saturday. Bird ID Field Trip
Leaders Gary Blevin and Kim Thorburn

Contact Gary Blevins (863-2659 or blevins@spocom.com) by May 3 to reserve your place for the workshop.

Lost Range Finder



If you lost a range finder at the Davenport Cemetery 2-3 weeks ago please call Tom Munson at 509-534-8040 with its description.

2018 Spokane Audubon Calendar Photograph Contest Guidelines

Submission Period: May 1 – May 31, 2017

Beginning May 1st submit photos to:

sauduboncalendar@gmail.com



Northern Pygmy Owl, from the 2015
Tom Munson photographer



Black-necked Stilts, from the 2016 calendar
Bea Harrison photographer

Eligibility Requirements

- Spokane Audubon Society member in good standing.
- Submit electronically up to three 9.25" wide by 6.75" height photographs. The photographs shall not have the © symbol with the photographers name or other inserted script.
- Submissions should be 96 ppi. Those selected will need to resubmit (on CD) at 300ppi.
- If the photographer has photograph(s) selected, she/he 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.
- Photos must be of birds which can be found in Eastern Washington but the photo does not have to have been taken in Eastern Washington.

Call for entries

- Photographers may submit entries starting Monday, May 1st. The deadline is Wednesday May 31st.
- No entries will be accepted after May 31st.
- Unselected photographs from previous years will not be automatically submitted for future year's calendars. The photographer may resubmit photos not previously selected.

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 or committee chair. It is preferred that some panel members have moderately advanced bird identification skills and experience with bird photography.
- Photographers who submit entries cannot be judges.
- The bird must be the focus of the photograph. Preference is given to unusual species and hard-to-see species or behaviors.
- Judging criteria are photo composition and quality.
- Submissions must comply with size requirements.
- The panel will select 14 photographs for each calendar month and additional photographs which may be used in smaller form on the pages.
- Following selection, 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.
- Please include the location where the photograph was taken.

On The Web

(www.spokaneaudubon.org)

Welcome to the 4th in this series highlighting our website. As I said last month one of our primary goals with our website is to provide information that is specific to our area. With this in mind I just found out about an Audubon project that you might find useful in your efforts to make your yard more attractive and helpful to wildlife of all kinds. Go to <http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>. This web page was created by Audubon to assist anyone who wants to make their corner of the land more friendly to birds and other critters. At the core of this effort is a database of native plants. When you are on the Plants for Birds webpage there is a button that looks like this:



When you click this button it will take you to another page (<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>). Once on this page you simply input your email address and zipcode. In a few moments you can view a list of the best plants for birds in your area. In addition they provide some local resources and additional information such as where you can purchase native plants in your area. Creating great bird habitat in your own yard is Green Birding at its best.

Happy Birding!
Alan McCoy
ahm2352@gmail.com

Spokane Audubon Society Membership Form

- Local Membership Dues:
- Individual: \$20/year _____
- Couple & Family: \$25/year _____
- Student: \$10/year _____
- Lifetime: \$300 _____
- National Membership Dues: \$35/year _____
- Individual + National Dues: \$55/year _____
- Couple + National Dues: \$60/year _____

Your local membership provides you with *The Pygmy Owl* and supports your local chapter's many conservation and education activities. You will also be eligible for website privileges.

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: Dave Plemons
1224 W. Riverside #1101
Spokane, WA 99201

Current members may renew memberships from our web site::

<http://spokaneaudubon.org>

Receiving duplicate newsletters? Errors or other changes needed on your mailing label? Contact Dave Plemons at davep_nublado@me.com, or 413-1524.



The Pygmy Owl
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To:

May 2017

The Spokane Audubon Society provides resources and services to educate people about birds, wildlife, and the importance of habitats, and to advocate and support public policies and actions that conserve and restore wildlife habitats.

Visit our website: <http://spokaneaudubon.org>

From Division Street go about 12 blocks East on Mission Ave. Just before the bridge over the Spokane River (by Avista), turn left (East) on Upriver Drive. Go 3 long blocks and turn left (North) on Crestline Street. Go one block. Turn right onto E. North Crescent Ave. Proceed a short way and take a left into the second of the driveways to the Community Building. The Community Building is straight ahead at the end. There are about 15 spaces to the left of the building and about 8 to the right. If these are full, you may have to park on E. North Crescent Ave



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