

The Pygmy Owl

Volume 26
Issue 52
Oct., 2017

The Newsletter of the
Spokane Audubon Society



The Art of Taxidermy

For the past several years Spokane Audubon has worked on creating a collection of taxidermied specimens of a variety of local birds, ranging from a Calliope Hummingbird to a Snowy Owl. These mounts formally belong to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, which has issued us a permit to allow scientific collection for education and public display. In that capacity, the birds have been shown locally everywhere from a Spokane Symphony concert to the Manito Garden Club sales, with most frequent use being at local schools from kindergarten through high school. When not in use, the mounts are on display in the science building at Spokane Falls Community College.

As our program presenter this month, we are pleased to feature the talented artist, Lanica Hodge, who has transformed window strikes and transportation collision casualties into specimens that, placed in appropriate habitat, almost seem alive.

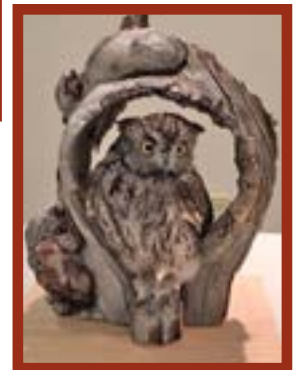
Lanica, of Hodge's Taxidermy, intended to become a veterinarian and began by studying zoology at Washington State University. However, while participating in her husband's favorite avocation, hunting, she became fascinated by the art of creating, from an inert pile of feathers, a bird that visually represents its species for the public. She began by studying everything she could find on the methods of taxidermy. As part of her education she became a volunteer for research specimens at the Conner Museum at WSU. Later she took a formal course in Montana under a licensed taxidermist there. Following certification, she opened her studio near her home in Hawk Creek canyon in 2007.

On our meeting night Lanica will explain and demonstrate for us some of the procedures used

to create her mounts. The finished products...from tiny warblers to large owls...will testify to her artistic talent as well as skill at her craft. As I often say to questioning students, "When a bird and a truck collide, which one loses?" "The bird!, they answer... but not really. Instead of rotting in a roadside ditch, this bird will live in the hearts and minds of all the people who have never seen a Killdeer or a Pygmy Owl up close and personal.



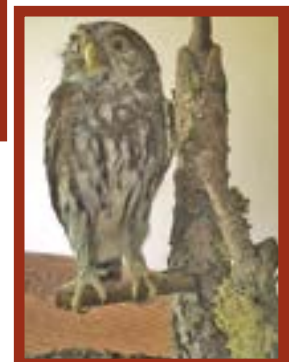
Yellow Warbler



W. Screech Owl



Little Blue Heron



N. Pygmy Owl

Photographs by Joyce Alonso

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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 and pg. 8 © Jan Reynolds.



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Tom Light tlight3@gmail.com

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Committee Chairs

Field Trips

Alan McCoy spokaneaudubon.org

Programs

Gary Lee bird_fan@aol.com

Education

Joyce Alonso jbalonso3@msn.com
Lindell Haggin lindell4118@comcast.net

Conservation

Greg Gordon fightingbull63@gmail.com

Hospitality

Jan Strobeck jandeeperpark@aol.com

Membership

Dave Plemons davep_nublado@me.com

Publicity

Kim Thorburn kthorburn@msn.com

Pygmy Owl

Joanne Powell jopowell39@aol.com

Volunteer Coordinator

Joyce Alonso jbalonso3@msn.com

Website

Alan McCoy spokaneaudubon.org

Membership Report

by Dave Plemons

Members' Nesting through Sept 16th:

A big welcome to our new nesters:

Cindy Bunnell; Maria Caprile & Family; Karen Nielsen; Theresa O'Brien; & Debbie Stempf.

Many thanks to our returning nesters:

Carl & Lynn Baum; Ladd Bjorneby; Barbara Carden; Harold & Karen Cottet; Buck & Sandy Domitrovich; David & Gail Duba; Brent & Vicki Egesdal; Sally English; Robert & Teri Farr; Russell & Marion Frobe; Jennine Harris; Patricia & Gerald Johnson; Mary Jokela; Cheryle Jones-Johnson; Steve Joyce & Family; Barbara Lindsey; Bud & Roxanne McCormack; Mike & Eileen McFadden; Brian & Beth Miller; Dave Plemons; Mary Jean Porter; James & Mary Prudente; Theresa Puthoff & Larry Deaver; Jan & Ed Reynolds; Jean Stewart; Sarah & Timothy Whitfield; Pam Wolfrum; & Mary Zarembo

Many nesters chose to not receive a hard copy of the Pygmy Owl. If you could help us reduce costs and save paper & energy by switching to our electronic full color publication, please contact me. You already have access on the Spokane Audubon WebSite under the tab: Members Only. To receive a personal PDF copy for your own file we will need your Email address. Mine is davep_acer@msn.com.

Spokane Audubon's next meeting will be:
Wednesday, October 11th at 7:30 p.m.
Social get-together at 7:00

The Pygmy Owl deadline:
October 23, 2017

Field Notes

Bird Sightings for the Inland Northwest, compiled by Jon Isacoff

This report covers the peak of migration and it has generally been pretty darn good. Waterbirds and shorebirds have made a great showing. Songbird migration seems slower than in recent years with speculation that perhaps smoke is the culprit. Nonetheless, our local area birders have still turned up some fantastic sightings! The weather has already turned and in just a few weeks our first early winter arrivals may start showing up. Especially rare sightings are in bold/caps:

BRANT: Sandpoint (9/8-CL)

Greater White-fronted Goose: Philleo Lake (9/17-JI)

Great Egret: Rock Lake (8/27-RB); Sprague (8/28-NT); Mill Canyon (9/5-JI); Chewelah (9/7-CG); Kilarney Marsh (9/13-DO)

Northern Goshawk: Mt. Spokane (8/31-TL); Sandpoint (9/2-RDC); Albion Hill (9/15-TL and JP)

Sandhill Crane: West Side Road (9/8-CL)

American Golden Plover: Texas Lake (9/9-PA)

Semipalmated Plover: Swanson lakes (9/1 and 9/5-JI); Potholes Reservoir (9/20-MY)

RUDDY TURNSTONE: (1st Whitman Co. Record): Texas Lake (9/9-PA)

Sanderling: Philleo Lake (9/9-JI)

Short-billed Dowitcher: Swanson Lakes (9/5-JI)

Franklin's Gull: Kellogg (8/31-PZ); Potholes Reservoir (9/8-MY); Sandpoint (9/9-CL); Sprague (9/9-PA)

Sabine's Gull: Sandpoint (9/16-TL); Soap Lake (9/19-MY)

Anna's Hummingbird: Moscow (9/3-CS); Moscow Mountain (9/4-KD); Lenville (9/16 to 9/18-SC)

American Three-toed Woodpecker: Bunchgrass Meadows (9/5-TL and JP)

Black-backed Woodpecker: Little Pend Oreille NWR (8-MM)

Gray Flycatcher: Moscow (9/16-CL)

Boreal Chickadee: Bunchgrass Meadows (9/5-TL and JP); Saddle Pass (9/9-CL)

BLACKPOLL WARLBER: Moscow (9/4-CL)

White-throated Sparrow: Big Meadow Lake (9/12-FH); Pullman (9/14-RB); Moscow (9/14 to 9/16-CL)

Golden-crowned Sparrow: Davenport Cemetery (9/13-JI); Kamiak Butte (9/15-RB)

Pine Grosbeak: Albion Hill (9/15-TL and JP)



Ruddy Turnstone
Audubon

Observers: PA-Palouse Audubon; 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; SC-Stacy Crist; WC-Warren Current; RDC-Rich Del Carlo; KD-Kas Dumroese; RD-Roger Doucet; MF-Marian Frobe; CG-Cheryl Griffith; 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-Marcus Hooker; JI-Jon Isacoff; SJ-Steve Joyce; BK-Bob Kemp; RK-Russ Koppendrayner; JL-Joshua Little; TL-Terry Little; CoL-Courtney Litwin; CL-Carl Lundblad; CM-Curtis Mahon; AM-Alan McCoy; EM-El-iot Miller; MaM-Matthew Moskwik; MM-Mike Muntz; DO-Deb Opsal; JP-Jonathan Pafford; ER-Eric Rasmussen; JR-Jan Reynolds; JR-Jethro Runco; ShS-Shane Sater; SS-Sandy Schreven; CS-Charles Swift; KT-Kim Thorburn; NT-Norma Trefry; DW-Doug Ward; TW-Tina Wynnecoop; MY-Matt Yawney; WY-Will Young; PZ-Percy Zalasky

Financial Report

by Lindell Haggin

Below are the annual income/expense categories for Spokane Audubon from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

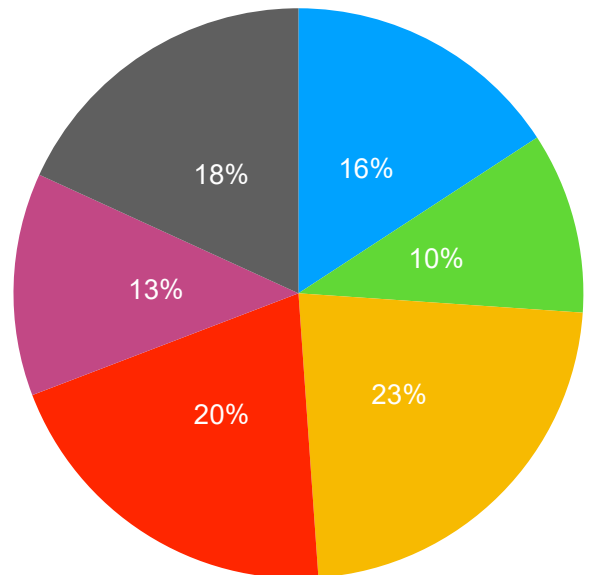
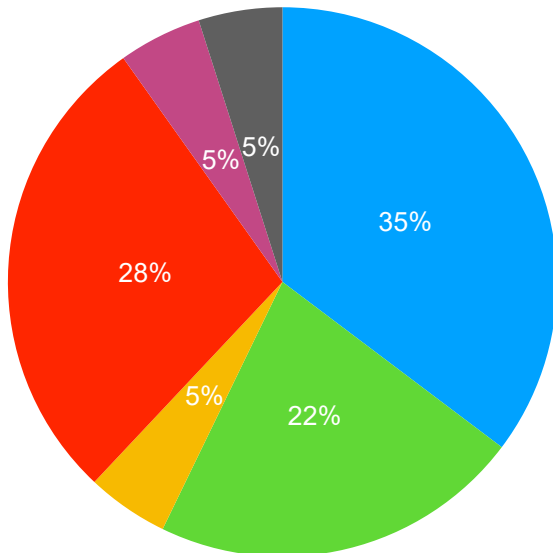
Income

Membership	\$3,510.00
Membership support	\$2,180.00
Donations	\$480.00
Sales	\$2,801.00
Fundraising	\$488.00
Grouse Fund	\$491.00
Total	\$9950.00

Expenses

Adminstration	\$1556.00
Education	\$1013.00
Supplies	\$2246.00
State support	\$2000.00
Taxidermy	\$1245.00
Newsletter	\$1790.00
Total	\$9850.00

- Membership
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- Sales
- Fundraising
- Grouse Fund
- State support
- Taxidermy
- Newsletter



Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week



*with a Community Work Day
at Turnbull National
Wildlife Refuge!*



Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Spokane Audubon Society and Friends of Turnbull will host a community work party on Saturday, October 14, 2017. This is part of an ongoing community effort to restore native riparian habitat to benefit birds and other wildlife species. We have hundreds of native saplings to plant and fencing to erect to protect the trees from deer, elk and moose browsing.

Attention Groups: Please **call in advance to register**. It helps us in our planning if we know how many are coming. The Refuge will also host a “potluck” lunch. Please feel free to bring your favorite dish. Ask for Sandy (6509) 235-423 ext. 228.

Planting Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

When: Saturday, October 14, 2017

Lunch: Potluck, 12 p.m. (Friends of Turnbull will supply the hamburgers).

Where: Turnbull NWR Headquarters, 5 miles south of Cheney on Cheney-Plaza Road. Turn left on Smith Road drive 2 miles on gravel road to Headquarters.

Clothing: Long-sleeved shirt, work pants, gloves, sturdy boots or shoes.

Equipment: (If you can) shovels and pliers.

Rain or Shine 

Everyone is Welcome



Christmas Bird Count



Need an excuse to get out of the house? “I can’t clean the house that day, honey, I have to go count birds.” Or, “You’ll have to do your own laundry next Saturday, dear, I’m going birding!” Now you have a unique exit strategy from the mundane tedium you’ve been dreading. Join us on this year’s Christmas Bird Count and enjoy your feathered friends with others who share your passion! You don’t have to be an expert to participate. Although it is a dawn to dusk affair, you don’t even have to stay the whole day – part-timers are welcome too.

Spokane’s Christmas Bird Count will take place on Saturday December 30th, 2017. We have 10 to 12 teams of counters and can always use more help. You can even register online when the count opens for registration. Please call Alan McCoy at 448-3123 or email him at ahm2352@gmail.com to join the count or if you have any questions about it. Can’t make it on that date or can’t get enough of the outdoors? There are other Christmas counts in our region too. Find out about them by pointing your browser to the Washington Ornithological Society at www.wos.org. Another way to participate that is very important and that you can do at home is to count the birds at your feeder! But in order to be eligible for this, your home must be located within the Count Circle. Contact Alan McCoy with your address and he can let you know if your home is eligible.



Spokane Audubon Field Trips 2018 Planning Meeting

Each autumn we hold a meeting with the leaders who volunteer to lead our field trips to look at our offerings and plan out the field trips for the next year. We are interested in your thoughts and comments about the trips we offered in 2017 as well as your ideas for trips you would like to see in 2018.

Most of our trips are focused on Eastern Washington of course, but we also go farther afield. We had good participation in the 2 trips that I went on and that is what we want. We are also looking for folks willing to lead trips. Please send your comments and ideas to Alan McCoy at ahm2352@gmail.com. Or you can call him at 509-448-3123. Our meeting will be sometime in October or November, so please contact us as soon as you have time to gather your thoughts.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology Project FeederWatch

Dear Friend of the Lab,

Thank you for your support of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Don't forget, the FeederWatch season is around the corner. If you love watching backyard birds, Project FeederWatch helps you learn more about them and turns your observations into scientific discoveries

What is Project FeederWatch?

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders. You simply identify and count the birds outside your window. You can count every week between November and April, or you can count once all season—the time you spend is up to you. Using our easy online data entry, you can see all of your counts and view colorful tables, graphs, and summaries.

Who can participate?

Anyone interested in birds can participate; you don't have to be an expert. If you attract birds to your yard with food or habitat, then you just need a window to watch and an interest in who shows up. We will send you all that you need to get started identifying the visitors.

New participants will receive:

- FeederWatch Handbook & Instructions
- Full-color poster of common feeder birds
- Bird-Watching Days Calendar
- Our annual report, Winter Bird Highlights
- Digital access to Living Bird magazine
- This September only: Hummingbirds poster!

Why participate?

You will learn about your backyard birds and contribute to a 30-year-and-running dataset of bird population changes. With FeederWatch, you become a scientist in your own backyard. Explore the millions of FeederWatch sightings on our website and make your own discoveries.

Sign up now for \$18 (\$15 for current Lab Members) Your participation fee keeps the project running; without it, Project FeederWatch wouldn't be possible.

We hope to hear about the birds at your feeders!

Sincerely,

Emma Greig
Project Leader
Project FeederWatch

Upcoming Field Trips

October 21, 2017, Saturday Grant County Late Fall Migrant Trip Leader: Gary Blevins

This is a beginning, intermediate and advanced birder-oriented trip to look for specialty birds, such as Arctic Gulls, Lapland Longspurs, and other hard to find and see northern visitors. There may be some down time with little action in between bird sightings but potential for rarities is high. It is a full-day trip from sunrise to sunset. Contact Gary Blevins (863-2659 or blevins@spocom.com) by October 16 if you plan to attend.

Target Birds: Loons and grebes; scoters and rare wintering waterfowl; wintering raptors; Glaucous, Thayers, and Glaucous-winged Gulls; Snowy Owl; Northern Shrike; Snow Bunting; Lapland Longspur; Gray-crowned Rosy Finch

December 30, 2017, Saturday Christmas Bird Count Leader: Alan McCoy

All are invited to participate, including new birders and those living inside the circle who can only watch their feeders at home. So join the Spokane Christmas count! The Spokane Count Circle is a 15 mile diameter circle centered at 47° 43' N and 117° 25' W (approximately Division St. and Francis Avenue). Please contact Alan McCoy (509-448-3123 or ahm2352@gmail.com) for information about the Spokane CBC.

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
Spokane Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 9820
 Spokane, WA 99209-9820
 (509) 838-5828

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To:

June 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>

Meeting Directions: 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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