



The Wild Phlox

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The Stories Behind the Bird Drawings

by Heather A. Wallis Murphy, Leavenworth

Scientists who are also artists tuck away unusual and intriguing stories relating to our bird sightings. Putting pen to paper, showing feathers and flight, is a rewarding task. It has been an honor to be the artist-wildlife biologist providing the new bird drawings introduced in the November 2018 Wild Phlox newsletter of the North Central Washington Audubon Society (NCWAS). Our local chapter selected five representative bird species of the East Slopes of the Cascades. This ranges from alpine to forests; from lakes to rivers; and east into shrub-steppe. I went to work studying these five birds by reviewing my past field journal entries. Since I draw from life, I then went birding! I was able to capture fresh drawings for the Audubon chapter. All illustrations are adult male birds in breeding plumage, within their habitat. The final part of this project was to “ground-truth” the drawings by comparing them against *The Birds of North America* (www.bna.org) research and resources.

I first drew this Peregrine Falcon (PEFA) on July 14, 2008 at Mountain Home Ridge, southeast of Leavenworth. I was conducting wildlife habitat surveys for the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) and Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT). I watched three falcons fly in from the west as they hunted small birds and fed. They perched on 14-year-old burned snags from the 1994 forest fire. The peregrines snatched Violet-green Swallows out of the air, reducing my swallow count for that survey period. Using blind contour pencil drawings and quick ink sketches, I drew these PEFA into my field journal. Eventually the CDLT acquired this land, which is now a wonderful outdoor classroom for the public. Another time, when our family was at Tall Timber Ranch, north of Lake Wenatchee, a Peregrine Falcon flew over the field. My brother-in-law took an excellent photograph, which I used to see further details of this species. In May 2018, using my spotting scope, I spied a Peregrine Falcon eyrie in Scotland. I was able to draw the falcon’s head and malar stripe



more cleanly. This drawing for NCWAS is a compilation of all these observations and sketches. The background mountain habitat is Snow Creek Wall in the Icicle Valley.

I have studied and painted Barrow’s Goldeneyes (BAGO) many times while birding in Stehekin at the head of Lake Chelan. I started the NCWAS drawing in May 2018 on the White River during our Upper Basin Birders’ monthly survey. A pair of Barrow’s were showing courtship display in an oxbow pond off an elbow of the river. The waters were high and ambient temperatures were warm. Diving ducks, the BAGO were underwater for 15-70 seconds feeding on macroinvertebrates. Viewing through my spotting scope, I sketched the male BAGO into my pocket-sized Birders’ Journal. I then took a photograph with my new Canon Powershot SX60 HS, which does a fine job capturing details of birds on the wing. Drawing through the scope, I was able to see the yellow-orange of the legs and feet, which is a great field mark. I finished this drawing in my studio using journal sketches, paintings and photos. My field journal notes read: “May 3, 2018, 4:20-4:35 pm, 74F degrees, high water at White River Oxbow pond. Displaying BAGO pair. Other species: MALLARD pair, AMRO 2, RUHU, SOSP, YRWA 2, WISN.”



A White-headed Woodpecker (WHWO) nests in our neighborhood habitat of open Ponderosa Pine forests. I am often sketching these beautiful birds. The bark study on the NCWAS drawing is from my home tree. This white-headed drawing is a conglomeration of sketches and paintings from Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort and my home in the Icicle Valley. The field notes for this drawing are: “May 19, 2018 on Bird Fest Saturday at 4:30-5:00 pm. Walking between Sleeping Lady and Snowy Owl Theater. Saw WHWO male in large ponderosa pine, then it flew to a large snag. Also, TUVU, VGSW (6), AMCR (2) and SAPH.”



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The mission of the North Central Washington Audubon Society is "to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and their habitats, for the benefit of people and the biological diversity of North Central Washington."

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North Central Washington Audubon Society is on Facebook too

All phone numbers in the Wild Phlox are area code 509 unless otherwise indicated.

January Field Trip

by Mark Johnston, Leavenworth

Saturday, January 5: Join us for a birding trip to the Waterville Plateau, Bridgeport Bar, and Columbia River. Meet at 8:00 am at 208 West Nixon Street in Chelan. We will spend the day birding a variety of habitats where we expect to find a nice mix of resident and migrant species that winter in our area. Please bring a lunch, snacks, liquids, and dress for the weather. Carpool cost: \$25 per vehicle to be shared equally by riders. Back by 5:00 pm. To sign up, please email Mark at s697striata@frontier.com or call 253-297-0705. Limited to eleven birders.

Birds of Ecuador

by Susan Ballinger, Wenatchee

John Winnie is a professor in the Ecology Department at Montana State University. He leads photo and birding tours in the Galapagos and Andean Highlands of Ecuador. He will be giving a free slide show about birding in Ecuador at the Wenatchee River Institute on December 19 in the Red Barn at 347 Division Street in Leavenworth. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the presentation will be from 7-8:30. He will also do the presentation at the Wenatchee Valley Museum on December 20 at 7 pm and hopes to schedule at date at the Twisp Library. John's website is www.johnwinniejr.com.

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To join the National Audubon Society which also includes a subscription to the Wild Phlox, please see their website at www.audubon.org



In October, a friend in the East Wenatchee area mentioned that she and a neighbor had found dead Eurasian Collared Doves in their neighborhood. She contacted a biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and learned that a number of these dead and dying doves had been found around the Wenatchee Valley. They had submitted a sample of carcasses to the National Wildlife Health Center for testing and it was determined that the doves were infected by a pigeon paramyxovirus (PPMV). She said, "Columbidae (pigeons & doves) are especially vulnerable to PPMV and outbreaks have been known to occur throughout the US. However our veterinarian indicated that she was unaware of any previous outbreaks in Washington." If you are seeing sick birds, the biologist advised emptying bird baths and cleaning them with bleach and removing bird seed to discourage the birds from congregating in one place. The National Wildlife Health Center has a bulletin on this disease and it says that Double-crested Cormorants have also fallen victim to PPMV.

I recently returned from a three-week road trip to Utah and New Mexico. It was a trip to explore the hiking opportunities in the Bear's Ears area of southeast Utah and a short stay in Albuquerque and then to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge to see Sandhill Cranes and other wintering birds of the region. All in all, it was a wonderful trip. The weather was very nice for



Sandhill Crane
photo by Teri J Pieper, Methow Valley

daytime exploring although the nights were long and cold in a tent trailer even with two dogs! The coldest weather was in New Mexico with a low temperature of eleven degrees! I cut that part of my trip short and moved north to Moab (where it was warmer) for more hiking before returning home. I did get to Bosque for part of one afternoon and saw thousands of cranes and Snow Geese and other waterfowl! Lots of people watching birds too. I also visited a wonderful piece of state land just ten minutes from where I was camped. It had hundreds, if not thousands of Sandhill Cranes and some Snow Geese. I had terrific views of these birds at sunrise and sunset and left feeling very satisfied, even with the shortened visit. The state land was the Bernardo Wildlife area, part of the Ladd S. Gordon Waterfowl Complex, north of Socorro. There was a

good auto tour route. There was no entry fee and I did not need a special parking pass either. I walked to several nice bird blinds, including a couple that were elevated. The land managers had done a very nice job setting up an area for birders. Keep that place in mind if you are going to New Mexico to see the wintering birds. Bosque del Apache was quite nice but crowded. An entry fee is required for the National Wildlife Refuge.

Back here at home, the feeders are full and attracting lots of finches – gold, Cassin's, house and purple and the occasional junco. After dark, when Ken went out to grill some fish for dinner, he saw a Great Horned Owl pursue a Northern Flicker. The flicker threw itself against a high window in hopes of getting away. We did not find any orange feathers so maybe the flicker escaped. I saw an ermine near the front door. Maybe it will keep the mouse and vole population under control this winter.

Don't forget to send me stories about your favorite birding locations around our four-county region!

There is no January edition of the Wild Phlox. Keep up with NCWAS on our newly-updated website and on our facebook page. We also have an email list and you can sign up for that from the website www.ncwaudubon.org/.

Editor's Notes



Northern Pygmy-owl
photo by Monica Maxwell,
Wenatchee

NCW Recent Bird Sightings

Chelan County: Canada, Cackling, Snow and Greater White-fronted Geese were seen from Walla Walla Park. A very late Violet-green Swallow and a Cliff Swallow were seen at Chelan Falls. Northern Pygmy-owls were seen at Squilchuck and on Eagle Creek Road. An Iceland Gull and a hybrid Western x Glaucous-winged Gull were seen at Chelan Falls Park. A Swamp Sparrow was seen at Beebe Springs. A young Red-tailed Hawk was seen eating a thirty-inch bull snake in Wenatchee. At Manson Lake there were Northern Pintail, Wood Duck, Rough-legged Hawk and hundreds of Redheads.

Douglas County: At least 40 Snow Geese were seen near Bridgeport Bar, floating downstream towards Brewster. A

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

Gray-crowned Rosy-finch was seen at the Mansfield Cemetery. A Greater Sage-grouse was seen near Waterville. A Black-crowned Night-heron was seen in East Wenatchee near the pedestrian bridge across the Columbia.

Okanogan County: Purple Finches were seen near Mazama and between Winthrop and Twisp. A Golden Eagle was seen over Palmer Lake. Eurasian Wigeons were seen on the Conconully Reservoir. A Swamp Sparrow, a Surf Scoter and a Long-eared Owl were seen at Cassimer Bar. An Orange-crowned Warbler was seen at Washburn Island. Western Bluebirds and a Snow Bunting were seen between Twisp and Winthrop.

NCWAS Conservation Workflow

by Mark Johnston, Leavenworth

Our Conservation Program is one of the pillars on which the organization stands and reflects our mission statement which is “to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and their habitats, for the benefit of people and the biological diversity of North Central Washington”. Over the last few years, we’ve developed a broad results-based Conservation Program we hope is reflective of, and effectively implements, this mission.

Our Conservation Program takes a broad approach: To conserve birds in our region, our work must encompass protection, enhancement, and/or restoration of what they need to survive and thrive. As a group, birds occupy and utilize the entirety of our region’s lands and waters. They also depend upon a stable climate, or at least one that changes slowly enough to allow them, and the habitats they are adapted to, adequate time to adjust. Given this, to adequately address issues affecting the wellbeing of birds in our region, the scope of our conservation work takes a very broad view.

Considerations determining whether to address an issue:

- 1) Would it negatively or positively affect the occurrence of healthy, functional, natural habitats or ecosystems of importance to birds?
- 2) Would it directly or indirectly affect landscape scale ecological continuity, integrity, and native biodiversity?
- 3) For an issue or project that is quite local in nature, might it bring great benefit or harm to birds?
- 4) Birds depend upon complex ecosystems that often straddle county, state, and/or national borders. In recognition of this, even though the issue or project

may not lie entirely within our chapter’s territory, does its impact overlap our chapter’s boundaries?

Conservation decision flow: The Conservation Committee meets semi-annually and is composed of six members that together bring a broad range of knowledge, expertise, and experience to our work. The Conservation Chair and Issue Leads are implementers of policy, not policy makers. Generally, conservation matters are first considered by the Conservation Committee. Issues requiring board involvement are then brought to it by the Conservation Chair for further discussion and consideration. The issues NCWAS ultimately addresses, or actions regarding them that may affect the organization, are approved by the Board.

Issues update: As mentioned above, our Conservation Program takes a broad view and is focused on results. The goals set for certain issues we’ve addressed over the last few years have been generally met. Examples of these include Rock Island Ponds, the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan, and the Stemilt Partnership. While we still work on them a bit, we’re now most active on issues that are far from settled including the Icicle Water Management Strategy, the Horan Natural Area in Wenatchee, Chelan County’s update process to its Shoreline Management Program, and global warming.

In recent years we’ve tended to cover all issues we’re working on in one very large article. Going forward, we will cover one or two issues at a time and in greater depth. In this issue, we feature the Horan Natural Area.

Donation News

by Mark Oswood, Wenatchee

We get mail.

Dear NCWAS:

My house was broken into the day after Thanksgiving. The only thing taken was my NCWAS donation slip. The police said that there was a rash of such early morning thefts, by a thief they call “The Door-Buster.” What can I do?

Slipless in Winthrop

Dear Slipless:

It is a black Friday indeed when donation slips are stolen. Here’s another good reason we always provide a replacement slip in the December Phlox.

A reminder: We will thankfully acknowledge donations made from early September 2018 to mid-January 2019 in the February 2019 Phlox. Donations made from mid-January to late August 2019 will be acknowledged in the September 2019 Phlox.

<p>Here is my/our donation of \$ _____ Please make checks payable to NCW Audubon. Thank You!</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____ _____ Email _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Donors will be acknowledged (name but not address) in a future issue of the Phlox. If you do not wish to be acknowledged in the Phlox, Please check here <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Mail this slip and your check to: NCWAS, PO Box 2934, Wenatchee, WA 98807-2934</p>	

The Horan Natural Area

A Unique Resource in the Wenatchee Valley

by Bruce McCammon,
Wenatchee

The North Central Washington Audubon Society is shining a light on the Horan Natural Area (HNA) in Wenatchee to encourage improvements in the ecological sustainability and awareness of the area.

The Horan Natural Area occupies about 100 acres at the confluence of the Wenatchee and Columbia Rivers. Most of the land is owned by the Chelan PUD. Management of the area is shared with Washington State Parks. The HNA has a one-mile long dirt trail system that is open to pedestrian traffic only. The trail is accessible from both the Confluence State Park area to the north and the Walla Walla Point Park area to the south. The Horan Natural Area is a birding hotspot in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird database and is a stop on the Great Washington State Birding Trail. The bird checklist for the Confluence State Park/Horan area contains 250 species. The area is used by a moderate number of people.

Historic Use of the HNA: Historically, the Horan area was home to P'squosa/Wenatchi/Wenatchapum Native Peoples. It was a well-known regional council grounds since time immemorial and was a gathering place for bands and Tribes throughout the Pacific Northwest. In 1886 European settlers established a trading post at the site. In contemporary times, the Horan supported a pear orchard and a golf driving range.

Water in the Horan: The HNA occupies the alluvial fan created by the Wenatchee River. Historically, surface water flows within the Horan included seasonal flow in Number One Canyon Creek, storm water drainage from the City of Wenatchee and Pioneer Ditch excess. Storm drain water and Pioneer Ditch flows no longer provide surface water. Seasonal flows in Number One Canyon Creek continue to provide water to the HNA today. During extreme high-water events, the Columbia River overflows onto the Horan. The PUD constructed a series

of connected, steep-sided ponds and wetlands about 1990. Today, one pond has transformed into a cattail marsh that stores water only during high flow periods. The other ponds rise and fall with groundwater levels and provide stagnant water that is used by small numbers of a variety of waterfowl.

Envisioning the Future in the Horan: Two planning activities that could affect the future conditions in the HNA are just beginning. Wenatchee is beginning to assess a new road and bridge that would alleviate North Wenatchee Avenue traffic congestion. The Chelan PUD will soon begin assessments as part of the required FERC relicensing of Rock Island Dam. Both entities are committed to improving conditions in the HNA and to design and implement the needed improvements. NCW Audubon has provided a short list of desired future conditions in the Horan. The list includes: an introduction of water to create wetlands and connected ponds which are designed to support shorebirds and waterfowl, reduction or elimination of weeds, establishment of native shrubs, grasses, forbs and trees, a presence and interpretation of Native American culture, increased educational opportunities centered around an environmental learning center.

The Role of NCW Audubon: We expect to be advisors, consultants, supporters and cheerleaders in the planning processes for both the PUD and the City of Wenatchee. Our goals are long-term - spanning 50 years. Our efforts, along with the PUD and City, have the potential to create a legacy that will benefit the citizens of the Wenatchee valley and the increasing number of visitors to our area.

We would love to hear your thoughts about the Horan Natural Area. Please send your comments and suggestions to ncwa.horan@gmail.com.

Editor's note: See related article on the bottom of page 6.

2nd Annual NCWAS Photo Contest

by Bruce McCammon, Wenatchee

The second annual NCW Audubon bird photography contest is an opportunity for you to share your best bird photographs. Please visit the NCW Audubon website (www.ncwaudubon.org) for detailed information about how to submit your photos. Email us at ncwaudubon@gmail.com if you have any questions.

The contest opens for submission of images on December 1, 2018. No images will be accepted after March 15, 2019. Winners will be announced by April 20, 2019. Anyone can enter the contest. There are two categories: Adult (19 and over) and Youth (18 and under). Photos must have been taken in Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan or Ferry counties and prominently show at least one bird. A "Best of Show" will be awarded. For each age category, a 1st place, 2nd place and 1 Honorable Mention will be awarded. Prizes will be a 16x20 inch print of your award-winning photo. The prints of the winning photos will be displayed together with the 2019 National Audubon Photo Contest winners at the 2019 Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest.

Please share the contest information widely. We look forward to seeing your beautiful bird photos.



Northern Harrier
photo by Peter Bauer, Winthrop

Big Valley Bird Banding Station 2018 Results

by Julie Hovis, Winthrop

The Big Valley Bird Banding Station was established in 2017 as part of the Institute for Bird Populations' Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program. MAPS is a continent-wide collaboration among public agencies, non-governmental groups, and private citizens to contribute to the conservation of birds and their habitats through demographic monitoring. The 2018 season got off to a great start when Dani Kaschube, the national MAPS Coordinator, visited the station to help with our first banding session. Everyone benefitted from Dani's expertise and excellent teaching methods and I am hopeful she will visit the station again in 2019. The following is a brief summary of the 2018 banding season results.

In 2018 we caught 77 birds representing 23 different species for an overall capture rate of 45 birds per 100 net hours. In comparison, we caught 117 birds representing 26 different species for an overall capture rate of 77 birds per 100 net hours in 2017. With only 2 years of data, it is difficult to know if the lower capture rate in 2018 is an anomaly or the start of a trend. It will be interesting to see what the data look like in 2019.

The most commonly captured species in 2018 were MacGillivray's Warbler (14 captures), Calliope Hummingbird (9 captures), and Black-capped Chickadee (8 captures). I am not trained or authorized to band hummingbirds, so the captured hummingbirds were identified and released at the

net. Seven captured species were new for the station in 2018: Bewick's Wren, Chipping Sparrow, Least Flycatcher, Purple Finch, Western Tanager, Western Wood-Pewee, White-breasted Nuthatch, and an unidentified sparrow. Notably, there was only 1 House Wren capture in 2018 compared to 15 captures in 2017.

For me, the most exciting part of operating a banding station is recapturing birds banded in previous years. In 2018 we caught 11 birds that were banded at Big Valley in 2017 including 1 Lazuli Bunting, 1 Veery, 1 Red-naped Sapsucker, 1 unknown Empidonax flycatcher, 1 Dusky Flycatcher, 1 Spotted Towhee, 2 MacGillivray's Warblers, and 3 Yellow Warblers. Given the obstacles migrating birds face, it is truly remarkable to hold a recaptured bird in your hand, like a Yellow Warbler that only weighs 9 or 10 grams, and know it has successfully returned to Big Valley from its wintering grounds in Central or South America.

I am grateful for all the volunteers who helped out at the station this year – thank you for your support and enthusiasm! I also thank the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for allowing me to establish and operate the banding station at Big Valley. If you would like to learn more about the Big Valley Bird Banding Station or sign up to volunteer in 2019 please email me at jahovis711@gmail.com.

Where Do You Go Birding?

You want to know the best birding places in NCW? Well, you are going to hear a lot about the Horan Natural Area in Wenatchee. Yes, it's right in town. The Horan is a loop off the Apple Capital Trail along the Columbia River in Wenatchee, just north of the Walla Walla Point Park. The Horan loop departs from the Apple Capital Loop trail near the confluence of the Columbia and the Wenatchee Rivers and follows the south bank of the Wenatchee upstream, then rejoins the Loop Trail southbound again. I estimate the loop to be one mile long. I usually walk three miles per hour (I'm short), but there, I walk one mile in three hours because there is so much to see. I walked it with an expert birder in September and saw 41 species of birds. I walked it again in October with another expert and saw 31 species. The winter waterfowl were just arriving. Start with free parking at the Walla Walla Point Park, near the playground. Use the facilities while you're there as there are none along the loop. From Walla Walla Point Park, walk northbound along the Apple Capital Loop Trail until you see the Horan trail veer off to the right. The trail goes downhill for perhaps 50' then flattens out again. The slope is shallow enough that my husband's light battery-operated wheelchair can handle it. After that, the trail is smooth with well-compressed gravel so that again, the wheelchair can handle it. There are interpretive signs along the trail where a birder can at least lean on a rail if not sit on one. From Walla Walla Point, the trail follows the Columbia and a pond that fills seasonally. You can expect to see Canada Geese,

by Susan Sampson, Wenatchee

White-fronted Geese, Mallards, wigeons, goldeneyes, Killdeer and grebes, and on the upland, Steller's Jays, waxwings, crows, Osprey, and kingbirds. At the confluence with the Wenatchee, look at the sandbars across the river and see Great Blue Herons, Blue-winged Teal, various gulls, and Great Egrets. Turning inland, dogbane brush and cottonwoods line the trail, hosting warblers, towhees, orioles, an occasional owl, and more varieties of sparrows and wrens than I can identify. The trail emerges from the cottonwoods and curves back toward Walla Walla Point, crossing through ponds, marshes, and grasslands hosting their denizens. Species vary with the season. I've seen a herd of deer swimming in the river, fresh teeth-marks where beaver had just taken down a cottonwood, and one garter snake. I suspect there's more I haven't seen yet.

Beware the mosquitoes! I've seen clouds of the little blood-suckers that look like they could lift people up and carry them away. Just remember what good food they make for birds, and slather on the repellent.

NCWA board member, retired hydrologist, and wonderful bird photographer Bruce McCammon explains the history of the site. It was once a wetland hydrated with leaking irrigation water and run-off from Number One Canyon. The leaks were fixed, the storm water was diverted, and the Horan dried up to some degree. Now McCammon and other "Friends of the Horan" are hoping to rehydrate the area, and to bring back even more birds.

Editor's note: See related article, page 5.

The Stories Behind the Bird Drawings

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Western Meadowlarks (WEME) are wonderfully melodious, commonly seen or heard singing in the shrub-steppe habitats during spring. This drawing began as a “binocular drawing.” I was in the Methow Valley on May 26, 2012 and sketched this Meadowlark male. I sat on the ground, perched my binos on my left knee and my sketchbook on my right knee, and did several quick sketches and one colored drawing. My field journal notes read: “Western Meadowlark singing male; Binocular drawing; three WEME in old orchard and fences. 17 species of birds. Habitat of Big Sagebrush and Bitterbrush, Arrowleaf Balsamroot and Lupine. Rendezvous Road, Winthrop. Slight breeze, 75 degrees, 10:30 am to 1:00 pm on 5/26/12.” I finished this drawing in my studio using bird observation sketches and photographs of meadowlarks seen on a recent birding trip at Moses Coulee Preserve on April 4, 2018.



Each spring we are reminded of the flying jewels that return to wildflowers, shrubs and home feeders – the hummingbirds. During the breeding season, the Calliope Hummingbird (CAHU) is reliably seen within the East Slopes of the Cascades and its foothills. According to our home records, kept since 1987, the calliopes arrive from their overwintering range in Mexico around April 20th each year. They begin to depart for fall migration in early August.



I drew this male CAHU without optical assistance, watching and sketching while various hummingbirds fed at our feeders and surrounding wildflowers on May 5, 2018. They would come and go so quickly that my pages of drawings had many starts and stops. I would begin one angle, and the bird would move away, then return. I kept jumping from drawing to drawing, like the birds as they fed. Finally, I was able to complete such important things as the gorget, the beak length, the wings to tail length. This Calliope Hummingbird was inked-in on Global Big Birding Day 2018, a 30-species day.

The final drawings for NCWAS are of two different wild Phlox species. Botanist-Ecologist Susan Ballinger loaned me her pressed herbarium specimens of these Phlox. She had collected each plant in the spring of 2012 on the Jacobson Preserve in the Wenatchee Foothills. I completed pen and ink drawings of these blushing native flowers in May 2018. Both species are found east of the Cascades. Native, wild Phlox are the snow-like springtime pastels sprinkled across hillsides from alpine to desert. This genus makes an apt title choice for our local Audubon’s newsletter, Wild Phlox.



Showy phlox,
Phlox speciosa



Long-leaf phlox,
Phlox longifolia

Christmas Bird Counts in NCW

by Teri J Pieper, Methow Valley

Christmas Bird Count season is nearly upon us. Here in North Central Washington, we have plenty of choices to count birds during the holidays. There are seven counts open for participation.

December 14, Bridgeport. Meet at the Brewster McDonalds at 7:30 am. At the end of the day, there will be a dinner at Mike and Leslie’s place in Bridgeport with the usual door prize! This is a dinner and a prize opportunity not to be missed! For more information, contact Meredith Spencer at 686-7551 or merdave@homenetnw.net.

December 15, Leavenworth. Teams of birders will meet independently and survey routes during daylight hours. The group will meet at 5 pm at the National Fish Hatchery to discuss results. Joe Ververka is the new compiler. Contact him for team assignments at 928-304-1615 or joe_ververka@yahoo.com.

December 28, Chelan. Meet at the Apple Cup Café at 7:00 am and then at the Chelan Methodist Church at 4:15 pm for hot

chili and to share the results. Stephen Easley is the compiler and can be reached at 682-2318 or seasley@nwi.net.

December 29, Wenatchee. Dan Stephens is the compiler. Contact him for team assignments at 682-6752 or 679-4706 or dstephens@wvc.edu.

December 29, Oliver/Osoyoos, BC. Dick Cannings is the compiler for this cross-border CBC. Contact Heather Findley at 429-8167 or heather@eaglesun.net for details

December 30, Okanogan/Omak. Meet at Heather’s house at 7 am. Contact Heather Findley at 429-8167 or heather@eaglesun.net for more information.

December 30, Twisp. Meet at Cinnamon Twisp at 6:30 am. Potluck will be at Rudholm’s at 5 pm. Contact Kent Woodruff for more information at kentwoodruff@gmail.com or 846-3304.

See <http://wos.org/cbc/> for other CBC’s in Washington.

December Wild Phlox

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December 14	Bridgeport Christmas Bird Count	See page 7
December 15	Leavenworth Christmas Bird Count	See page 7
December 19	Birding Ecuador	At Wenatchee River Institute. 7:00 pm. See page 2.
December 20	Birding Ecuador	At the Wenatchee Valley Museum. 7:00 pm. See page 2
December 28	Chelan Christmas Bird Count	See page 7
December 29	Wenatchee Christmas Bird Count	See page 7
December 29	Oliver/Osoyoos Christmas Bird Count	See page 7
December 30	Omak/Okanogan Christmas Bird Count	See page 7
December 30	Twisp Christmas Bird Count	See page 7
January 5	Winter Birding Field Trip	with Mark Johnston. See page 2
February 2	More Winter Birding	with Dan Stephens. dstephens@wvc.edu or 679-4706



You can find the Wild Phlox online at our website - www.ncwaudubon.org
The beautiful photos are even nicer in color.



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these and other events www.ncwaudubon.org

