



Calliope Crier

The Yakima Valley Audubon Society is people dedicated to the enjoyment and preservation of the natural world. Through birding, education and conservation activities in our community, we raise awareness and promote the cause of global environmental protection.

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

February 2018



FEBRUARY PROGRAM

PHIL FISCHER

What do Beavers have to do with Birds?

Presented By

Melissa Babik and William Meyer

Several years ago I had the good fortune to attend a Cascadians Hiking Club general meeting that had a presentation with a conservation bent; beavers. Beavers are considered to be wildlife “engineers” similar to how woodpeckers are also considered as forest engineers. Both modify their habitats to the benefit of other animals; woodpeckers providing cavities for a broad range of cavity-using animals and beavers creating wetlands and stream pools that enhance riparian areas and fish habitat.



A beaver is released into the headwaters

Unfortunately, beaver work is not appreciated by all, and, when beaver work conflicts with human “improvements”, you know which one is going to prevail.

The Cascadian presentation was informative and very entertaining so when I was able to contact William Meyer who presented that talk, I was thrilled that he agreed to give us a history and report on the Yakima Basin Beaver Reintroduction Project. Not only is he going to talk but he convinced Melissa Babik, another principal with the Beaver Reintroduction Project, to speak also. They provided the following introduction to their presentation:

“The Yakima Beaver Project (2010-2015), live-trapped and re-established ~161 “problem beavers” that were slated to be lethally removed from irrigation ditches and urban settings lower in the Yakima River Basin. Beaver families were captured and relocated to high-priority upper-Yakima tributaries for restoration purposes, where their services were welcomed. Beavers restore riparian function, improve water quality and flow, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, including birds! Beavers were historically numerous in the watersheds of the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains. Project co-managers Melissa Babik and William Meyer will share stories, videos, and an overview of the successful project.”

William Meyer has worked as a fish and wildlife biologist for 29 years. He is presently with the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, but has also worked for U.S. Forest Service, the National Marine Mammal Laboratory, and the Na-

tional Park Service. He has a bachelor’s degree in Zoology from the University of Washington and a master’s degree in Biology from Central Washington University. William has worked with animals ranging from spotted owls, squirrels, seals, penguins, seabirds, bull trout and other freshwater and saltwater fish. In his current capacity with Fish & Wildlife, William works as a Habitat Biologist, in central Washington on the Yakima Basin Integrated Water Plan. Typical projects range from land conservation to habitat

restoration, grant writing, and working on a team to construct the wildlife bridges across Interstate 90 on Snoqualmie Pass, connecting habitats and species. William enjoys whitewater rafting, backpacking and wilderness travel, as well as travels around the globe.

Melissa Babik is a Biologist 3 for WDFW. She works out of Region 3 as the Wildlife Area Manager for the L.T. Murray, Quilomene, and Whiskey Dick Wildlife Areas. Melissa joined WDFW in August of 2016 after working roughly 9 years across the United States, US Virgin Islands, and Mexico studying sea turtles, tortoises, pond turtles, moose, deer, fish, bats, and frogs. She then worked for 5 years as a project manager for Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group relocating nuisance beaver and managing stream restoration projects. Melissa now manages over 120,000 acres of WDFW property. Melissa and her staff keep very busy enhancing signage for the recreating public, feeding approximately 2,000 head of elk each winter, managing two grazing leases, battling the onslaught of weeds each year, and collaborating with partners to restore habitat. Melissa can be described as “outdoorsy” as she enjoys rock-climbing, cross-country skiing, hiking and gardening with her husband, 2-year-old son, and wonder dog.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 22, at 7:00 to see this presentation at the Yakima Area Arboretum

Visit the Yakima Valley Audubon Society’s website at: <http://www.yakimaaudubon.org>



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BILL DRENGUIS

It's been a strange winter. Right now it is sunny and in the low 50's. And it's early February! This sure feels like the start of Spring migration, but where are the birds? Clearly there are other factors that determine the migration, like length of the day and food supply. However one has to wonder about the possible effects of climate change on migratory patterns.

Well this is the age of the searchable data base (we call it Google) and it led me to an excellent article: "Climate change and timing of avian breeding and migration: evolutionary versus plastic changes" by Anne Charmantier and Phillip Gienapp, published in the Journal of Evolutionary Applications. It sounds like a difficult read, but is very accessible and I feel is worth a look by those interested.

The authors emphasize the importance of how events are sequenced in nature. For instance, warm weather can bring about an earlier migration and nesting, but success of bird breeding is dependent on the insects breeding and producing caterpillars that can be fed to the young. The problem arises when the clues for the insects to breed are not the same as those for the birds. The authors also discuss the range of individual variations (plasticity) that can be expressed quickly and the much slower evolutionary changes. It's a good article, but I am still waiting for those migrants to show up.

For in-depth information on this topic, google the Journal and/or the authors' names.

Thank you Roths and Roots Nursery for your partnership

Do you love birds? Love plants? Jack and Carol Roth, along with Roots Nursery can help you do both.

In 2016, Jack Roth started building and selling bird feeders and bird houses to honor his late wife's wish that he feed the birds. He began by selling them at church bazaars and generously donating the proceeds to YVAS. Last year, his daughter Carol was visiting Roots Nursery (formerly Russell's) when she had an idea about selling the feeders and houses there. Since then, the people of Roots Nursery have offered them for sale, and are donating the proceeds to YVAS – what a great way to help feed birds and help Yakima Audubon!

Since plants and birds make such a great pair, think about stopping and picking up a feeder along with some new spring plants or new bird friendly plants for your yard. We'd like to thank the Roths and Roots Nursery for this great partnership.



MEMBERSHIP

JOY MCKINNEY

Welcome new member!

Yakima: Colleen Kindelspire

Thank you for renewing your membership!

Anacortes: John O'Connell

Selah: Steve Emhoff and Sally Rodgers, Doug and Marjorie Peters

Sunnyside: Kerry Turley

Yakima: Grace Anderson, Elizabeth and Greg Bohn, Toby and Dee Hastie, Jennie Hodge, Bill Jacobs, Cheryl Meenach, Alice Presson, Barbara and Jim Riley, Jack and Bev Vonfeld



THIS MONTH'S YVAS CALENDAR

Feb 22 Audubon Chapter Meeting at the Yakima Area Arboretum at 7:00 pm. **Great program.**

Mar 13 Board Meeting is unknown at this time.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday April 21

Once again, Yakima Audubon will have a booth at the Yakima Area Arboretum's annual free gala for families, Arborfest. It will be held on Saturday, April 21. You are invited to help with our display. Above all else, alert your friends and relations to attend the event...the better the weather, the greater the turnout. This year's theme is "Be a Tree Champion, protect our trees and forests!" And at YVAS, we know that protection needs to extend to dead trees so essential to wildlife. Look for more information in the March "Crier" newsletter. For more info, contact Ellen Stepniewski at 509-731-6805 or email her at: steppie@nwinfo.net.

The Yakima Valley Audubon Society meets on the fourth Thursday of January, February, March, April, May, August, September, and October at 7pm at the Yakima Area Arboretum, located at 1401 Arboretum Drive, Yakima, WA. Guests are welcome at these meetings. The Board of Directors meets each month except December at 7pm at locations announced in the Calliope Crier. Members may attend Board meetings; however, please notify the host because of possible space restrictions.



FIELD TRIPS

SCOTT DOWNES

Feb 24 (Sat) Note date change! Winter Waterfowl trip. Join leader **Bill Drenguis** in finding some ducks! We will head to McNary NWR and the general area where the Snake River meets the Columbia River. If the McNary area is frozen over (*not likely with recent temps*) we could head to the Columbia by Goldendale. The trip will leave at **7:30 am** and should be home around **4 pm**, but you can leave any time. Bring your scopes (there should be plenty to share if you did not get one for Christmas). Bring lunch, binoculars and bird guides. To sign up, check conditions for the trip and get meeting location, call **Bill** at **509-965-5808**.

Mar 17 (Sat.) Toppenish NWR. Andy and Ellen Stepniewski. In late winter, Toppenish Creek swells with melt water from the Cascades, overflowing its banks and flooding the creek bottomlands. Vast areas of temporary wetlands attract thousands of waterfowl on their northbound migration from their wintering grounds. Mid-March is a great time to view this spectacle. Raptors are also common at this time, along with early returning swallows and Say's Phoebes. For details on meeting place for this trip which will begin **7:30am** and will return by **4pm**. **Contact the Stepniewskis at steppie@nwinfo.net**.



Raptor Class Reminder

The Yakima Area Arboretum has announced that this class is FULL!

If you signed up through the Arboretum, be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, March 24 to attend the first class. That session will start at 9:00 am and end at 11:30 am. A field trip follows to Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge the next day, March 25, with participants meeting there at 9:00 am

for a four hour search for raptors and owls in the immediate area. Please bring optics, water, snacks, and dress for the weather.

For further information, call the Arboretum at 509-248-7337. Cost for this class is \$25 for Audubon and Arboretum members and \$35 for non-members. Youth 12 – 18 yrs. \$10.

- Ellen Stepniewski -

Mission Possible

To honor the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, the Cornell Lab is joining with National Geographic, National Audubon Society, BirdLife International, and more than 50 other partners to celebrate 2018 as the "Year of the Bird." The goal is to engage and inspire people around the world to commit to protecting birds today and for the next 100 years. Through social media, publications, and a Year of the Bird website (www.birdyourworld.org), stories about scientific discoveries, conservation successes, bird species in peril, and specific conservation actions—both personal and collective—that can make a difference in reversing declines among bird populations will be disseminated.

But the first and most important step must be taken by you. Simply visit the aforementioned website and click on the "Count Me In" tab. All you need furnish is your name and email address. Then each month of 2018, simple actions that individuals can take to help wild birds will be sent directly to you. In addition you will be able to access a plethora of articles, stunning photographs and more from the four primary "Year of the Bird" partners mentioned above.

Hopefully, this Crier will reach you in time to participate in one of February's designated actions, the Great Backyard Bird Count, a four day event happening Feb 16 thru Feb 19. Surely you can spare 15 minutes of those 96 hours to watch birds. Simply make a quick list of our friends out your window while sipping a favored beverage, or walking in a local

park, or trekking the Pacific Crest Trail, or glancing about Timbuktu if that is your physical location during the count. Timbuktu could use some coverage; as near as I can tell the nearest location from which a bird list has been submitted lies 1,000 kilometers to the southwest in Mali NP where 54 species (including Cattle Egret) have been reported on a total of four eBird lists.

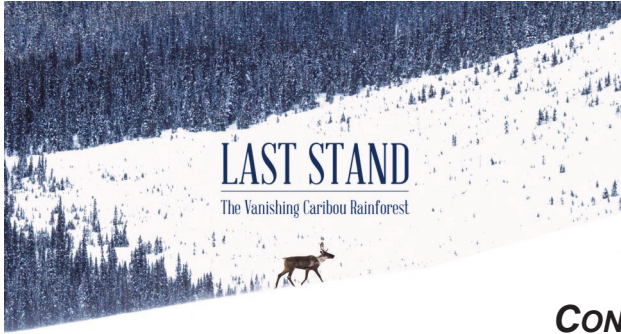
Full info on the GBBC can be found at: www.birdsource.org

Last year, a mere 50 lists were submitted from Yakima County. You may bird one day or all four days from as many separate locations each day as you wish. Then submit a list for each outing. Increase your fun by joining or challenging a friend. Play it by ear or set a goal. After all, 2018 is the "Year of the Bird" and this is your first chance to participate. My personal goal will be to submit at least ten lists during the four day event.

Your mission, should you accept, will be to observe birds wherever you may encounter them during the GBBC. You may select as many team members as you wish to assist you. This message will not self-destruct after five seconds but your opportunity will after the fourth day of the count. Bird on!

— Richard Repp —
Vredenburg Bluebird Trail Chairman

Free Film on Stunning Ecosystem on Feb 23



Associate Producer Marcus Reynerson will host a free showing of “Last Stand, the Vanishing Caribou Rainforest” on Feb 23. It’s co-sponsored by Yakima Environmental Learning Foundation (YELF), YVAS, and Yakima Valley College (YVC). 7:00 PM, Friday February 23rd, in the Parker Room of the Deccio Building at YVC (NE side of campus, off 12th Avenue).

CONSERVATION NEWS

February 1, 2018 Status Update: Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan

Four years ago I wrote a guest opinion (published in the March 2014 *Calliope Crier*) in support of the Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (‘Integrated Plan’). I’m writing to offer you my update - a status report on Integrated Plan implementation.

Overview

The Integrated Plan is a 30-year project to provide adequate water supplies for communities, agriculture, and fish, in Washington’s Yakima River Basin. The Integrated Plan includes making better use of existing water supplies, building new and expanded water storage, creating fish passage at Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs, and restoring and enhancing habitat. The plan is now in the first of its three phases of implementation, each phase being about a decade long. The initial development phase (or IDP) is now underway using existing legal authority. Federal legislation and appropriations are needed for critical elements of this first phase, including the first water supply project. Federal legislation is currently working its way through Congress.

Long-term Goals of the Integrated Plan

Integrated Plan goals include:

- Restoring healthy populations of salmon and other fish to the Yakima Basin
- Providing a guaranteed 70% supply of irrigation water to existing irrigated lands in the Yakima Basin in all drought years
- Implementing water conservation and water use efficiency projects throughout the basin (170,000 acre-feet per year of conserved water in total, 85,000 af/yr in the initial 10-year phase)
- Implementing fish passage and habitat improvement projects
- Securing municipal water supply for growing communities in the Yakima Basin

Initial Development Phase (IDP) Projects

Integrated Plan IDP projects include:

- Teanaway Community Forest – 50,241 acres acquired by Washington State in 2013

- Ongoing water conservation and water use efficiency improvement projects
- Fish passage at Cle Elum Reservoir, currently being constructed
- Pool raise at Cle Elum Reservoir, by three feet, storing 14,600 acre-feet per year of water dedicated to instream flow use for fish enhancement, now under construction
- Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant and Keechelus to Kachess Conveyance projects – environmental reviews now in progress, Federal authorization (legislation) is needed
- Studies, feasibility analyses, and environmental reviews of a whole suite of fish passage, water supply, conservation, and habitat restoration projects, including the next storage project, Bumping Reservoir expansion or a new reservoir at Wymer – NOTE that actual construction of enlarged Bumping or new Wymer storage is NOT a part of the IDP (the first 10 year phase)

Funding

The State of Washington has already spent \$167 million, with \$31 million anticipated in 2018, for Integrated Plan implementation, and has committed to funding half of the total costs of the IDP.

Irrigation Districts have committed to funding the anticipated \$200 million cost of the first storage project, the Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant.

The Federal Government is funding Integrated Plan IDP projects under existing legal authority, but needs Federal legislation (currently moving through Congress) to provide additional authority.

More Information

You can find more information about the Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan, including details about Integrated Plan IDP projects, at these websites: <http://www.yakimariver.org> , and <https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Water-supply-projects-EW/Yakima-River-Basin-projects/Yakima-integrated-plan> , and <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/2011integratedplan/index.html> .

---Stan Isley---

Fleeing to Arizona to escape Yakima’s winter weather (during Yakima’s winter-less winter!)

My wife Chris and I are enjoying warm and sunny days this winter in Oro Valley, Arizona, just north of Tucson. Our plan was to escape a cold and snowy winter in Yakima. But the weather there fooled us. We are still enjoying ourselves.

We love the Sonoran Desert and are having a great time. The variety of cactus in the yards in the neighborhoods near our VRBO is amazing, as they are in the desert areas in which we have hiked and birded. We escaped the 80° heat last week and drove to the top of Mt. Lemmon, a 9159 foot peak northeast of Tucson. The scenery was spectacular and

the road was paved all the way to the top!

The highlight of the trip was when I saw a White-headed Woodpecker in a campground along the road up Mt. Lemmon. Unfortunately, I wasn’t able to get a photo of it. I was shocked to discover there has never been a White-headed Woodpecker seen in Arizona. Having a report like this accepted by the bird records committee is nearly impossible without a photo. Bummer! I’ll keep my fingers crossed.

Below are some of the photographs of my birding and wandering in the Tucson area and the Sonoran Desert.



Top row: American Kestrel on a saguaro cactus, Vermilion Flycatcher, American Kestrel in the shade of a saguaro cactus; second row: Gila Woodpecker, on a saguaro cactus American Bittern, Cactus Wren on a prickly pear cactus; bottom row: Rosy-faced Lovebird, Green Heron

2018 YVAS field trip summary
Additional August-November dates to be added in June.
Contact email next to leader.

January:

January 28 (Sunday) - Scott Downes will lead a trip to Horse Heaven Hills. downess@charter.net

February:

February 24 (Saturday) - Bill Drenguis will lead a winter waterfowl trip. bdrenguis@gmail.com

March:

March 17 (Saturday) - Andy and Ellen Stepniewski will lead a lower Yakima County trip for waterfowl and raptors. steppie@nwinfo.net

March 24/25 (Saturday/Sunday) NO VACANCIES Class on raptors at Arboretum, followed by field trip on Sunday to Toppenish NWR area. Coordinated by **Ellen Stepniewski**. steppie@nwinfo.net

March 30/31 (Friday/Saturday) - Richard Repp will lead the Bluebird Box Cleanout, date TBD on participants and weather. bbirder247@gmail.com

April:

April 14 (Sunday) - Kerry Turley will lead a trip to Zimmermann Ponds. kdturley@embarqmail.com

April 21 (Saturday) - Arborfest. Not a YVAS fieldtrip, but YVAS involvement. Coordinated by **Ellen Stepniewski**. steppie@nwinfo.net

April 29 (Saturday) - Karen and Joe Zook will lead a morning (8-12) trip to Sportsman State Park. gadzooks7@charter.net

May:

May 4-6 (Friday-Sunday) - Yakima County Migration Count. Teams pick date best works for them. Coordinated by **Scott Downes**, downess@charter.net

May 12 (Saturday) - Migratory Bird Day at Toppenish NWR. Coordinated by **Kerry Turley**. kdturley@embarqmail.com

May 19 (Saturday) - Scott Downes will lead an evening owl trip to Bethel Ridge. Space limited to 8 participants. downess@charter.net

May 25-28 (Friday-Monday) - Audubon Wenas Campout.

June:

June 9 (Saturday) - Denny Granstrand will lead a trip to Oak Creek Wildlife Area. dgranstrand@gmail.com

July:

July 21 (Saturday) - Andy and Ellen Stepniewski will lead a trip to Sheep Lake and Sourdough Gap. steppie@nwinfo.net

August:

August 24-26 (Friday-Sunday) - Andy and Ellen Stepniewski will lead a trip to Grays Harbor with Westport Pelagic on Saturday the 25th, early registration required for pelagic. steppie@nwinfo.net

September:

September 8 (Saturday) - Denny Granstrand will lead a trip to Fort Simcoe. dgranstrand@gmail.com

September 15 (Saturday) - Bill Drenguis will lead a trip to Chelan Ridge Hawkwatch. bdrenguis@gmail.com

September 22 (Saturday) - Karen and Joe Zook will lead a morning (8-12) trip to Sportsman State Park. gadzooks7@charter.net

October:

Banding Demonstrations October 6 (Saturday) - Backup date of October 13 in case of weather. Jeff Kozma will lead a banding demonstration at the Yakima Arboretum. kozj@yakamafish-nsn.gov

December:

Toppenish CBC. December 15. (Saturday) - Andy Stepniewski. steppie@nwinfo.net

Yakima CBC. December 29. (Saturday) - Denny Granstrand. dgranstrand@gmail.com



Yakima Valley Audubon Society Membership

Join/renew my annual membership to the Yakima Valley Audubon Society to receive 10 issues of the Calliope Crier and all chapter benefits. National Audubon membership and Audubon Magazine are not included.

Yakima Valley Audubon Society Membership.....\$ 25.00 per household
 YVAS Senior (62+) ____ OR Student Membership ____ (please check one).....\$ 15.00 per household
 Yakima Valley Audubon Society Life Membership\$ 500.00 per household

New Member __ Renewing Member __ (please check one)

In addition to my membership payment of \$ _____, my check includes an additional donation of \$ _____
 __ I do not want to receive any solicitations or communications from NAS (please check if applicable)
 __ I prefer to read the Crier online and not receive my copy by mail (please check if applicable)

Please make any corrections to your contact information as needed.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Email address _____

Please return this form and your check payable to: YVAS Membership, P.O. Box 2823, Yakima, WA 98907

If you have any membership questions, contact Joy McKinney at joycatbird@gmail.com or 698-4110.

2017 YAKIMA VALLEY AUDUBON OFFICERS AND BOARD

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			YVAS Facebook	(http://www.facebook.com/yakimaaudubon/?fref=ts)	

International Flavor - 2018 is “Year of the Bird”

Take the Pledge at www.birdyourworld.com



The Greater Ajutant Stork can reach 5 feet in height. The same length as the Crier Newsletter Editor.

While the geographical area of our local Audubon chapter is impressive in variety of bird species and diversity of habitats, it is a mere speck on the world stage. Let’s explore beyond our visual horizon and go international with perhaps the lesser known (to us) partner in the Year of the Bird, Birdlife International.

We (Birdlife International) have joined a year-long celebration in partnership with National Geographic, National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab on Ornithology. This month we’re encouraging you to “Bird Your World” by getting out there and spending time with the birds you love – no matter where you are.

We may love birds, but how often do we actually get to see them? Most of us would say, not as often as we’d like to. All too frequently, life gets in the way. We’re caught up in work and our to-do list of a hundred little chores, and when we look up, months have gone by since we last really appreciated their presence in our lives. As every relationship expert will tell you, keeping the love alive takes work.

Luckily, birds are everywhere. As renowned bird writer Jonathan Franzen says, “The only life forms more widespread than birds are microscopic”. It doesn’t matter if you can’t afford to travel the world. It doesn’t matter if you live in a city or only have a lunch-break at your disposal. Here are six top birding hotspots whose location may really surprise you – and we’re sure they’ll inspire you to find some of your own.

1. A Garbage Dump: Refuse has become a vital refuge for the world’s most endangered stork – an enormous bird that frequently grows to the height of an adult human. These birds evolved to live in wetlands and coastal zones, but their natural home is being encroached upon by re-development

and degraded by pollution. As a result, there could now be fewer than a thousand adults remain.

A surprising lifeline is the garbage dumps surrounding the city of Guwahati in Assam, India. These act as essential feeding grounds which may be supporting as much as half of the Greater Ajutant’s world population. Every time a refuse truck arrives, birds flock to it, cramming their gullets with discarded meat. It may not be glamorous, but it works – and this is one of the best places to guarantee seeing these fascinating birds.

2. A Vineyard: The organic vineyard of Pago El Baldío in Trebujena, Andalucía (southern Spain), provides the ideal home for the Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin.

Although it has a conservation status of Least Concern globally, this charming bird has seen significant declines in Spain – but bird-friendly farming is helping to halt this downward turn. The wine-makers don’t mind if the Robins steal the odd grape to feed their chicks, because they also eat the insects that would otherwise devour the crop – a natural form of pest control. What’s more, it brightens their day to see this beautiful bird flitting between the vines on their land as they go about their daily work.

3. Hallowed Lands: India’s Sacred Groves are verdant patches of forest or natural vegetation, usually dedicated to local folk deities. In Meghalaya, a state in Northeast India whose name means “The Abode of Clouds” in Sanskrit, local communities have protected small areas of native forest since time immemorial. The villagers believe that departed souls of ancestors reside there. No one collects fruits, flowers, leaves or wood from these areas, and as a result, they have been left almost untouched for centuries.

Although tiny, Mawphlang Sacred Grove is a haven for around 70 bird species, including the Tawny-breasted Wren-babbler - and it’s just one of hundreds of pockets of peace dotted about the country.

4. Salt Pans: Just because it’s man-made, doesn’t mean it’s not good for birds. Conservation and commerce can go hand in hand, and waterbirds love foraging for food in the shallow waters of traditional salt pans. Extracting salt through the natural evaporation of seawater, these vast expanses often act as crucial rest and re-fueling points for birds on their epic migration journey. In fact, the salt-pans of China are key players in the survival of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (Critically Endangered), the star of last month’s Year of the Bird feature.

5. Buddhist Temples: Places of religious importance are often oases of peace and tranquility in a hectic world. And

that means they're oases of peace and tranquility for birds, too.

Tibet's high-altitude Buddhist temples are home to some highly important pheasant populations. Not only do the Buddhist monks and nuns treat the natural landscape surrounding the temples with respect – they also enjoy feeding the pheasants. Shongsep Temple, perched on the mountainous slopes overlooking the Lhasa River, is a safe space for the Tibetan Eared-pheasant (Near Threatened). Elsewhere, its life has been plagued by hunting and deforestation, but here, it lives in the lap of luxury, and is often quite tame.

6. City Skies: Even if you're in the middle of a city, all you have to do is look up, and you're sure to spot a bird sooner or later. But in some places, it gets extreme.

"Bottleneck sites" are places where large numbers of migrating birds, especially large, eye-catching species like birds of prey, storks or pelicans, pass through in a relatively small area, creating a birding spectacle. These bottlenecks are created by a combination of geography and climate. Narrow

valleys, mountain ridges, or peninsulas stretching out to sea – all of these can funnel birds into startling aerial formations reminiscent of an Alfred Hitchcock movie.

Sometimes these bottlenecks include major cities, such as Gibraltar and Panama City, where each spring and fall hundreds of thousands – and sometimes millions – of birds fly overhead on their way between their breeding and wintering grounds.

Get to know your local flock!

Because birds don't just live in pristine woodland or untouched marshes. They live everywhere. That's why we at BirdLife International have identified a network of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) – sites that are essential for bird conservation. And they come in all shapes and sizes. The Ulcinj salt pans are an IBA. So is Shongsep Temple, the Mawphlang Sacred Grove and the rock of Gibraltar. Not all of them are protected – yet – but we're working on it. And if you join the movement to **#BirdYourWorld** this year, you can help us.



Joined by more than 100 organizations that work to protect birds and their habitats.

Coming Attractions:

Feb 22 Chapter Meeting - 7:00 p.m

Feb 24 Winter Waterfowl field trip

Mar 17 Toppenish NWR field trip