

**First Place Photography – Age 14-18
Michael Woodruff – Spokane, Washington**



**Northern
Pygmy-Owl**
Date: 14
August 2007,
7:36 am
Location: Mt.
Spokane SP,
Spokane
County,
Washington
Equipment:
Canon 30D,
Canon EF 100-
400mm f/4-5.6
ISUSM lens
Settings: ISO
800, 1/160 sec,
f/5.6, handheld

It was the end of summer and I was picking through a mixed-species flock on Mount Spokane. I was making a pygmy-owl toot in order to attract some of the birds to me,

when I heard a real owl answer a ways out. After several minutes of talking back and forth, it flew in and perched in one of the close larches. I moved down underneath the tree and continued whistling, and I was excited when the owl flew down and perched not more than 20 feet away in the lower shrubbery. It stayed a few moments before flying back up in the tree, but repeatedly returned to investigate at a closer range. This was definitely my closest encounter with a pygmy-owl, and it was thrilling to stare into the eyes of such a small but fierce predator.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Date: 18 September 2007, 1:28 pm

Location: Philleo Lake, Spokane County, Washington

Equipment: Canon 30D, Canon EF 100-400mm f/4-5.6 ISUSM lens

Settings: ISO 400, 1/500 sec, f/8, handheld

Often during my lunch break at school, I drive to nearby Philleo Lake, where I have seen almost 150 species in the last few years. In addition to having excellent shorebirds and waterfowl, I also get nice migrant flocks along the road. On this day there was a hopping-flock of at least 20 electric-charged Ruby-crowned Kinglets. I have tried for years to get a decent shot of this species, and rarely come up with anything worth looking at. It seems like when I finally get one close enough and in the open, they nearly always have their head-cocked at a weird angle. But I think I finally got something to show for my efforts.



**Fork-tailed
Storm-
Petrel**

Date: 7 July
2007, 11:07
am

Location:
Westport
Seabirds
Pelagic,
Grays
Harbor
County,
Washington

Equipment:
Canon 30D,
Canon EF
100-400mm
f/4-5.6

ISUSM lens

Settings:
ISO 200,
1/800 sec,
f/8, handheld

It was my
first time
having a
camera on
board for a
pelagic. I
thoroughly
enjoyed

trying to find the best balancing position while attempting to follow seabirds with my camera and not fall overboard. It didn't help that we had extremely high waves that day! Near the farthest point, about 40 or 50 miles out, we chummed a little bit and let the birds come in close. We had several Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels and a few Leach's flying around and picking up the oil and popcorn, as well as larger albatrosses and shearwaters. It was fun tracking the little storm-petrels as they darted here and there. Pelagic trips are so much fun!