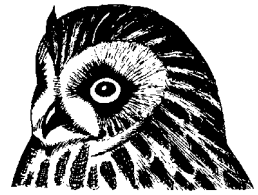


# THE PRAIRIE OWL



PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 31, Issue 3, January 2003

## IN GRATITUDE

During these past months and year, there is much to be grateful for. Allow me the opportunity to recognize some of the many volunteers for their efforts and contributions to aid our chapter and it's mission:

**JAMES STORMS**, Garfield - who answered our request to create a membership database using Microsoft Access. The database will be used to assist the Membership Chairperson in contacting new and old members. I wish to also thank **John Kramer** and **Nancy Miller**, who also volunteered. We truly appreciate your willingness to serve.

**GRANT NORTON**, Pullman - who graciously volunteered to take over the duties as Editor of the *Prairie Owl* newsletter. We can expect some great improvements and changes beginning with the March-April edition. Thanks Grant, you have lifted a great weight from my shoulders.

**PHYLLIS WICKS**, Moscow - who served in the office of Treasurer for many moons and who resigned earlier during the year. The entire chapter is grateful to Phyllis for her dedication to the chapter and for helping so many past-presidents and chairpersons. Phyllis' cheerful and infectious smile will surely be missed at our meetings. Thank you also to **Henry Willmes** who has volunteered to serve as Treasurer and who has been indispensable to the chapter and myself during these past months.

**MARY AEGERTER** and **TOM PARTINGTON** - who served as newsletter Editor and Secretary respectively during this past year. Both have resigned to pursue other duties and obligations. Thank you for your service to Palouse Audubon - it is truly appreciated.

**SILENT AUCTION SUPPORTERS - A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who supported November's silent auction as a participant, donor, or buyer. Thanks to you, the evening was a tremendous success. Over \$1,100 was raised in support of our Audubon Adventure classrooms.

**PROGRAM SPEAKERS - THE BEST IN THE TWO STATES!** We are truly blessed to be located in two college towns containing a wealth of knowledge and professional expertise. The chapter is indebted to those who have shared their knowledge and profession with us over the years. I urge everyone to attend our coming programs. Each is truly wonderful and educational.

*Tom Weber*

## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

- 1 Anti-Football Field Trip - time and location TBA
- 4 Lewiston-Clarkston Christmas Bird Count - 7:00am
- 15 PAS Membership Meeting - 7:30pm, *How Birds See*, Deb Stenkamp, University of Idaho

### FEBRUARY

- 5 PAS Board Meeting - 7:30pm, location TBA
- 19 PAS Membership Meeting - 7:30pm, *West Nile Virus*, Dr. Diana Stone and Dr. Eric Stauber, WSU

### MARCH

- 5 PAS Board Meeting - 7:30pm, location TBA
- 12 PAS Membership Meeting - 7:30pm, *The Shrub Steppe Habitat of Washington*, Andy Stepniewski, Yakima

**Due to the holidays, additional field trip information was not available. Please look for additional January and February field trip information on our website at <http://www.palouseaudubon.org/> and for notices posted on *inland-nw-birders* or in the *Pullman-Moscow Daily News* and the *Lewiston Morning Tribune*.**

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Wishing you and your family a year filled with happiness, joy, and a lifetime of birds.**

*Tom Weber*, President

## PROGRAMS

**Wednesday, January 15:** *How Birds See* - Deb Stenkamp, Biology Department Assistant Professor, University of Idaho, will share some of the results of her research on avian vision. Everyone is welcome.

**Wednesday, February 19:** *The West Nile Virus* - Dr. Diana Stone, Veterinary Public Health and Dr. Eric Stauber, Raptor Rehabilitation Center, will present a program on the human health and wild bird aspects of this zoonotic disease.

**Wednesday, March 12:** *The Shrub Steppe Habitat of Washington* - Andy Stepniewski, author, Yakima fruit grower and Washington bird authority, will present a program on Washington's shrub steppe and avian life. This is a must see presentation that everyone will enjoy.

## FIELD TRIPS

### THE ANTI-FOOTBALL FIELD TRIP

Wednesday, January 1, 2003 - Jane Westervelt leader

The location and time will be announced but most likely we will be in the Lewiston valley searching for rare birds and scouting for the January 4 Christmas Bird Count. Depending on the weather, our birding will likely be close to the cars with minimal walking. Plan for an all day trip.

### LEWISTON-CLARKSTON CBC

Saturday, January 4 - Charles Swift, coordinator

Join us in the banana belt for a great day of birding. The *Lewiston/Clarkston Count* always yields large numbers of waterfowl, raptors, and wintering land birds. Novice birders are welcome and will be teamed with experienced counters. Meet at 7:00am at the Lewiston Jack in the Box, 19<sup>th</sup> St, Lewiston. Contact Charles Swift at (208) 883-0553.

## PROGRAM MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**November 20** - The *Holiday Social and Auction* was well attended thanks to Daniel Poleschook, Jr. and Ginger Gumm who presented a program on Common Loons.

Common Loons migrate inland to nest on freshwater lakes. There are only three nesting pairs in Washington State. Dan and Ginger first observed and photographed the pair at Ferry Lake in 1996. It was exciting when two eggs were hatched, but the chicks died when they were about six weeks old. Each year Ferry Lake is stocked with fish for anglers by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the baby loons were starving because the fish were too large for them to eat. So WDFW began stocking the lake with small fry fish. For the past two years the adult loons have successfully raised their young to maturity.

The Loon Lake Loon Association is funding the special fish-stocking program. If you are interested in helping please send donations to the LOON LAKE LOON FUND:

Daniel Poleschook, Jr., Chairman  
North American Loon Fund  
PO Box 1200  
Loon Lake, WA 99148

The second part of the program was a professionally produced slide show: *Nature's Splendor at Loon Lake*. It featured many beautiful photographs of Loons and other birds and wildlife on freshwater lakes in NE Washington. Dan narrated the show and it was accompanied by lovely instrumental music and the haunting sounds of the loon calls. If you missed the program or wish to see some of the photographs, they can be viewed in the Gallery at the Loon Lake Loon Association website: <http://www.loons.org/>

**December 11** - Thirty people were in attendance to hear Dr. Roy Breckenridge of the Idaho Geological Survey give a talk and slide show on *The Channeled Scabland of Eastern Washington*.

Geologist J. Harlen Bretz studied the scabland region in the early 1920's and formed a theory that the deep channels in the lava fields resulted from a catastrophic flood during the Ice Age. However he could not identify a possible source of water for such a huge event. In 1940 geologist Joseph T. Pardee presented his theory that an ice dam on the Clark Fork River caused water to back up into the Montana area and form Glacial Lake Missoula. When the ice dam failed, the lake water rapidly drained and flooded across parts of Idaho and Washington. Recent studies show that there were floods even earlier than the Missoula Floods and much is yet to be learned from the fragments of evidence that remain.

Many of the slides are photographs of sites and landmarks that can be seen by travelers in the Northwest. There have been efforts to fund an interpretive route from Lake Missoula to the Pacific Ocean. You can find out more about this in: *Ice age floods study of alternatives and environmental assessment...* produced by Jones & Jones and funded by the National Park Service, available on the Internet at: <http://www.nps.gov/iceagefloods/>

We are grateful to Dr. Breckenridge for sharing the story of the awesome floods that left so many unique marks on the land in Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. The book: *Cataclysms on the Columbia : A layman's guide to the features produced by the catastrophic Bretz floods in the Pacific Northwest*, by John Eliot Allen, Marjorie Burns, and Sam C. Sargent (Timber Press, 1986) is a great source for additional information.

*Christine Gray*

## SHAPING THE FUTURE OF COASTAL BIRD REFUGES

Ninety-five years ago the federal government set aside more than 800 islands, reefs, and rocks along a 100-mile stretch of the Olympic coast as a sanctuary for nesting marine birds. Today this sanctuary is known as the Washington Islands Wilderness. It comprises three separate National Wildlife Refuges, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. From north to south these are Flattery Rocks, Quillayute Needles, and Copalis National Wildlife Refuges.

The Washington Islands Wilderness is truly a national treasure. It contains rugged islands and sea stacks set in the most pristine waters on the west coast. More than 150,000 marine birds nest here, including species seldom seen from shore, such as Leach's Storm-petrel, Fork-tailed Storm-petrel, and Cassin's Auklet. The islands are also a stronghold for Common Murres, Western Gulls, Pelagic Cormorants, and Peregrine Falcons. During fall migration, the bird population can swell to over one million.

Over the millennia, the birds have thrived in the harsh conditions of the north Olympic coast, enduring storms, unpredictable food supplies, and predators. In the last half-century, they've also had to cope with oil spills, boat traffic, and until recently, simulated bombing by U.S. Navy jets. Through it all, the bird populations have managed to survive, but their future depends on our commitment to sound stewardship and proper management.

In the next year, Audubon members will have an opportunity to influence the future of the birds in the Washington Islands Wilderness. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is currently developing a

Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the three refuges. A CCP is a long-range plan that will guide the management of the refuges and address the need to protect wildlife and habitat over the next 15 years.

Early next year, the FWS will release a draft of its CCP for the three refuges. The refuge managers will invite the public to submit comments on the plan's contents, and advise them how to best meet the need to protect the birds. Some of the issues that will need to be addressed include:

- How to prevent disturbance to nesting birds - e.g. restricting use of watercraft and aircraft
- Oil spills
- Enhancing public awareness of the refuge's wildlife values
- Impacts of fishing and boat traffic
- Impacts of nature tourism (including bird watching)
- Water quality and impacts of marine debris (such as abandoned fishing nets).

The Audubon Washington office in Olympia will continue to monitor the progress of the CCP, and will notify members when it is available for public review and comment. We hope that you will take an interest in this issue, and get involved in shaping the future of the birds nesting along Washington's wilderness coast.

For more information, please contact Tim Cullinan, Audubon-WA Science Director, (509) 683-6257, [cullinant@olympus.net](mailto:cullinant@olympus.net)

The mission of the National Audubon Society is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems  
- focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats -  
for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

## **Sponsor Audubon Adventures**

The cost to sponsor a classroom is \$45.00. This award winning environmental education program really gets the Audubon message out to the students, teachers, and parents. Your support is greatly appreciated.

For more information, contact: Cathy Willmes, (208) 882-2649

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help sponsor Audubon Adventure classrooms.

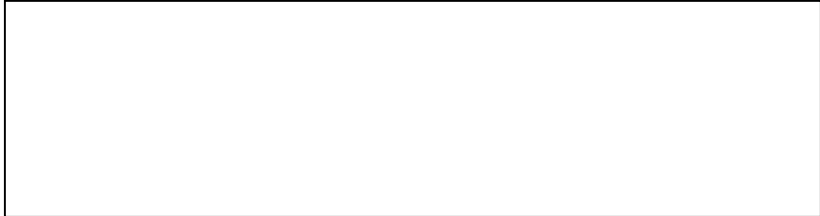
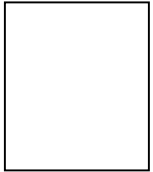
If you know of a teacher or classroom that would like to participate in AUDUBON ADVENTURES, please note the information below. We will attempt to contact the teacher about future programs.

\_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your tax-deductible donation payable to "Palouse Audubon Society" and send it to:  
Cathy Willmes, 2152 Arbor Crest Rd, Moscow ID 83843-9106

*Palouse Audubon*

PO Box 3606  
University Station  
Moscow ID 83843



## PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY

### OFFICERS

**Tom Weber**, President  
(509) 334-3817, [tweber@wsu.edu](mailto:tweber@wsu.edu)  
**Jane Westervelt**, Vice-President  
(208) 882-8597, [jwesterv@uidaho.edu](mailto:jwesterv@uidaho.edu)  
**Henry Willmes**, Treasurer  
(208) 882-2649, [willmes@adelphia.net](mailto:willmes@adelphia.net)

### DIRECTORS

**Terry Gray**, (208) 285-1639,  
[clgtlg@genesee-id.com](mailto:clgtlg@genesee-id.com)  
**Bill Moore**, (208) 882-8869,  
[bmoore@fsr.com](mailto:bmoore@fsr.com)  
**Grant Norton**, (509) 334-1219,  
[norton@mme.wsu.edu](mailto:norton@mme.wsu.edu)

**Charles Swift**, Field Trips  
(208) 883-0553, [charless@moscow.com](mailto:charless@moscow.com)  
**Grant Norton**, Newsletter  
(509) 334-1219, [norton@mme.wsu.edu](mailto:norton@mme.wsu.edu)  
**Jane Westervelt**, Program  
(208) 882-8597, [jwesterv@uidaho.edu](mailto:jwesterv@uidaho.edu)  
**Gina Richardson**, Publicity  
(208) 882-1448, [richardsongina@hotmail.com](mailto:richardsongina@hotmail.com)

### MEETINGS

**BOARD** - 1st Wednesday (normally)  
2/5, 3/5, 4/9, 5/7, 6/4  
**MEMBERSHIP** - 3rd Wednesday  
1/15, 2/19, 3/12, 4/23, 5/14

### CHAIRMEN

**Diane Weber**, Membership  
(509) 334-3817, [weberd@wsu.edu](mailto:weberd@wsu.edu)  
**Bill Warren**, Conservation  
(208) 882-6402, [bwarren@moscow.com](mailto:bwarren@moscow.com)  
**Cathy Willmes**, Education  
(208) 882-2649, [cwillmes@turbonet.com](mailto:cwillmes@turbonet.com)

### WEBSITE

<http://www.palouseaudubon.org/>

### BIRDING HOTLINE

(208) 882-6195

### PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY - NEW MEMBERSHIP ONLY

Includes *National Audubon Society* membership, subscriptions to *AUDUBON MAGAZINE* and *THE PRAIRIE OWL* Newsletter.  
Send your check payable to **National Audubon Society** to: Palouse Audubon Society, PO Box 3606, University Station, Moscow  
ID 83843. Please include this coupon. For more information call: (509) 334-3817

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category (mark ONE):

Introductory Membership (1 yr) \$20.00

Life Membership \$1,000.00

**Y05**

Student & Senior Citizen (62+) \$15.00

PAS Newsletter Only \$10.00

**7XCH**