

The Prairie Owl



Volume 38 Issue 4

April-July 2010

EVENT CALENDAR



APRIL

21: *Idaho's Greater Sage Grouse*—Jeffrey Gillan,

graduate student, University of Idaho

MAY

4: Board meeting

19: *Birds of the Scotchman Peaks Region of Idaho-Montana*—Jon Isacoff, Gonzaga University, and Phil Hough, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

PALOUSE AUDUBON

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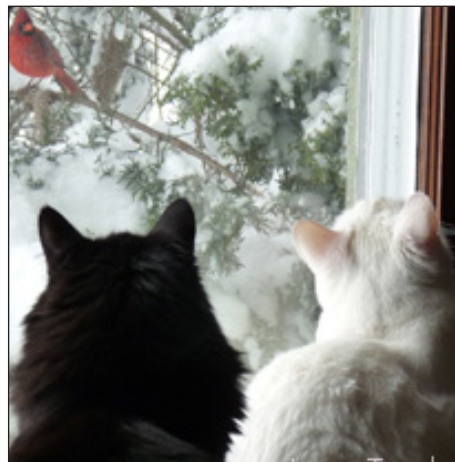
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Protecting birds from cats

Reprint from National Wildlife Federation website, February 28, 2010: <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Birds/Archives/2010/Cats.aspx>



Laura Tangley, NWF

Of the 73 million pet cats in the United States, an estimated 40 million roam outside unsupervised. Throw in feral cats—the unsocialized offspring of discarded or lost pets—and as many as 100 million cats are on the loose. “These cats could easily be killing 100 million songbirds a year,” says Al Manville, wildlife biologist at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Management Office.

How to stop the slaughter? It's simple: Keep cats in the house.

Keeping your cat inside is a win-win situation both for wildlife and for your cat. According to The Humane Society of the United States, millions of cats are killed by motor vehicles annually.

See Cats, Page 4.

Note from the president

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Henry Willmes for his dedication as our treasurer. Henry recently resigned from this duty due to health issues.

June field trips will be a partnership with Canyon Birders, and like last year there will be a trip every Saturday during June. Those trips have not been set yet, but will appear on our website.

Check <http://www.palouseaudubon.org/fieldtrip.html> for more information. Also, if anyone wants to be added to my e-mail field trip reminder list, please call or e-mail me.

Terry Gray

Upcoming programs

April 21: *Idaho's Greater Sage-Grouse*—Jeffrey Gillan, Graduate student, University of Idaho

Jeff will discuss political issues and conservation efforts on sage-grouse in Idaho. Jeff is a graduate student at the University of Idaho working for the Rangeland Ecology Department. He is part of a collaborative effort to create a sage-grouse guide book targeted at landowners. He is writing a thesis on man-made structure impacts on sage-grouse in west-central Idaho. Everyone is welcome.

May 19: *Birds of the Scotchman Peaks Region of Idaho-Montana*—Jon Isacoff, and Phil Hough

Phil will provide an overview of the wilderness benefits and potential for this wonderful corner of Idaho and Montana. Jon will share his Scotchmans' birding experiences. Come enjoy the dramatic beauty of these wild lands and wild birds, through compelling slides and stories. Everyone is welcome.

Program meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the 1912 Building, FISKE ROOM, 3rd and Adams St, Moscow, Idaho.

About Palouse Audubon

Palouse Audubon Society, PO Box 3606, Moscow ID 83843-1914, is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Our mission 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.

General membership meetings are held at the 1912 Building, FISKE ROOM, 3rd and Adams St, Moscow ID, at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month, September through May. The board of directors meet at the 1912 Center at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

Treasurer's Report— 4/6/2010

Checking Balance	\$13,291.23
Certificate of Deposit	\$5195.99
Tri-state Gift Card	\$192.56
Total Assets	\$18,679.78

Membership Report—3/4/2010

National and Palouse Audubon	297
Palouse Audubon (only)	34
National Audubon (only)	112
Total Membership	444

- PAS Membership Year—September 1 to August 31
- Second notice for 2010 dues has been sent

The Prairie Owl is published every other month, August through April. Material for the Owl should be sent to the editor, Tina Deines at tinadeines@gmail.com by the 20th of the month. Subscription problems should be addressed to the membership chair, James Storms, P.O. Box 235, Garfield WA 99130, 509-635-1272 or e-mail nbutte@pullman.com. Visit the Palouse Audubon Society website at <http://www.palouseaudubon.org/>

Field trips

April 24: Rose Creek, Kamiak Butte and Steptoe Butte; Terry Gray. With spring well on its way, we hope for many new arrivals and summer residents. Meet at 8 a.m. at Dissmore's IGA on North Grand Avenue in Pullman or at 7:15 a.m. at Sports Authority in Lewiston to car pool to Pullman. This will be an all-day field trip but can be a part-day trip if preferred.

May 1: NW Whitman County; Tom and Diane Weber. This field trip takes us into the heart of Whitman County's channeled scabland. We will visit the shallow lakes near Sprague, the Rock Creek drainage and the Palouse River area. Specific targets are burrowing owl, long-billed curlew and ferruginous hawk. Meet at 7 a.m. at Dissmore's in Pullman. This is a full-day trip.

May 8: International Migratory Bird Day. In 2010, Partners in Flight and International Migratory Bird Day celebrate the power of partnerships—recognizing International

Migratory Bird Day and the 20th anniversary of Partners in Flight and their many collaborative efforts to benefit bird conservation. Celebrate the day by going BIRDING!

May 15: Tucannon River; Terry Gray. This trip takes us into the heart of the School House burn area. Last year there were many Lewis' woodpeckers, Vaux's swifts and other local cavity nesters. Meet at 8 a.m. at the North parking lot of Sports Authority in Lewiston. This is a full-day field trip so bring along food and drink.

May 26: Wednesday Evening Bird Walks (The first of six). Each field trip will visit a different local area including Phillips Farm, Spring Valley Reservoir, Wawawai Canyon, Genesee Wetland and Kas Dumroese's property. Participants should meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Moscow Safeway. For more information contact Terry Gray at 208-882-1585.

Latest State of the Birds reveals impacts of *climate change*



Seabirds like this Laysan Albatross that are restricted to nesting on low-lying islands are in danger of losing their breeding habitat as sea levels rise.

Credit: FWS/Michael Lusk

Reprint from www.audubon.org

On March 11, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar released the 2010 State of the Birds Report, showing that climate change will have an increasing impact on birds and their habitat. It issues an urgent call for a sound climate and energy policy that will reduce carbon pollution and for strategic conservation investments that will help species adapt to a changing climate. If we can help the birds weather this unprecedented threat, we can help ourselves.

This is the second U.S. State of the Birds Report; the first, issued in 2009, provided a comprehensive description of patterns of change in United States bird populations over the last half of the 20th century, documenting changes in overall bird populations in major biomes and habitats in the United States.

For the 2010 report, Audubon joined its partners from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, American Bird Conservancy, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Klamath Bird Observatory, and other organizations to assess and analyze the vulnerability of all U.S. birds to climate change, based on impacts to the habitats they depend on. This assessment provides an unprecedented and vital tool for conservation planning. Find out more: <http://stateofthebirds.org>

PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Palouse Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3606
Moscow ID 83843-1914

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

We're on the Web!
www.palouseaudubon.org

Cats (*cont'd from Page 1*)

In Washington, D.C., mashups with vehicles are the number one reason for injury, followed by fights with wild animals like raccoons. Even in "safe" situations, cats may curl up in car engines, ingest poison or come in contact with cats that carry fatal diseases.

Cats allowed to roam often don't see age 5, while felines kept safely inside can live to see 13 or even 20 years.

Set up a bird-watching station for cats:

A cat's interest in birds can easily be satisfied indoors by setting up a bird-friendly area outside a window that will provide entertainment that is safe for the cat and the birds.

All you need to do is provide the three essentials of any successful backyard bird habitat—food, cover and water—outside the cat's favorite viewing window. Begin by installing a couple of small trees or shrubs (in the ground or in pots) for natural cover.

Then place several bird feeders, containing a variety of bird foods—seeds, suet and sugar water—in the area, along with a small birdbath. In no time, the birds will find the mini-habitat outside your cat window and make it a regular stopping place. To learn more, read *Bird Watching for Cats* by George H. and Kit Harrison (Willow Creek Press, 1998).



There will be no meetings or programs in June and July. Have a great summer!