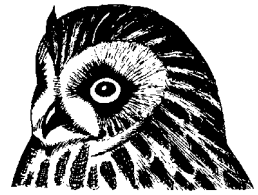


THE PRAIRIE OWL



PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 31, Issue 5, May 2003

FROM THE EDITOR

There are very few reasons to dream of a return to older times. In England the period of the Middle Ages must have been particularly bleak. The Forest Law rendered many of the forests to the king. It then became a crime to kill an animal for food and to gather sticks for a fire on the royal lands. Poverty and starvation were widespread and if that wasn't enough The Black Death ravaged the population of Europe. But one aspect of earlier times that is particularly appealing to an academic is that one person could know all that was known of the natural world. One such gifted person in the Middle Ages was Alexander Neckam.

Neckam was born in the English town of St. Albans in 1157. At the early age of twenty-three he became a distinguished professor at the University of Paris—one of the most celebrated institutions of the time. It was there that he published his treatise *De Naturis Rerum*. I obtained a translation (the original is in Latin) of this book to read about the early use of lodestone in the magnetic compass. (Neckam gives the first description of the compass in Europe.) Whilst browsing through other sections of the book I found that Neckam had many views about birds. In fact his thoughts on birds take up nearly half the first book, and begin with the eagle.

In one anecdote he describes how in self-defense a goshawk kills an eagle. The King of England and his courtiers witness the occurrence. The courtiers applaud the ferocity of the smaller and weaker bird. The king promptly reproved his followers for expressing sentiments, which justified the use of force by vassals against their sovereign. He ordered the hawk to be hanged immediately as guilty of treason.

The wren was noted for its fertility and its ability to turn itself on the spit before the fire. But this smallest of birds claimed to be the king of birds—hence its Latin name *regulus*. Neckam describes in the following anecdote how this happened. One day the birds assembled to choose a king, and it was agreed that the throne should be given to the bird that mounted highest towards heaven. The little wren concealed itself under the eagle's wing, and when the eagle, far up above the other birds, made its claim to the prize, the wren started from its hiding place, jumped on the eagle's head, and claimed to be the highest of all, and therefore the winner.

Neckam has anecdotes about many other birds including the lark, magpie, sparrow, cuckoo, pelican, and raven. In other sections of the book he describes topics as

diverse as fishes, fruit-trees, gemstones, astronomy, the fox, and chess, a game he informs us that was invented by Ulysses.

CALENDAR

MAY

- 4 Coyote Grade Field Trip, 8:00am Moscow Rosauer's
- 7 PAS Board Meeting – 7:30pm, 2152 Arbor Crest Rd., Moscow
- 10 International Migratory Bird Day activities, *Friendship Square*, 8:00am - Noon, Moscow
- 17 Spring Valley & Moose Creek Reservoirs Field Trip - 8:00am, Moscow Rosauer's
- 21 Program Meeting, *Digi-scoping in Australia* - 7:30pm, Reid Miller, WSU faculty and PAS member.
- 28 Wednesday evening bird walk – 6:30 pm
- 31 Potlatch River Field Trip - 7:30am, Moscow Rosauer's

JUNE

- 2 PAS Board Meeting – 7:30pm, 230 SE South St, Pullman
- 4 Wednesday evening bird walk – 6:30 pm
- 11 Wednesday evening bird walk – 6:30 pm
- 14 Cataldo Bobolinks Field Trip – 7:00 am
- 18 Wednesday evening bird walk – 6:30 pm
- 25 Wednesday evening bird walk – 6:30 pm

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, May 10

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Friendship Square, Moscow

The event will feature exhibits on bird banding, migration, identification, bird songs, migratory bats, and Audubon. Shade grown coffee, migration games, bird box building, birding field trips and other hands-on activities will also be featured.

COME CELEBRATE SPRING AND THE RETURN OF OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

FROM THE PREZ

Isn't spring great? It seemed to be a long time coming but during these past few days evidence of its arrival is becoming increasingly obvious. The shrub steppe is in full bloom with the Arrowleaf Balsamroot being exceptionally gorgeous this year. Camas is in full bloom at Rock Lake, Canada Goose goslings are following adults at Riparia, and the Rose Creek Western Bluebirds have their nests built and eggs laid. We should have newborn chicks in ten days or so.

Last weekend Diane and I led a field trip into NW Whitman County. While sitting in our vehicle at the designated meeting place I was praying that no one would show up. My expectations for the day were high but the prevailing high winds and snow flurries were quickly shaking my optimism. To my utter amazement, 10 brave souls left Pullman at 7:00am for the field. The cold and wind continued until mid-afternoon, when the sun finally came out and the wind subsided somewhat. To our surprise we were able to count 67 species, see two beautiful waterfall areas over Rock Creek, locate at least one Ferruginous Hawk, photograph a pair of Great Horned Owls with 2 *Gonzo* look-alike nestlings on a cliff face near Towell Falls, and see the first arrivals of several shorebird species and warblers to the area. The day certainly didn't go as planned but overall it was a good day. Driving home through Endicott, we followed a complete double rainbow for nearly 10 miles. Both ends of the rainbow and the complete arcs were visible - unfortunately we never were able to grasp the pots of gold.

Don't let spring pass you by again this year. Now is the time to get outside and enjoy the wonders of life. It is all around us. Happy birding.

Tom Weber

PROGRAMS

Wednesday, May 21: *Digi-scoping in Australia* - Reid Miller, PAS member and WSU faculty, will give a presentation on techniques he uses to photograph birds through a spotting scope. Reid and Nancy were quite successful in photographing birds encountered during their recent trip to Australia and will share both the photos and techniques used during the trip.

Wednesday, September 17: *To Be Announced* - There are no program meetings of Palouse Audubon during the months of June, July and August. Happy birding.

Program meetings are held at the 1912 Building, 3rd and Adams, Moscow. Everyone is welcome. Meetings begin at 7:30 pm.

FIELD TRIPS

COYOTE GRADE and EAST CLEARWATER RIVER - Sunday, May 4

Plan for a half or full day trip depending on the activity and areas covered. Participants should meet at Rosauer's in Moscow. **Meet at 8:00 am** or at the Genesee Sewage Treatment Ponds **at 8:30 am** Jane Westervelt, trip leader, 882-8597, jwesterv@uidaho.edu

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY CELEBRATION - Saturday, May 10

Rita Dixon, Idaho Fish & Game, has put together exhibits and all kinds of fun stuff to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. At Friendship Square in downtown Moscow, the event will feature exhibits on bird banding, migration, migratory bats, migration games, junior birders, bird box building, and other hands-on activities. Palouse Audubon will host a table with information about Audubon, bird identification, and bird songs. We will also be offering short birding trips to local areas in Moscow. Other participants include: backyard habitat by the Natural Resources Conservation Service; shade grown coffee by the Moscow Food Co-op; and posters and displays at the Bookpeople of Moscow. Additional participants are expected to include Prairie Bloom Nursery and the Washington State University Raptor Rehabilitation Club. For more information, call Rita Dixon, at Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 208-799-5010. The **8:00 am - 12:00 pm** event is free and open to the public

SPRING VALLEY and MOOSE CREEK RESERVOIRS - Saturday, May 17

Plan for a full day and bring a lunch. Participants should meet at Rosauer's in Moscow. **Meet at 8:00 am** Jane Westervelt trip leader, (208) 882-8597, jwesterv@uidaho.edu

E. FORK POTLATCH RIVER - Saturday, May 31

Plan for a full day and bring a lunch. Participants should meet at Rosauer's in Moscow. **Meet at 7:30 am** Contact Jane Westervelt, trip leader, (208) 882-8597, jwesterv@uidaho.edu

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIRD WALKS - May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 25

Join trip leaders Charles Swift, Terry Gray, or Jane Westervelt for evening birding on the Palouse. Destinations will be up to the trip leader but expect to visit areas such as Idler's Rest, Coyote Grade, and various local parks. **Meet at 6:30 pm** at the Safeway Parking Lot on Blaine in southeast Moscow. Expect to return to Moscow by 9:30 p.m. For additional information, contact Charles, Jane, or Terry (see contact information on the back page).

CATALDO BOBOLINKS - Saturday, June 14

Plan for a full day and bring a lunch (it's a long drive!).

Participants should meet at Rosauer's in Moscow. **Meet at 7:00 am** Jane Westervelt trip leader, (208) 882-8597, jwesterv@uidaho.edu

You can always find the latest information about program meetings and field trips on our website

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Thanks to the efforts of Jim Storms and Diane Weber, the chapter will soon have an up-to-date membership database. The database will aid both the membership and newsletter chairpersons by allowing the chapter to print our own mail labels.

If you should notice an error in your address, name, or whatever - please drop us a line so that we can make the necessary corrections. Send your edits to tweber@wsu.edu or to Diane Weber, 230 SE South St, Pullman WA 99163. Thank you and **THANKS to Jim and Diane!**

CONSERVATION PLAN

Thanks to the efforts of Bill Warren, the chapter Board of Directors adopted a Conservation Plan at our April meeting. Our website at: <http://www.palouseaudubon.org/> contains the final document in PDF format.

THANKS to Bill Warren for his effort in writing the Conservation Plan, for spearheading its adoption, and for monitoring conservation issues in Washington and Idaho! We are fortunate to have such a dedicated individual serving as Conservation Chairman.

WANTED: OFFICERS and CHAIRPERSONS

Elections of officers for the 2003-2004 year will be held at our May Membership meeting. We welcome all interested and enthusiastic members. We are proud of what the chapter continues to do in our community but just imagine how much more could be accomplished if you were involved. Please – consider leading the chapter during the next year. It is a rewarding experience. For further details, contact Tom Weber or any of the chairpersons listed on the back page. Your service to the Chapter is greatly appreciated.



Idaho Audubon Council Meeting

May 2-4, 2003
Bogus Basin Nordic Center
Lodge

Draft Council Agenda

Friday May 2

6:00- 9:00 pm Registration/reception

Saturday May 3

7:30-9:00 am Continental Breakfast
8:00 Morning bird walk
9:00-9:30 Opening Meeting
9:30-10:30 Chapter activities
10:30-10:45 Mid morning break
10:45-11:45 Chapter activities continued
11:45-12:00 Idaho Birding Trail Introduction
12:00-1:30 pm Lunch
1:30-2:30 Important Bird Areas
2:30-2:45 Break
2:45-4:45 Breeding Bird Count Workshop
Dinner/ slide show

Sunday May 4

7:30-9:00 am Continental Breakfast
8:30-10:30 Idaho Birding Trail Site Assessment
10:45-12:30 IAC Business Meeting: Election of Officers
12:30-1:30 pm Boxed lunches



Washington Audubon Council Leadership Meeting

June 13-15, 2003
Sleeping Lady Retreat
Center

Science Director, Tim Cullinan, will present a report draft on "The State of Washington's Birds." We will learn about continental, regional and statewide efforts already underway to protect birds, and then strategize how chapters and state offices can collaboratively plug in to these efforts. Fundraising training and strategies for building a chapter volunteer base will also be discussed.

Members interested in IBAs or other bird conservation activities, along with people interested in fundraising, membership and volunteer recruitment training is invited. Please contact Tom Weber by May 14 if you are interested in attending.

Attendance is subsidized by the Washington Audubon Council with Friday dinner, three meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday included in the price.

A BIG "THANK YOU"

The following donors kindly and generously contributed to Audubon Adventures during 2002-03.

Barbara Nakata	September 2002
John & Joan Cooper	October 2002
Cathy & Henry Willmes	October 2002
John & Amy Roberson	October 2002
Ellen Thiem	January 2003
Mary Carloye	January 2003
Richard & Margaret Reed	February 2003

On behalf of the chapter and the many young people attending the courses - **THANK YOU!** The following schools, teachers, and classes are using the curriculum: **Colton** Elementary School, Cris Eacker, Grades 5 & 6; **Deary** Elementary School, Marcielle Ratzlaff, Grade 4; **Genesee** Elementary School, Cheryl Bielenberg, Grade 4; **Julietta** Elementary School, Emily Fredenburg, Grade 5; **Lena Whitmore** Elementary School (Moscow), Margaret Kenyon, Grade 5; **Russell Elementary** School (Moscow), Carrie Bitterwolf, Grade 5; **St. Mary's** Elementary School (Moscow), Karen Herrenbruck, Grade 4; **Orofino** Elementary School, Tammy Gilmer, Grade 4; **Palouse** Elementary School, Jay Iverson, Grade 4; **Potlatch** Elementary School, Gary Lam, Grade 6; **Jefferson** Elementary School (Pullman), Joan Leigh, Grade 5; **Sunnyside** Elementary School (Pullman), Gary Johnson, Grade 5; **Lincoln Middle** School (Pullman), Carmen Haddock, Grade 6; **Lincoln Middle** School (Pullman), Deni Claypool, Grade 6; **Lincoln Middle** School (Pullman), Emily Olson, Grade 6; **St. John** Elementary School, Carol Jeffries, Grade 5; and **Troy** Elementary School, Susie Schneider, Grade 5.

THE 40TH ANNUAL WENAS CREEK CAMPOUT

Hazel Wolf Bird Sanctuary
Boise Cascade Campground
Memorial Day Weekend, May 23-26

Come for the whole weekend or for day trips, come for the birding and botanizing and for the camaraderie of Audubon families exploring nature in the great outdoors. Come for the stories around the campfire. Washington's Audubon campout on Memorial Day weekend is a unique Audubon activity.

We do Birding, Botanizing and Bugging along Wenas Creek, in the hills and valleys nearby, and at Hardy Canyon, Wenas Lake, and the L.T. Murray Wildlife Management Area. We explore this rich habitat; there are special kids' activities; and we sing and hear stories around the evening campfires.

Resource people are some of the top birders of the state, butterfly and botany specialists, aquatic and other insect experts, and an active bird banding station. Besides over 200 bird species, you might see elk and many smaller mammals, several species of snakes and other 'herps,' butterflies and bats.

The campground is classified "primitive," so you will want to come as self-contained as possible—with drinking water, tents, campers, RVs. We all chip in to pay the rent for the Port-A-Potties. There are few rules—one is No Pets.

Look for the map and directions and lots more information on our website: <http://www.nwlink.com/~cyrus/wenas.html>



DUNGENESS RIVER AUDUBON CENTER

2151 Hendrickson Road
Sequim, WA
360/681-4076

Tues–Sat 10-4pm and Sundays 12–4pm
<http://www.dungenssrivercenter.org>

Enjoy birding at the Dungeness River Audubon Center and Railroad Bridge Park, public access to the lower Dungeness riparian forest, near sunny Sequim, Washington. We have excellent exhibits showing the birds of the north Olympic Peninsula, plus riverside trails and beautiful parklands beside the Dungeness River.

- Guided birdwalk every Wednesday morning at 8:30am
- Interpretive displays about local wildlife and the Dungeness River watershed
- Educational programs for all ages
- Informative natural history classes and presentations
- Summer river talks on Saturdays
- Information available about best birding sites of this area

The riparian forests are loaded with spring migrant and breeding songbirds, so May, June and July are excellent months to come birding in our area. June is the month to hear and see Red-eyed Vireos singing in the tall cottonwoods beside the river.

Down by the River Day, September 27, 9am – 4pm. Hands on learning about the Dungeness watershed and its fish and wildlife. Many riverside activities for young and old alike.

GOLDEN EAGLE PASSPORTS

As part of a move to simplify recreation fees, the Pacific Northwest Region will begin honoring the Golden Eagle Passport at most Forest Service recreation fee sites in Oregon and Washington, starting April 18, 2003. Visitors can now use one pass -- the Golden Eagle Passport -- for most day-use recreation sites nationwide operated by the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

An annual **Golden Eagle Passport** sells for \$65. Prior to this change, visitors would have spent \$30 for an annual Northwest Forest Pass in addition to the \$50 National Parks Pass. Now only one pass is required. Local passes, such as the Northwest Forest Pass, will continue to be sold and honored alongside the Golden Eagle Passport. The funds from both the Golden

Eagle Passport and the Northwest Forest Pass are used to provide the facilities and services requested by the public. Eighty percent of the sales are retained at the national forest where they are purchased with the remainder used for other high priority recreation projects across the country.

The Golden Age and Golden Access Passports provide similar benefits to cardholders. The **Golden Age Passport** is a \$10 lifetime national pass available to citizens or permanent residents of the United States who are at least 62 years of age. In addition to the benefits provided by the Golden Eagle Passport, the Golden Age Passport provides a 50% discount at campgrounds, developed boat launches and swimming sites, and for specialized interpretive services. The **Golden Access Passport** is a free lifetime national pass available to citizens or permanent residents of the United States who are blind or permanently disabled. The Golden Access Passport provides the same benefits as the Golden Age Passport.

Golden Passports are available: on the Internet at <http://www.natlforests.org/>; by calling toll free at (877) 465-2727; and at most Forest Service offices.

PARADISE RIDGE DEFENSE COALITION (PRDC)

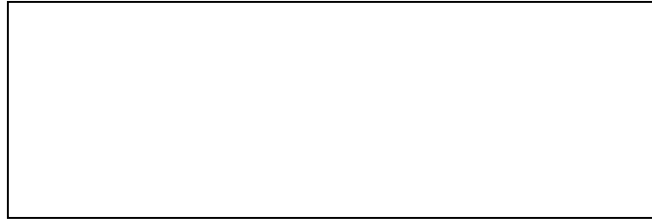
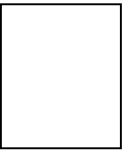
The long-awaited official unveiling of the Paradise Ridge Defense Coalition (PRDC) has happened. Scott Reed, a Coeur d'Alene attorney, is doing the legal work to delay the ITD-selected Highway 95 alternative 10A route along Paradise Ridge and the Palouse prairie in that vicinity.

Our plan is to get the Federal Highway Administration to step back and require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) rather than the small Environmental Assessment (EA) that was done. The EIS would provide for better public involvement and a broader range of options. From that broader study (including a safety study) would emerge the best alternative for the community. The PRDC hopes and expects that something other than 10A would be selected.

If you would like to learn more about PRDC, visit their web site at <http://paradise-ridge-defense.org> PRDC is also doing a publicity and membership drive. Fill out, print, and mail the form if you are interested in helping out.

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.

PO Box 3606
University Station
Moscow ID 83843



PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Henry Willmes, Treasurer
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Jane Westervelt, Program
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(208) 882-1448, richardsongina@hotmail.com

MEETINGS

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

CHAIRMEN

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Bill Warren, Conservation
(208) 882-6402, bwarren@moscow.com
Cathy Willmes, Education
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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

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