



# THE PRAIRIE OWL

Volume 29, Issue 1, September 2000

## PROGRAMS

### SEPTEMBER 9, 2000 - 7:30 P.M.

Moscow Community Center

*How Fire Affects Birds*

**Judy Ferguson** - Graduate Research Assistant, Range Ecology Department, University of Idaho - will discuss bird use of various types of habitat in a shrub-steppe/Douglas-fir ecotone in Montana.

### OCTOBER 11 and 12, 2000 - 8:00 P.M.

Campus Commons, University of Idaho

*Fire Effects Symposium*

The **Palouse Audubon Society, Idaho Native Plant Society, University of Idaho Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and the Latah Wildlife Association** have joined to co-sponsor a symposium on fire effects. Four short presentations on the evenings of October 11 and Thursday, October 12 will be given by experts on fire ecology and fire suppression. A question and answer period will follow at the end of the program.

**OCTOBER 14, 2000 - 8:30 A.M.** A field trip to the U/I School Forest will give *Symposium* participants a chance to see a prescribed burn (conditions permitting) and to visit several areas where past prescribed burns have been completed.

## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 Mann Lake Field Trip - 8:00am
- 9 Mann Lake Field Trip - 8:00am
- 11 PAS Board Meeting - 7:30pm
- 15-17 WA Ornithology Meeting, Port Angeles
- 16 Mann Lake Field Trip - 8:00am
- 20 Program - *How Fire Affects Birds*
- 23 Mann Lake Field Trip - 8:00am
- 30 Mann Lake Field Trip - 8:00am

### OCTOBER

- 2 PAS Board Meeting - 7:30pm,
- 6-8 Washington Audubon Meeting, Ellensburg
- 7 Coeur d'Alene Lake Birding Field Trip
- 8-14 National Wildlife Refuge Week
- 11-12 Symposium - *Fire Effects Symposium*
- 14 Prescribed Burn - U/I Forest
- 28-31 Fall Festival of Foliage and Feathers, Walla Walla

### NOVEMBER

- 4 Lewiston/Clarkston Birding Field Trip
- 6 PAS Board Meeting - 7:30pm,
- 15 Program - *Natural History of Bats*

**SEE INSIDE FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS**

## BITS AND PIECES

### 12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE - WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

September 15-17, 2000 - Red Lion Inn, Port Angeles, Washington

The 12th annual conference of the Washington Ornithological Society will be held at the Red Lion Inn in Port Angeles from September 15-17, 2000. The conference begins on Friday at 7:00 p.m. with a with a Welcoming address followed by a program by Tim Cullinan, National Audubon Society, on the *Autumn Migration on the Olympic Peninsula*.

Port Angeles is nestled between the Straits of Juan de Fuca and Olympic National Park's Hurricane Ridge and serves as an ideal base for a variety of excellent birding opportunities during the weekend. Scheduled Field Trips include: Sequim Bay and Dungeness Spit; Port Angeles Harbor and Ediz Hook; Hurricane Ridge and Heart o' the Hills; the Elwha River; and Clallam Bay and Western Estuaries.

Lodging reservations may be arranged by calling the Red Lion Inn at (360)452-9215. Registration and additional material is available by visiting the Washington Ornithological Society website at

<http://www.wos.org/> or by calling Scott Morrison (President) at (360) 705-0457. Registrants must be members of W.O.S. Individual membership is \$20 - Family membership is \$25.

### **WASHINGTON AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING**

October 6-8, 2000 -Lazy F Ranch, Ellensburg, Washington

Contact Tom Weber ([tweber@wsu.edu](mailto:tweber@wsu.edu)) or Kris Schoyen ([audubonwa@olywa.net](mailto:audubonwa@olywa.net)) for information.

### **NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK**

October 8-14

This year, National Wildlife Refuge Week will be celebrated October 8 through 14. Any time, however, is a great time to see a National Wildlife Refuge. There are over 520 National Wildlife Refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas in the United States, so chances are at least one is less than an hour's drive from just about anywhere.

Although teeming with all kinds of wildlife, America's National Wildlife Refuge System is great habitat for people, too. If you visit a wildlife refuge or waterfowl production area during National Wildlife Refuge Week, you can enjoy birding tours, fishing and hunting events, nature hikes, and educational activities for children. National Wildlife Refuges and waterfowl production areas also offer outstanding opportunities to enjoy wildlife and the wonders of the outdoors all year long.

For more information about National Wildlife Refuges and waterfowl production areas, and a copy of the Refuge System Guide, call 1-800-344 WILD (1-800-344-9453). Additional details are available on the web at <http://refuges.fws.gov/index.html>

### **FALL FESTIVAL OF FOLIAGE AND FEATHERS**

October 28-31, 2000 - Walla Walla, Washington

This is the third year for *The Fall Festival of Foliage and Feathers* and the interest in and expansion of event activities and community involvement will make for a spectacular four-day event. The Walla Walla Valley is replete with amazing habitats for literally hundreds of native and migratory birds and as many unique and historic species of plant life. The growing number of tours, workshops, and other activities guarantees there will be something for everyone! Additional details may be found on the web at <http://www.downtownwallawalla.com/Promotions/fallfestival.htm>

## **PROGRAMS**

### **SEPTEMBER 20, 2000 - *How Fire Affects Birds***

7:30 p.m. - Moscow Community Center (corner of Washington and 3rd Street), Moscow

**Judy Ferguson** - Graduate Research Assistant, Range Ecology Department, University of Idaho

Judy will discuss bird use of various types of habitat in a shrub-steppe/Douglas-fir ecotone in Montana. She worked in that area for four field seasons, collecting habitat data on five successional stages, ranging from open grassland to closed canopy forest. One of the aspects of Judy's research was to examine the effects of fire and fire suppression on bird assemblages in the various types of habitats.

### **OCTOBER 10 and 11, 2000 - *Fire Effects Symposium***

8:00 p.m. - Campus Commons, University of Idaho (top of Line Street on the U of I campus\*\*\*), Moscow

**Harold Osborne, James Peek**, and others

What happens to fish and wildlife when an area burns? Or, what happens to the fish and wildlife when an area that evolved with frequent wild fires doesn't burn for several decades? Do fire and fire suppression both have an effect on the types of birds in an area, or on their abundance in a region? their abundance in an area? Does the plant community change following fire? Does fire suppression affect the plant community in forest and grassland ecosystems? What was the historic frequency of fire in the Inland Northwest? Has the frequency and severity of wild fires changed over time in the Pacific Northwest? Are fire and fire suppression related to the "forest health" issues and the record-breaking 2000 fire season? The **Palouse Audubon Society, Idaho**

**Native Plant Society, U of I Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Latah Wildlife Association, and Moscow Parks and Recreation** have joined to co-sponsor a symposium on fire effects. Several experts on fire ecology and effects of fire and fire suppression on fish, wildlife, and plant communities will give short presentations on the evenings of Wednesday, October 11 and Thursday, October 12. Following the four presentations on each evening there will be a question and answer period.

On **Saturday, October 14**, a field trip to the U/I School Forest will give participants a chance to see a prescribed burn (conditions permitting) and visit several different areas where past prescribed burns have been completed. These burned areas were burned at different times, so participants will get a chance to see the effects of both fire suppression and prescribed fire and on-going changes at the different-aged sites. Harold Osborne, Manager of the School Forest, will be one of the field trip leaders. He'll discuss the management plan for the School Forest, the role of prescribed fire there, and the results he has accomplished through use of fire. Another field trip leader will be James Peek, retired professor of Wildlife Biology at the University of Idaho. Peek will highlight the effects of both fire and fire suppression on wildlife species and on the plants they rely on for food and cover. *Meet at northeast corner of Rosauer's parking lot, 411 North Main, Moscow at 8:30 a.m. for transportation to the U/I School Forest.*

\*\*\* General parking is not permitted at Campus Commons. Parking is available across the street from the College of Forestry Building (corner of Line and Sixth Streets). For those of you, who would prefer not to walk up the hill, transportation will be provided from the parking lot.

## FIELD TRIPS

### **FALL MIGRATION AT MANN LAKE** - September 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

Experience the migration of waterfowl, shore birds, and other migrants during the month of September. As many as 12-15 species of shorebirds as well as a variety of ducks and other water birds frequent Mann Lake. The field trips will be led by various experts (Charles Swift, Kas Dumroese, Carol Vande Voorde, Winnie Hepburn, Keith Carlson, and others) on each of the five Saturdays in September. Participants are to meet at Rosauer's, 411 North Main, Moscow, at 7:30 a.m. or at the boat launch area of Mann Lake between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. The field trips are anticipated to end by 11:00 a.m.

**Directions to Mann Lake** - When entering Lewiston from the north, cross the Clearwater River on US 12 and immediately take the first left toward East Lewiston. Continue left on East Main Street and follow it for a 1/2 mile to the flashing yellow lights. Turn right on Lindsay Creek Road and follow it up the canyon to its end. Turn left on Grelle Avenue and follow it to Powers Avenue. Turn left on Powers Avenue and follow it past the elevators to the reservoir (1 mile). *Idaho DeLorme Atlas*, page 54, A-1 and *A Birder's Guide to Idaho*, page 88 (see map on page 84).

### **COEUR D'ALENE LAKE FIELD TRIP** - October 7

Charles Swift will lead an all day field trip to St. Maries, Harrison, and the Chain of Lakes at the south end of Lake Coeur d'Alene on Saturday, October 7. This should be an ideal time to see migrating waterfowl and passeriformes as they move through the lake area. Participants are to meet at Rosauer's in north Moscow at 8:00 a.m. Bring a lunch. Contact (208)883-0553 for more information.

### **LEWISTON-CLARKSTON BIRDS** - November 4

A field trip to the Lewiston-Clarkston area will be conducted by trip leader Charles Swift on Saturday, November 4. Scheduled stops include the North Lewiston marsh, the Levee Ponds along the Clearwater River, and Hells Gate State Park. Expect to see raptors, waterbirds, and others. Participants are to meet at Rosauer's in north Moscow at 8:00am. Contact (208)883-0553 for more information.

Palouse Audubon Society  
Prairie Owl Chapter  
PO Box 3606  
University Station  
Moscow ID 83843

## ***PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY***

### **OFFICERS**

**Tom Weber**, President  
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### **MEETINGS**

**BOARD** - 1st Monday (normally)  
9/11, 10/2, 11/6, 12/4,  
1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7, 6/4  
**MEMBERSHIP** - 3rd Wednesday  
9/20, 10/11, 11/15, 12/20,  
1/17, 2/21, 3/21, 4/18, 5/16

### **CHAIRMEN**

**Diane Weber**, Book Sales & Membership  
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