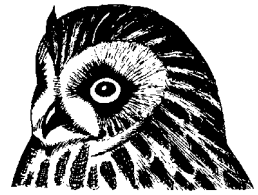


THE PRAIRIE OWL



PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 31, Issue 2, November 2002

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 2 Mann Lake Field Trip - 8:30am
- 6 PAS Board Meeting – Henry/Cathy Willmes, Moscow
- 9 Mann Lake-Lewiston-Hells Gate Field Trip - 8:30am
- 16 Asotin Slough-Snake-Grande Ronde Field Trip, 8:00am
- 20 PAS Membership Meeting - 7:30pm, *Holiday Social and Auction - Nature's Splendor at Loon Lake*
- 28 Thanksgiving Bird Count

DECEMBER

- 4 PAS Board Meeting – 7:30pm, location TBA
- 8 Heyburn State Park Field Trip - 8:00am
- 11 PAS Membership Meeting - 7:30pm, *The Channeled Scabland*
- 14 Pullman-Moscow Christmas Bird Count - 7:00am

JANUARY

- 1 Anti-Football Field Trip - time and location TBA
- 4 Lewiston-Clarkston Christmas Bird Count - 7:00am
- 8 PAS Board Meeting – 7:30pm, location TBA
- 15 PAS Membership Meeting - 7:30pm, *How Birds See*

DONATIONS NEEDED

Do you have items or services that could be included in our annual Auction? Bird feeders (new or slightly used), nest boxes, birdseed, artwork, books, field trips, restaurant coupons, wine, most anything of small or large value would be appreciated. Our plans are to present a description of all auction items to bidders upon arrival, so please, if possible, notify Tom Weber of donations before the event.

HELP WANTED

Palouse Audubon Society is looking for a volunteer to help create a membership database using Microsoft Access. One of our goals is to print our own address labels, in lieu of ordering them from National Audubon. Contact Tom Weber, at 334-3817, for more information or to volunteer for this short-term project.

You are invited to attend an evening of fun and merriment.

HOLIDAY DESSERT SOCIAL AND AUCTION

November 20, 2002

Auction Viewing begins at
7:15 p.m.

1912 Building
3rd and Adams, Moscow

The evening activities include a program about *Nature's Splendor at Loon Lake*; delicious desserts and beverages; and a silent auction to benefit our Audubon Adventure classrooms.

SEE YOU THERE!

PROGRAMS

Wednesday, November 20: *Nature's Splendor at Loon Lake* - Daniel Poleschook, Jr., Chairman of the North American Loon Fund and Ginger Gumm, both of Loon Lake WA, will present a professionally produced slide show on their efforts to help Common Loons nesting in NE Washington. They have an amazing and heart-warming presentation about these gorgeous birds. You are guaranteed to enjoy this beautiful program.

In addition, we will be holding our second annual **Holiday Social and Auction**. The purpose of the auction is to raise funds in support of the 17 Audubon Adventure classrooms being sponsored by the chapter. Auction items include a wonderful variety of birding trips, books, artwork and Christmas gifts. Desserts, ice cream, coffee, and punch, will be served. Support of Audubon activities is tax-deductible, so bring your checkbook and help the cause. Everyone is welcome.

Wednesday, December 11: *The Channeled Scabland* - Roy Breckenridge, Idaho Geological Survey. Dr. Breckenridge has been on Idaho Public Television and is a leading expert on the Lake Missoula Floods and the resultant channeled scabland of eastern Washington. This is truly an amazing story and will answer many of the questions you may have about the land surface of our area. Don't miss this great presentation.

CHAPTER NEWS

From the Prez:

OK, I haven't done much birding over the past two months and I have not seen all of these neat birds that have been reported at Mann Lake - but I certainly wish I had. Since the end of August, field trip leaders Charles, Jane, Terry, and a host of others have faithfully led the Saturday morning field trips to Mann Lake. Sometimes the birders outnumbered the birds, but most of the time it was as it should be, a great experience filled with wonderful surprises. It is estimated that there were over 3,000 waterfowl on the lake on October 12.

Diane and I led a field trip to Rose Creek and Kamiak Butte in early October that was attended by a great group of birders. There were 13 in our group, an un-lucky number and probably the reason for the birds being in one of those, 'I can see you, but you can't see me' moods. It was definitely a day requiring a keen ear - we could have left most of the optics at home. But, as always, it was an enjoyable day - a good day to be out, and a way to share some good local birding areas with new faces. As in fishing we used the term, 'you should have been here yesterday' to describe what the eye could not see.

Our program in November is really special and I urge you to participate. Our featured speakers are coming all

the way from Loon Lake, in the far NE corner of Washington. They have a beautiful story about nesting Common Loons in local lakes and will describe their quest to aid the success of breeding Loons. I know you will be moved by their story. We will also be holding our 2nd annual Holiday Social and Auction. The auction proceeds are to benefit the 17 Audubon Adventure classrooms sponsored in the area. Please attend, bring your checkbook, bring an item for the auction, but come and enjoy a wonderful program and evening. Also remember that as a non-profit organization, money you spend during the evening not only benefits Palouse Audubon and the young people enrolled in the Audubon Adventure classrooms but it is also **tax-deductible**. I certainly hope that you will attend.

Until then, good birding, and I hope to see you at a future event or field trip,

Tom Weber

FIELD TRIPS

MANN LAKE FIELD TRIPS - Co-sponsored by Palouse Audubon, Canyon Birders, and Idaho Fish & Game, these trips will focus on the fall migration of waterfowl and shorebirds as they pass through our region. Field trips are led by expert birders from one of the three organizations. Dates are: **Saturday, November 2 and 9**. Participants are to meet at the Mann Lake boat ramp at **8:30 a.m.**

Directions to the Mann Lake boat ramp: From the north end of Lewiston, follow US 12 south into town, cross the Clearwater River on Memorial Bridge and immediately take the first left (east) toward East Lewiston. Turn left (east) onto East Main Street and go about a half-mile to the flashing yellow lights. Turn right (south) onto Lapwai (a.k.a. Lindsay Creek) Road. When the road forks stay right on Lindsay Creek Road (Nez Perce County Road 460) and follow it about 5 miles to its terminus at Grelle Avenue. Turn left (east) onto Grelle Avenue and just past the sharp right curve; turn left (east) onto East Powers Avenue (a.k.a. Lapwai Road). Continue straight (east) past the grain towers to the main parking lot. ID DeLorme 54, A-1.

MANN LAKE - LEWISTON - HELL'S GATE

Saturday, November 9 - Jane Westervelt trip leader.

Birders should meet at Mann Lake at 8:30 a.m. We will also explore the Lewiston levee ponds and Hell's Gate State Park. Plan for most of the day and bring a lunch.

ASOTIN - SNAKE RIVER - GRAND RONDE

Saturday, November 16 - Jane Westervelt trip leader

Birders should meet at Rosauer's in Moscow at 8:00 a.m. or at the Swallows Nest boat ramp in Clarkston at

9:00 a.m. There will be a fair amount of driving interspersed with short walks. Plan for an all day trip.

THANKSGIVING BIRD COUNT

Thursday, November 28

The 36th annual count takes place for one hour on Thanksgiving Day. The counter chooses the time that best fits his or her holiday schedule – and the location. The count includes birds that pass through a 15-foot diameter circle or cylinder, since birds passing through or over the area are counted. The count circles usually are located around whatever attracts birds – feeders, baths, cover, etc. Most participants select a count area visible from a comfortable spot near a window. Others select water areas or a favorite birding area and make an outdoor count. Whichever is the case; the same count circles should be used each year.

Individual birds are to be counted only once during the hour, even if they pay repeated visits to the count area. Flocks should be counted only once, when the largest number are inside the area. Last year, 448 people made 452 counts in the Western states and Alaska.

If you wish to participate, forms are available on the website homepage or by request to Tom Weber.

HEYBURN STATE PARK

Sunday, December 8 - Jane Westervelt trip leader

Birders should meet at Rosauer's in Moscow at 8:00 a.m. After arrival, this trip will be mostly walking. If time allows we will also explore the lagoons at St. Maries. Plan for an all day trip.

PULLMAN-MOSCOW CBC

Saturday, December 14 - Dave Holick, coordinator

Join local birders as they participate in the 103rd annual Christmas Bird Count. Dave Holick and Tom Weber are coordinating Count day for the Pullman-Moscow Circle. Please call (208) 882-5556 or (509) 334-3817 for additional information. Everyone is welcome.

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, 19th St, Lewiston. Contact Charles Swift at (208) 883-0553.

Membership Corner

Do you have questions about your National Audubon Society membership? There are several ways to find the information you need. First, you may write to National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, PO Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529. Second, you may call Customer Service at the Membership Data Center Customer at 800/274-4201. Finally, you can always contact the membership committee chair of Palouse Audubon Society, Diane Weber, at 509/334-3817.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Highlights of the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation (U.S. Department of Interior, issued October 2002)

Birding is the most popular form of wildlife watching in the United States, with over 46 million people observing birds around the home and on trips in 2001. Eighteen million of these took birding trips away from the home. 74% of birders (34 million) could only identify 1 to 20 different types of birds. Only 8% of birders could identify 41 or more types of birds, and only 5% of birders maintained life lists of bird species seen.

Nonresidential (away from house and yard) wildlife watching participation was highest in the Rocky Mountain West at 15% of the total population (16 years old or older), with the lowest participation rate in the Southeastern US (8%). Nonresidential wildlife watching is an activity pursued primarily by people of high income with 31% of nonresidential wildlife watchers having a household income greater than \$75,000.00/year, with only 11% having incomes less than \$20,000.00/year. Nonresidential wildlife watchers are 95% white, and over 30% have 4 or more years of college education.

Over 40% (388,000) of Idaho residents were involved in some form of wildlife watching recreation, and a total of 643,000 people chose Idaho as a location for watching wildlife.

W. A. Warren, Ph.D.

BYLAW REVISION

By unanimous vote, the following revisions to the chapter bylaws were approved at the October 16, 2002, program meeting:

Article VIII (Commitments) and Article IX (Discontinuance) of the chapter bylaws be stricken in their entirety and a new Article VIII inserted to read:

CHAPTER POLICY - *The relationship between this SOCIETY and the NATIONAL SOCIETY shall be governed by the Chapter Policy.*

In addition, Article X (Parliamentary Authority) and Article XI (Amendments) of the chapter bylaws will be re-labeled Articles IX and X respectively.

BIRDFEEDING:

GOING OVER TO THE DARK SIDE

Like a lot of folks, I feed the birds in my yard in the winter for a touch of color and life in an otherwise dreary season. Because the birds at the feeder are so visible, it's hard to miss when occasionally an obviously sick bird turns up. Most often, this is just another interesting (and sometimes distressing) aspect of the birds' natural lives, but for some diseases birdfeeders may actually be a part of the problem. If you see signs of these particular diseases, it's a good idea to clean up and put away your feeders for a few weeks and let your flock disperse.

The occasional sick bird at your feeder could be suffering from any number of different diseases but there are two, salmonellosis and MG, that should be of particular concern to bird feeders. Salmonellosis (AKA 'songbird fever') is common in the Inland Northwest. Birds with salmonellosis are weak and lethargic, ruffle their feathers, and frequently die on or near the feeder. Pine Siskins are most often affected, but it's not uncommon in other winter finches. If you see several weak birds with ruffled feathers or find several dead birds over the course of a couple of weeks, you're very likely seeing an outbreak of salmonellosis. Large outbreaks of salmonellosis sweep the western states every few years and it's a rare year when at least some birds aren't affected in our area.

It's also worth watching for MG (named for the causative bacteria *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*). MG primarily affects House Finches, causing eye infections resulting in swollen eyelids with goopy exudate. Severely affected birds are blinded and frequently die. MG has spread throughout the introduced House Finch populations in the eastern U.S. where it's thought to be responsible for significant population declines. So far the original western U.S. population of this species has been spared. MG, like salmonellosis, will usually result in multiple sick birds and usually some dead birds.

How do birdfeeders contribute to these diseases? Higher than 'normal' populations of the birds are concentrated in the area by feeders, and feeders are particularly attractive to the sickest birds. These factors

result in increased bacterial contamination of the area, leading to more new infections.

What should you do if you suspect one of these diseases at your feeder? Simply stopping bird feeding for a while is probably the best course of action. You should also dispose of any dead birds (wrap them up and put them in the garbage) and use a rake to spread out any piles of seeds and shells on the ground to help reduce contamination of the feeder area. (To keep from contracting salmonellosis yourself, a very unpleasant experience, be sure to wash your hands carefully afterwards.) The birds will disperse and the environmental contamination will eventually go away naturally. In a month or so, it'll be safe to start putting out some feed and attracting birds once again.

Tom Besser - WSU

DON'T BLINK

I just visited with my good friend and retired professor Dr. Garth Sasser of Moscow. He relates this story that I want to share with you. Garth and his Mother were parked at the outside teller station in Wells Fargo Bank one afternoon. He had his window open on the driver side and his Mom had her's closed. They sent their items into the bank and were waiting for the reply.

Low and behold a sparrow came through the driver window followed closely by a Hawk. Well, needless to say things started happening very fast. The Sparrow ended up in the back seat hiding. The Hawk was clawing at the window on the passenger side trying to get out. Garth said his Mom just rolled down the window and out he went. Feathers everywhere.

I asked what type of sparrow and what type of Hawk. Garth said it happened so fast that he never figured that out. I can only imagine. At a time like that everything speeds up. Just though you would find this interesting.

John Miller - U/I

PROGRAM MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Thirty people attended the Palouse Audubon Society membership meeting on September 18, 2002. PAS President Tom Weber made several announcements and introduced Kath Strickler, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Idaho.

Kath's presentation about "Breeding Birds of Northern Idaho's Mountain Streams" featured five species: American Dipper, Harlequin Duck, Common Merganser, Spotted Sandpiper, and Belted Kingfisher. Many beautiful photographs from rivers in Northern Idaho illustrated her presentation, along with quotations from John Muir about his beloved "Water-Ouzel" (American Dipper). Most delightful were videos of Dippers, one of a female feeding babies in a nest

partially hidden behind falling water, and another of an adult bird swimming (flying) underwater.

Kath included tips on where to see these birds, how to identify them and recognize the differences between male, female, and juveniles. There are many challenges to birds living along wild mountain streams and she described ways that they have adapted to survive and breed in such a rugged environment. She also discussed the question "Why do Dippers dip?" and several theories that might answer it. We are indebted to Kath for an informative and entertaining evening.

Christine Gray

Washington Ornithological Society

Have you ever considered joining the Washington Ornithological Society? WOS was chartered in 1988 to increase the knowledge of the birds of Washington and to enhance the communication of all persons interested in those birds.

WOS is the premier organization for Washington's active birders. Over 400 amateur and professional ornithologists currently belong to the society. Membership is open to anyone interested in Washington's birds. Annual dues are \$20 for individuals and organizations, and \$25 for family memberships.

Membership in WOS includes: the *WOSNews*, a bi-monthly newsletter with articles about the birds of, and birding in, Washington; *Washington Birds*, the annual journal of WOS with more scholarly articles about the

birds of Washington; monthly meetings, usually held in Seattle with interesting guest speakers; field trips, led by Washington's top birders to wonderful birding areas in our state; and annual conferences.

WOS also sponsors *Washington BirdBox*, the rare bird hotline for our state. Birders who see rare or unusual birds can call the hotline to report their sightings and other birders can call to hear the reports, and go chase those birds!

Another arm of WOS is the Washington Bird Records Committee, the group that reviews the reports of rare bird sightings that have been submitted by birders from around the state. The committee also votes on the reports and decides which sightings of species new to the state list are valid and can be added. These are the people we try to persuade when we write a report of a rarity we have seen.

More information on the Washington Ornithological Society, and how to join, can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.wos.org/> Consider joining WOS today!

AUDUBON ADVENTURE CLASSROOM

SUPPORTERS - The chapter extends a BIG THANK YOU to the following individuals for responding in support of our classrooms: John and Amy Roberson; Barbara Nakata; John and Joan Cooper; Henry and Cathy Willmes; and the Claude Lomax Memorial Fund. You too can help by responding to the enclosed coupon.

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.

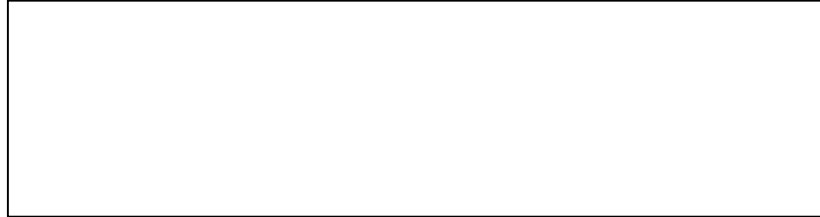
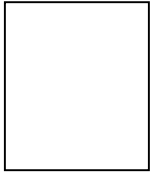
_____ School

_____ 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 Society
PO Box 3606
University Station
Moscow ID 83843



PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Henry Willmes, Treasurer
(208) 882-2649, willmes@adelphia.net
Tom Partington, Secretary
(208) 882-3782, parttack@moscow.com

MEETINGS

BOARD - 1st Monday (normally)
10/7, 11/4, 12/2, 1/6, 2/3, 3/3, 4/7, 5/5
MEMBERSHIP - 3rd Wednesday
9/18, 10/16, 11/20, 12/18, 1/15, 2/19

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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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