



THE PRAIRIE OWL

PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY
Volume 46, Issue 2, Oct-Nov 2017

The mission of the Palouse Audubon Society is to promote education, conservation, and the restoration of natural ecosystems--focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats--for the benefit of humanity and the Earth's biological diversity

PROGRAMS

Wednesday, October 18 - Richard (RJ) Baltierra will present a program on **"A Young Birder Shares His Experiences."** The program will be held in the Fiske Room of the 1912 Center, Moscow, at 7:00pm. RJ is a student at Washington State University working on a bachelor's degree in Zoology. His interest in birding began when his grandmother took him on a birding trip when he was in the 4th grade. Birding is, in every way, a major part of his life. He spends summers conducting bird surveys, and other months of the year birding primarily in eastern Washington and sometimes chasing rarities. Palouse Audubon is very fortunate that RJ has agreed to be our field trip chair during the next year. This program is free and open to the public, and children, parents, and grandparents are especially invited to attend.



Wednesday, November 15 - Peter Meserve will present a program on **"Climate Change and Semiarid Systems: An Example from Chile"**. The program will be held in the Fiske Room of the 1912 Center, Moscow, at 7:00pm. Since 1989, Peter and colleagues have worked in a semiarid thorn scrub community in north-central Chile. Within a badly degraded landscape, they have focused studies on a minimally disturbed natural area, Fray Jorge Forest National Park, a World Biosphere Reserve. The park was originally created to preserve remnants of deciduous forest subsisting on dewfall on ocean-facing ridges. However, lower elevations of the park are dominated by a thorn scrub community that receives an average of less than 6" rainfall per year. In addition to studying small mammals, they have followed plants, predators, birds, reptiles, bats, and insects, revealing a remarkably diverse community. Long-term studies such as these are necessary for documenting the effects of climate change; even though the original goals did not anticipate studying their effects, the results over the past 20 years illustrate their importance, especially in semiarid communities, where small changes in rainfall patterns can have dramatic consequences for the organisms that live in them. Please join us as Peter introduces examples of the unusual wildlife and plants found here and discusses the implications of their findings for future planning and preservation efforts. The program is free and open to the public.



Ron Force

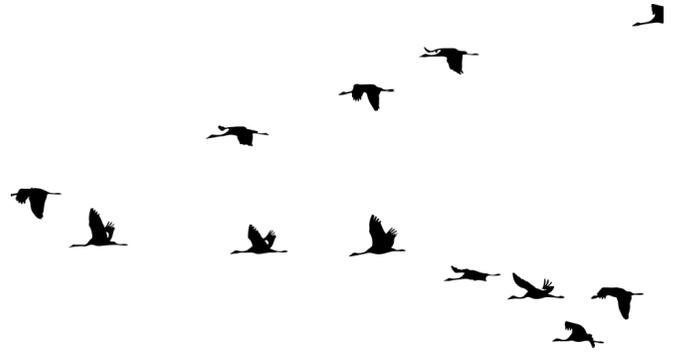
From the Prez:

For those of you who are members of the National Audubon Society (NAS), you may have noticed that when you get your renewal request, they no longer list a fixed amount for “membership”, but now talk about “contributions”, usually an amount higher than you had “contributed” last year. NAS leadership sees the organization evolving from membership (a fixed amount like a magazine subscription) to a charity where you donate based on your passion for support of their cause. This has caused a great deal of discussion among chapter leadership.

Many chapters are still operating on the membership model (including us) with our fixed \$15 membership (you all have received renewal notices in the mail). One Washington chapter now operates solely on the basis of voluntary donations, but they no longer publish a printed newsletter or support scholarships.

That’s not to say that we don’t depend on donations. Over a third of our income comes from that little bit extra our supporters include in their membership renewals. You’ll find a list of those generous people in this issue of *The Prairie Owl*. Without them, we’d have to curtail our support for education and the conservation of birds and their habitat. **We thank them for their donations**, and hope that others can join them if possible.

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, December 16 -
Moscow-Pullman Christmas
Bird Count



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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David Pierce-Garnett, 208-310-2766

davidpiercegarnett@gmail.com

FIELD TRIPS

RJ Baltierra will be leading several field trips during the months of October and November.

All field trips will meet at Umpqua Bank located at 225 N. Grand Ave, Pullman, WA.

Full day trips will leave at 7:30am and will be back by 4:00pm. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Contact RJ at 509-332-9043, for any further information.

Saturday October 14, Central Ferry HMU.

We will look for migrant waterfowl, gulls, and sparrows. This trip will require a good amount of walking, and boots are suggested because the area is roadless. Full day: bring lunch, water, and snacks.

Saturday, October 28, Boyer Park and areas along the Snake River. We will look for waterfowl, gulls, and any late migrants. Full day: bring lunch, water, and snacks. Note: a morning-only option is available for this trip. Contact RJ if you are interested.

Saturday, November 18,

Lewiston-Clarkston Valley. Today we will bird the hotspots of the valley for everything from waterfowl to rare gulls to owls. Full day: bring lunch, water, and snacks. Note: a morning-only option is available for this trip. Contact RJ if you are interested.

Thank you to these donors who have helped PAS carry out the mission of the Palouse Audubon Society

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MEET THE BOARD

David Pierce-Garnett was born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Columbus, GA. After attending college in New York State, David then attended graduate school in Colorado.

David moved to Moscow in 2000 with his wife and two children. His undergraduate degree is in neuroscience and psychology; MS in natural resource management. David reports that most of his work has centered around children. Currently, David is the Director of the Moscow School District Adventure Club and has about 400 participants per year in grades K-5.

Other areas David has worked in are: outdoor leadership, business management, social science research, public land management, wilderness management, and environmental education. He loves to wildlife watch . . . all wildlife, from urban to endangered. "All of nature excites me". Welcome to the board, David Pierce-Garnett.



The Water, Wind & Fire Tour focuses on organizing meetings hosted by various community groups to discuss our changing climate and potential mitigation or solution approaches. In our tour we seek to stimulate conversations rather than to deliver a particular program. We will stimulate dialog with materials that touch on some or all of the following: climate science, human and economic consequences of global warming, mitigation alternatives including risk management strategies, human and economic benefits to carbon pollution reduction and a clean energy economy. We want to learn about the concerns that local people have about both climate change and action to prevent it.

Date: Tuesday, November 14th

Time: 12:00 pm

Location: Palouse Community Center
230 E Main St, Palouse

Date: Tuesday, November 14th

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Whitman County Library
102 S Main St, Colfax

Date: Wednesday, November 15th

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Clarkston United Methodist Church
1242 Highland Ave, Clarkston

Palouse Audubon Society 2017 Photo Contest Results

Palouse Audubon Society held its fourth annual amateur photo contest this year from May 1 through July 31 and it was, once again, a huge success! The three categories for entries included Birds, Other Wildlife, and Other Nature. Photo entries were accepted only from the region including Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The contest came to an exciting finish on July 31, 2017, as many amazing last-minute entries were received. A total of 82 captivating photos were submitted to the contest by 20 entrants, including 51 photos in the “Birds” category, 16 in “Other Wildlife”, and 15 in “Other Nature”. The winning photos in each category are shown here. The “Lazuli Bunting” photo submitted by Mick Thompson was judged to be the overall “Best in Show”.

A few excellent photos were, unfortunately, not within the boundaries of the designated geographic region of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho and therefore were disqualified. Awards were presented at the September program meeting. For the future, one tip from the judges was that photos should be at least 3 Mb in size to produce a good quality photo for judging.

Our sincere thanks to all participants who submitted photos for this contest. Much appreciation is extended to our three superb photo contest judges, including Becky Phillips, Kevin Pullen, and Gail Ackerman, for their excellent judgement in selecting the winning photos.

Mike Costa



First place in "Birds" category and overall BEST IN SHOW: "Lazuli Bunting" by Mick Thompson of Redmond, Washington.	Second place in "Birds" category: "Pileated Woodpecker" by Jesse Amesbury of Moscow, Idaho.	First place in "Other Wildlife" category: "Ground Squirrel Wrestling Match" by Janine Schutt of Bremerton, Washington.
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<p>Second place in "Other Wildlife" category: "Signs of Spring, Yearling Cow Moose" by Nancy LaDuke of Viola, Idaho.</p>	<p>First place in "Other Nature" category: "Refuge" by Jonathon Heale of WSU School of the Environment, Pullman, Washington.</p>	<p>Second place in "Other Nature" category: "Mt. St. Helens at Sunset" by Janine Schutt of Bremerton, Washington.</p>
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From the Autumn 2017 issue of Living Bird magazine, published by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

A new species popped out of the latest annual deliberation of the American Ornithological Society’s Classification Committee—the Cassia Crossbill. The case for a Cassia Crossbill species distinct from the other nine types of Red Crossbills lies in the Cassia’s unique evolutionary adaptation to pine cones in its home grounds of Idaho’s South Hills. This crossbill’s crossed bill is well-suited for cracking into the unusually large cones of lodgepole pines in this area, with the bill acting like a key that unlocks the nutritious seeds inside the cone. Other crossbills don’t have that key. Thus, Cassia Crossbills stay in the South Hills year-round to feed on lodgepole pines, whereas other crossbill types are nomadic, cross-continent wanderers. Craig Benkman of the University of Wyoming has been studying the crossbills of the South Hills since 1996. It was his two-decades-plus of research that convinced the AOS committee to make the split. Benkman successfully demonstrated the uniqueness of the Cassia Crossbill—in its physical shape, its relative reproductive isolation, and its genomic distinction. “Perhaps my greatest pleasure is thinking that the Cassia Crossbill will receive the attention it deserves,” says Benkman.

MEMBERSHIP

Palouse Audubon Society (PAS) is a chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS) with its own dues. New NAS members in our chapter area receive one year's free membership in PAS, along with the chapter newsletter and other benefits of membership.

PAS dues of \$15 are payable in September. Members may receive the chapter newsletter, The Prairie Owl, either by mail or by email notification of its posting on the chapter's website.

Members are encouraged to read the newsletter online to save printing and postage expenses.

PAS members who have not renewed and NAS members who have not paid dues after one year of membership are removed from the newsletter distribution list on December 31st.

General membership meetings are held at the 1912 Building, Fiske Room, 3rd and Adams St, Moscow ID, at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month, September through May. The board of directors meets at the 1912 Center at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

The Prairie Owl is published every other month, August through April. Material for the "Owl" should be sent to the editor, Marie Dymkoski marie-dymkoski@msn.com by the 20th of the month. Subscription problems should be addressed to the membership chair, Diane Weber 509-334-3817 or catbirdz@roadrunner.com.

Visit the Palouse Audubon Society website at <http://www.palouseaudubon.org/> or find us on Facebook.



THE PRAIRIE OWL

PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership includes an annual subscription to The Prairie Owl newsletter. Please consider an additional donation in support of the programs and activities of the Palouse Audubon Society.

Annual Membership **\$15.00**

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Palouse Audubon Society, PO Box 3606, Moscow ID 83843.

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(notice will be sent by email when a new issue has been posted on the website)

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Palouse Audubon Society
PO Box 3606
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WWF tour is co-sponsored by Audubon Washington and the Citizens' Climate Lobby. Visit <https://sites.google.com/a/citizensclimatelobby.org/wa-tour/home> for more information.