

# The Prairie Owl



VOLUME 44 ISSUE I

October-November 2015

## EVENT CALENDAR

October 8: Steve Kelling  
(Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology) Lecture on The Birder Effect

October 21: PAS Photo Contest Winners Announced

October 21 Program: Effects of Climate Change

November 18: Program: Mike Denny on Wallula Gap and Missoula Floods

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Ron Force  
208-874-3207

ronforce@gmail.com,

**Vice President:**

Marie Dymkoski,  
509-595-1650

Marie-dymkoski@msn.com

**Secretary; Program Chair:**

Diane Weber

509-334-3817

catbirdz@roadrunner.com

**Treasurer:** Peter Meserve

p\_meserve@yahoo.com

**Membership:** Ron Force

**Newsletter Editor:**

Tim Hillebrand

208-310-1341

tshphd@gmail.com

**Outreach:** Diane Weber

**Conservation Committee:**

Mike Costa

509-332-1793

majcosta@live.com

**Field Trips:**

Mike Clarke

transvolcanic@gmail.com

**Members at Large**

James Storms

509-635-1272

nbutte@pullman.com

Paul Schroeder

509-334-2470

schroede2003@yahoo.com

## Summary of 2015 PAS Photo Contest

The Palouse Audubon Society held its second annual photo contest this year, open for submissions by amateur photographers from April 1 through July 31, 2015. The purpose of the contest was to further the mission of PAS by enhancing our awareness of the wildlife and nature that surround us and to give local amateur photographers an opportunity to share their captured images with us. Entrants were encouraged to use this opportunity to express their creativity in photographic compositions of nature.



*"Easter Weekend Ruddy Ducks" 2014 entry by John Hanna*

The photo entries were all wonderful and interesting. Selection of the winning photos was a difficult task for the judges. There were three categories (Birds, Other Wildlife, and Other Nature) and two age divisions (Youth under 18 years and Adult 18 and over).



*"Anna's Hummingbird" 2014 submission by JJ Cebula*



*"The Owl from Green Hollow" 2014 submission by Nels Chick.*

A total of 70 photo entries were received for this year's photo contest. The entries consisted of 47 spectacular regional birds, 16 shots of other wildlife ranging from butterflies to squirrels, and 7 entries classified as "other nature" such as flowers and rolling Palouse hills. All of the photos submitted this year were in the "Adult 18 and over" age division. There were no entries for the "Youth under 18 years" age division. Youngsters really missed out on an opportunity to show off their photos and win some prize money.

This was a great opportunity to display photographic talent to be appreciated by all. The contest might also serve as a means for budding photographers to "wet their feet" for entering other photo contests. Following our pointers and guidelines for nature photography might just turn you into a great nature photographer!

Contest photos will be displayed on the photo contest web page after the winners are announced at the October 21st PAS Program Meeting. Visit the website photo contest page to see last year's 2014 photo entries and the soon-to-be-posted 2015 entries.

A special THANK YOU to everyone who shared their fantastic photographic creations with us!



## Program for November 18, 2015

### Mike Denny Presents



Mike Denny—teacher, photographer, author, and naturalist from Walla Walla—will present a program on the Wallula Gap on Wednesday, November 18, at 7:30pm in the Fiske Room of the 1912 Center, Moscow. Wallula Gap is one of two great water gaps on the Columbia River: the other is Sentinel Gap near Mattawa. All the flood waters from the Missoula Floods, the great Ice Age Floods that flowed across eastern Washington, funneled through Wallula Gap. Today this area hosts an animal and native plant community that is very much like an island surrounded by a vast sea of wheat, grapes, and livestock operations. Mike will describe this place and the wildlife, plants, and geology that make it up. Three of Mike's books cover aspects of Wallula Gap: *Birds of the Inland Northwest and Northern Rockies*, 2008; *Where the Great River Bends*, 2008; and *Many Waters*, 2015. This program is the Palouse Audubon Society's holiday program, and it is free and open to the public.



Photographs of Wallula Gap

## PAS Graduate Scholarship Winners

Each year, the Palouse Audubon Society awards two grants in support of research toward fulfilling the chapter's mission of promoting education, conservation, and restoration of natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. One grant is available for a graduate student at Washington State University and the other for a graduate student at the University of Idaho. The grants are \$500 each with no restrictions on how the grant monies may be used.

The two winners for 2014-15 are as follows:

**University of Idaho;** Jamie Jarolimek for *Aspen vulnerability and effects on wildlife*. Aspen stands are biological hotspots. The study aims to evaluate the effects of climate change and drought on aspens and their associated bird populations.

**Washington State University:** Steven Edward Woodley for *Environmental factors triggering the emergence of *Eustenopus villosus* and *Larinus curtus* within *Centaurea solstitialis* population on the Kramer Prairie in Southeastern Washington*. The study looks at factors affecting the populations of two weevils that feed on Yellow Starthistle, a major invasive species on the Palouse.

### Wing Tip

The biggest bird that ever existed on Earth is the flightless elephant bird, which is now extinct. It weighed about 1000 lb. (450 kg.). Seven ostrich eggs would fit inside one elephant bird's egg. Elephant birds died out 400 years ago, but people still find pieces of their tough-shelled eggs. Remains have been found only in Madagascar.

### Wing Tip

A bird's feathers weigh more than its skeleton.

### Wing Tip

Approximately 75% of wild birds live for less than a year. The larger the bird, the more likely it is to live longer. The large wandering albatross, for example, can live for up to 80 years.

## 2014-2015 Donors

|                            |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Elise Augenstein           | Sharon Hayden              | Paul & Alice Schroeder  |
| Andrea Beckett             | Linda Heidenrieich         | Mike Scott              |
| Ann Bershaw                | Susan Hodgins              | Donna Shanaman          |
| Sharon Cabeen              | George F. Hudson           | Donna Shivelor          |
| Dave Wherry                | Sue Johnson                | Vaughn Silva            |
| Jack & Mary Carloye        | Inez Kalin                 | Dave Skinner            |
| Kelly Cassidy              | Lyndon & Mary Keefer       | Jo Bohna                |
| George Ball                | Jenny Kostroff             | Ken & Nancy Spitzer     |
| Jerry Cebula               | John & Alice Kramer        | Jim & Mary Ann Storms   |
| Leroy & Janet Damm         | Gary Macfarlane            | Brian & Anne Sumption   |
| Chris Dixon                | Bobbi Calentine            | Steve Talbot            |
| Valerie Drwon              | Dick McCray                | Ellen Thiem             |
| Donna Erickson             | Dan McLaughlin             | Nitin Vasavada          |
| Mary Fauci                 | Jane Parker                | Diane Weber             |
| Barbara Feil               | Mary McPherson             | Richard & Barbara Wells |
| Judy Ferguson              | Peter & Jan Meserve        | Cathy Wilmes            |
| Lauren Fins                | Janet & George Mount       | John Wolff              |
| Susan Firor                | Barbara Nakata             | Gerry Wright            |
| Joan Folwell               | Lynne Nelson               | Carolyn Wyatt           |
| Ron Force                  | Martin O'Malley            | Sharon Yount            |
| Maynard Fosberg            | Jean Olson                 |                         |
| Bruce & Lavon Frazier      | Charlotte Omoto            |                         |
| Emiliy Fredenburg          | Diane & Stephen Petit      |                         |
| Richard & Sally Fredericks | Mary Reed                  |                         |
| John Hanna                 | Glen & Mary Sanchez Lanier |                         |
| Donna Hanson               | Ned & Carole Schroeder     |                         |

### Wing Tip

Approximately 2/3 of all the bird species are found in tropical rain forests

### Wing Tip

In the continental U.S. alone, between 1.4 billion and 3.7 billion birds are killed by [cats](#) annually



## Wing Tip

There are over 9,500 species of birds in the world. Scientists typically group them into 30 categories. Birds are the most widespread of all animals around the world



The Kea is a small parrot from New Zealand.

## MEMBERSHIP

Palouse Audubon Society (PAS), PO Box 3606, Moscow ID 83843-1914, 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 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month, September through May. The board of directors meets at the 1912 Center at 7:30 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, Tim Hillebrand, 857 Orchard Ave., Moscow ID 83843, 805-518-9612, tshphd@gmail.com by the 20th of the month. Subscription problems should be addressed to the membership chair, Ron Force, PO Box 3606, Moscow ID 83843-1914, 208-874-3207, ronforce@gmail.com. Visit the Palouse Audubon Society website at

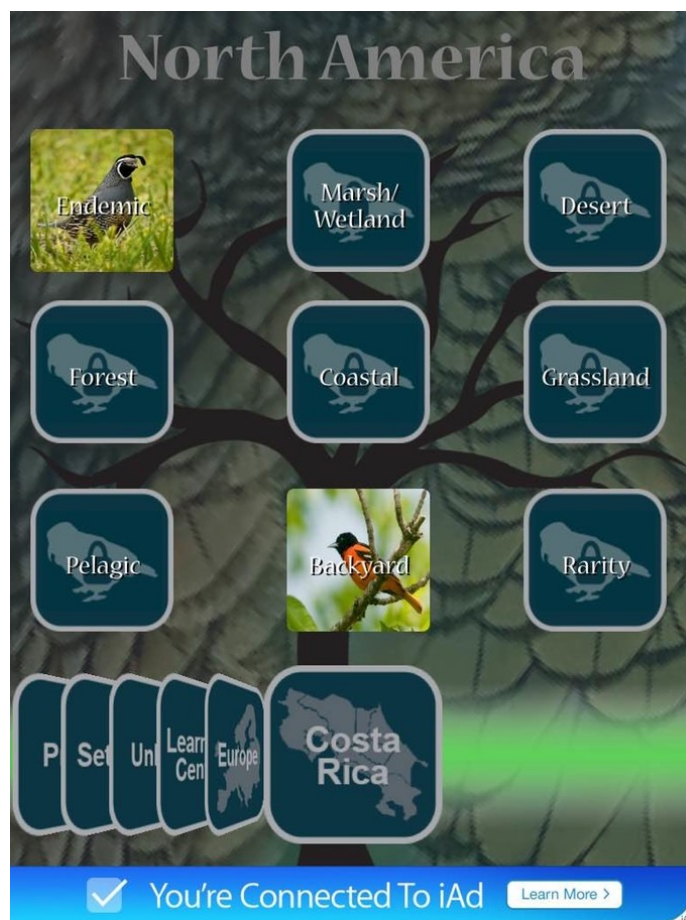
## New Birding App: Kea

In our program meeting on September 16 we were introduced to a new birding app called Kea. It's named after a very intelligent little parrot from New Zealand. The developer, Chris Duke, made the presentation. He is a doctoral candidate in Washington State University. Kea is designed to make the process of learning to recognize birds faster and more fun by turning it into a game. This app is intended for birders on all levels of sophistication and expertise. Everyone will benefit.

The best way to learn anything is through play, period. Games are the foundations of our earliest learning, and we're naturally inclined towards play as a way to make sense of new information.

Kea uses several different games to build and test growing knowledge of birds with levels that group birds by their habitat or taxonomy. Anyone can play it for free, starting with the birds they are most likely to see in their own backyards.

This app is a Kickstarter project. Check it out here: <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/653016829/new-birding-app-kea-learn-birds-through-play?ref=discovery#>



## PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Palouse Audubon Society  
PO Box 3606  
Moscow ID 83843-1914

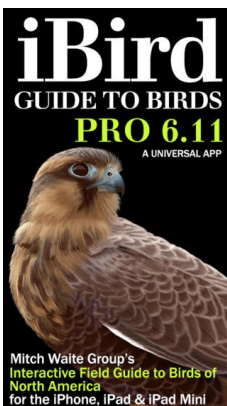


**Get to know our local owls  
Give a Hoot. Go Owling.**

*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*

**We're on the Web:**  
[www.palouseaudubon.org](http://www.palouseaudubon.org)  
and on [Facebook](#)

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
COLTON, WA  
PERMIT NO. 4



iBird is the best birding app on the market today. You should download it and put it on your phone to take with you on birding expeditions. It's available to both Apple and Android platforms. It costs \$14.99 for Apple. But it only costs \$4.99 on Amazon. It is optimized for tablets too.



The Audubon Birds Pro: A Field Guide North American Birds will soon be free. It has cost as much as \$20 in the past. In fact, all Audubon apps will soon be free.

## Mountain Quail (*Oreortyx pictus*)



Growing up in Santa Barbara county in California, I was well acquainted with Mountain Quail, which, as the name implies, were found in the higher altitudes. Since moving to Idaho, I have yet to see a Mountain Quail here, but would like to. We also had Valley Quail, which are called California Quail here. The Mountain Quail is characterized by a long, strait plume on its head. Male plumes are longer than the female's. It is the largest member of the Quail family, and the only Quail endemic to the Northwest. The bird's average length is 10-11 inches with a wingspan of 14-16 inches. They are monogamous. The female lays 9-10 eggs, and incubation takes 21-15 days. Diet is primarily seeds. They have been introduced in mountainous regions all the way up to British Columbia, and I have also seen them in Northern Baja. They tend to migrate seasonally by altitude in a localized region. Sadly, their numbers are shrinking as the environment changes. Collective nouns for Quail: covey, bevy, battery, drift, flush, rout, and shake.