

The Prairie Owl



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September 2014

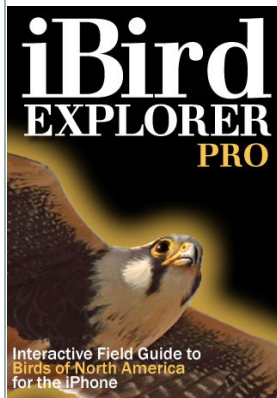
EVENT CALENDAR

September 2-Board Meeting
September 17-Program Meeting
September 20-Deadline for October/November newsletter material
October 7-Board Meeting
October 15-Program Meeting
November 5-Board Meeting
November 20-Program Meeting
November 20-Deadline for December/January newsletter material
December 2 Board Meeting
December-TBS-Pullman-Moscow Christmas Bird Count
December-TBA-LewistonClarkston Christmas Bird Count
December-TBA-Kendrick-Juliaetta Christmas Bird Count
NO PROGRAM

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September 17 Program: Electronic Birding Apps



Tim Hillebrand will present a program on the latest birding apps. A few years ago who would have thought you could call a bird on your phone—now you can.

Tim will review all of the popular apps for mobile

devices such as Smartphones and tablets. He will share with you the best ones and why.

He will pick his favorite and then go into detail on how it works so that you should come away feeling comfortable about the amazing functionality of the program and what it will do for you.

So, if you are still using a clunky, clumsy tree book for bird identification, you may want to trade it in for a sleek, electronic birding app for instant gratification without turning pages, losing your place, and having to carry around a cumbersome outmoded tome.

You are invited to see electronic birding apps come alive September 17th at 7:30 PM at the Moscow Community Center.

Tim has been a technical writer for many years with hundreds of reviews and articles to his credit in such publications as iPhone Life and Smartphone Magazine and more recently Dr. Tim's Gadget Reviews, which has a circulation of over 6 million.

Reminder

It's time to pay your dues.

Chasing the Akialoa, Mamo and other endangered birds of Hawaii—Dr. Mike Scott

Program: October 15, 2004, 7:30 pm, Fiske Room, Moscow 1912 Center.

Dr. Scott was the leader on the first Forest Bird Survey of the Hawaiian islands, 1977-81. The survey included all native forests above 1000 meter elevation on the islands of Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, and Lana'i.

The principal objectives were to determine for each bird species studied: distribution; 2) population size; 3) density (birds/km²) by vegetation type and elevation; 4) habitat response; and 5) geographical areas where more detailed studies were needed.

Where were the birds found? Were they protected by reserves and parks? What feats were necessary to survey them? Come and find out!

Michael Scott, University of Idaho Distinguished Professor Emeritus recently retired after 37 years as a research biologist with the US Department of Interior. He worked ten years in Hawaii, served two years as head of California condor research in California. The last 25 years of his career were as Professor of Wildlife Biology and Leader of the Idaho Cooperative Research Unit at the University of Idaho.



Photo Contest: Bird Category 1st place winner in 10-18 year old group. "Solitary Glance" (Townsend's Solitaire)

Windows: Biggest Bird Threat Ever

Windows kill birds. They are much worse than wind farms and even changing habitat. In an article (<http://aoucospubs.org/doi/abs/10.1650/CONDOR-13-090.1>) on this subject, researchers Scott R. Loss, Tom Will, Sara S. Loss, and Peter P. Marr estimated that up to 988 million birds die due to window collisions every year. That's a lot of birds.

Craig Machtans, Christopher Weddeles, and Erin Bayne reported in a 2014 paper in *Avian Conservation and Ecology* (tinyurl.com/Canada-collisions) that up to 42 million birds die in Canada every year.

Windows reflect images of trees shrubs, and open sky into which the birds fly to their death. How sad.

One would assume that the high rise buildings are the main culprits. But low rise buildings have windows too and so do homes. Each home is responsible for an average of two birds deaths a year from window collisions.

Machtans, et al. estimate that 56% of annual mortality occurs at low rise building 4 to 11 stories high, 44% at residences 1 to 3 stores high, and fewer than 1% at buildings 12 or more stories high, which is a surprising statistic.

Various environmental groups and consortiums of non-profit organizations, corporations, educational institutions, and government agencies are addressing these hazards with new types of windows and accessories that minimize reflectivity, new architectural designs, and new restrictions on building construction.

But what can we do as individuals to reduce bird collisions at our homes? One of the most comprehensive articles I've read on the subject is here <http://www.flap.org/residential.php>. A company called Window Alert also offers some solutions. Visit the website at <http://tinyurl.com/me2z5ol>.

DUES ARE DUE NOW. PLEASE USE THE FORM BELOW AND SUBMIT YOUR DUES AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. THANK YOU.

1st Annual PAS Photo Contest Results

The winners of the first Palouse Audubon Society annual photo contest are as follows:

Birds Category

Ages 10-18

- 1st place “Solitary Glance” by Avery Caudill
- 2nd place “Winter Birds and Berries” by Avery Caudill

Ages 18 and up

- 1st place “House Wren on an Evergreen Shrub” by Nancy LaDuke
- 2nd place “Cliff Swallows” by JJ Cebula

Other Category

Ages 18 and up

- 1st place “Middle Potlatch Creek” by John Hanna
- 2nd place “Next Generation” by Kathryn Dannay

PAS received 91 photo submissions from 25 individuals. First and Second Place Winners will receive awards.

Look for the winning photos on the PAS website.

Judges for this year's contest included Becky Phillips, Terry Gray, and Kevin Pullen. Thanks to the submitters and to the judges for making the first PAS photo contest such a success!

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 Palouse Audubon Society.

Annual Membership	\$15.00	Donation
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NAME	ADDRESS
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Return this form along with your check to Palouse Audubon Society, PO Box 3606, Moscow, ID 83843-1914.

Check one: ☐ I PREFER TO READ THE PRAIRIE OWL ON THE WEBSITE
(notice will be sent by email when a new issue has been posted on the website)

☐ PLEASE SEND A PRINTED COPY OF THE PRAIRIE OWL

Visiting with Raptors: Fifth Annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival

Join the Methow Valley Ranger District, North Central Washington Audubon Society, and Hawk-Watch International this fall for the fifth annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival at Memorial Park in Pateros, Washington on September 13th, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information check their website:

www.northcascadesbasecamp.com

Raptor ID Workshop with Jerry Liguori

Join Jerry Liguori from Hawk Watch International for a raptor ID workshop in Pateros at 7PM on Friday, September 12. The workshop will be held in a room in Pateros at City Hall which is next to the festival at Memorial Park.

To sign up for any of the activities or to learn more about the festival please visit our website:

ncwaudubon.org. or contact the director: Richard Scranton at rscrant4350@yahoo.com.



Owl print by Cori Dantini

From the Prez



Ron Force

Volunteers Needed

Treasurer—As we start another year for Palouse Audubon, we regret that our Treasurer, Lavon Frazier will be moving away and we'll need to replace her with another member. The duties are as follows: Maintain the financial records of the Society; receive and deposit checks; pay bills as authorized by the Board of Directors. Keep records of paid memberships. Attend Board meetings 10 times per year (currently, the first Tuesday of the month, evenings, August-May). Prepare monthly and annual Treasurer's reports. The time commitment is 3-5 hours per month.

Webmaster—We also have an opening for a Webmaster. Our new Website is maintained by software called Content Management Made Simple and can be done using a Web browser. We have a manual, or not, your choice. The continued existence of the Palouse Audubon Society is up to the membership. We need more people to step forward and volunteer to carry on the business of the chapter. Contact me, or any member of the Board to express interest in these or other activities, like leading field trips.

Dues Due 2014/15

September begins another fiscal year for the chapter. If the address label on your Prairie Owl says "exp 9/14", please fill out the membership form in this issue and return it with your dues payment. Those who read the Web version will get an e-mail reminder. Thank you for your continued support, and for your additional contributions which allow us to continue our programs of public education, conservation, and advocacy for birds and wildlife.

As an incentive for paying dues on time, we are going to have a drawing again this year. The prize will be a very fetching print by local artist Cori Dentini. There is a picture of the owl print to the left.

Happy Birding!



Hear the Birds Again

As we get older we tend to lose our ability to hear in the higher ranges. Unfortunately, that is where most bird songs reside. Now there is a solution for the hard of hearing to bring back to joy of hearing bird songs again. This is particularly important if you subscribe to the notion that 80% of birding is in identifying the songs.

To learn more, visit the developer's website:

<http://www.nselec.com/>

The only problem might be that these are pricey gadgets at \$750 a pop. But I guess that's cheaper than hearing aids, which don't really do the trick.

Merlin Now Available for Android



Merlin is the new birding app from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. It is very simple to use. All you do is answer four questions. Where did you see the bird? Date? Colors? En-

vironment? Using the data from eBird submissions, it will come up with a list of likely birds. It has a database of 400 North American birds, so it is somewhat limited. But the good news is that it's free. It came out in January for IOS devices and is now available to Android users. For Apple, download it from iTunes. For Android, go to the Google Play Store. To see a video of it in action, go [here](http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/). (<http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>)

Green Laser Pointer: a must have birding accessory

We've probably all had the frustrating experience of trying to point out the whereabouts of a bird to another birder. "See that bare branch in the tallest tree over there in that clump? Just go up from there, and in the middle of all those leaves is the Prothonotary Warbler." But the friend can't see it, and you both get frustrated.

Well, there is a solution to this dilemma in the form of a green laser pointer. You can pick one up for under ten bucks and make it a permanent part of your birding gear. Just clip it in your shirt pocket like a pen.

They run on two AA batteries, so keep fresh batteries handy so you don't run out of pointer.

The nice thing about a green laser pointer is that they are about a hundred times more powerful than a red laser pointer. It is astonishing how well they show up on green leaves. A red laser will fade out, especially in the sunlight and prove worthless.

You can and should pick one on Amazon or at Walmart for under fifty bucks.

Caution: Do not point the beam at people. It's against the law. If you point it at a cop, you're likely to get shot. When pointing out birds. Just draw a circle around them. Never point the beam directly at a bird, you could burn out its eyes.

By the way, you can also use these pointers for presentations and even for pointing out stars and constellations if you can believe that.



MEET THE BOARD

Diane Weber

Diane Weber joined National Audubon Society, and Palouse Audubon Society, in the early 1990's after deciding it was time to pay attention to her life-long interest in birds. She and Tom birded off and on until 2000, when a Great Gray Owl paid a visit to the Pullman area and they decided it would be a good time to do a Big Year in Whitman County. They ended the year with a total of 178 species seen and had developed a new hobby. They also decided to concentrate their birding in Whitman County, and over the years were fortunate to see over 250 species in the county. Along the way Diane has served Palouse Audubon Society as chair of the Conservation, Membership, and Community Outreach committees and as Vice President and President. She currently holds the office of Secretary and is proud to have helped organize the popular PAS Beginning Birding class.



Diane's favorite bird: The Common Loon

American Goldfinches are late nesters because they wait for thistle silk to form for use in building their nests.



Photo Contest: Birds - Adult group: 1st Place "House Wren on an Evergreen Shrub"

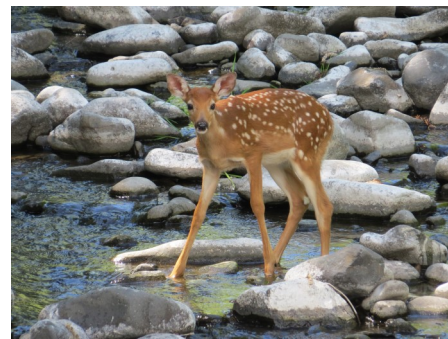


Photo Contest: Other Category- adult group: 1st Place to "Middle Potlatch Creek" – (fawn in a stream)

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 <http://www.palouseaudubon.org/> or find us on Facebook.

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
and on Facebook

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**It's wise to support your
Palouse Audubon Society.
It's time to pay your dues.
Use form in newsletter.**



Branch Manager

Wing Tip

Great Horned Owls do not build their own nests, but use nests built by hawks, crows, magpies, herons, or other large birds. Most are abandoned nests from previous years, but Great Horned Owls also take over active nests