

The Prairie Owl



VOLUME 45 ISSUE I

October-November 2016

EVENT CALENDAR

October 19: Program:
Learn Birds Through Play

November 16: Program:
What's Right with the
World

SAVE THE DATE!
Palouse Audubon Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 17. Contact Marie Dymkoski for Washington count at marie-dymkoski@msn.com and Kas Dumroese for Idaho count at kas.birder@gmail.com

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Program Meeting October 19

Kea: Learn Birds through Play

On October 19, at 7:30pm in the Fiske Room of the 1912 Center, Moscow, Chris Duke will present a follow-up program on Kea: Learn Birds Through Play. One year ago, Palouse Audubon hosted a presentation about a new mobile app to make it easier to learn how to recognize birds. Direct input and feedback from Palouse Audubon members shaped the face of Kea, and Chris Duke, the co-owner and creator of Kea, joins us again to share the updated app we helped him build and that is now available in Android and iOS. Chris will also give us the first look at Kea's conservation side, The Phoenix Conservancy, aimed at obtaining unwanted, degraded land around the world and rehabilitating these reserves to their natural state. If you are interested in birding technology, join us to try out the new App, learn about a new conservation project born right here in the Palouse, and help create and improve the birding App you've always wanted. One lucky attendee will win a fully unlocked version of Kea! Before the meeting, check out the Kea website on your own at

<http://kea-learnbirdsthroughplay.com/>

Come to the presentation with your smart phone or tablet. The program is sponsored by Palouse Audubon Society and is free and open to the public.



Program Meeting November 16

The Natural World Always Has a Story to Share - Celebrating What Is Right with The World!

Celebrate what's right with the world! Sometimes we just have to slow down or look more closely, but there is always something fascinating to appreciate right around us! Come spend an evening with professional photographer Alan L. Bauer as he shares an image-intensive presentation of his many personal celebrations. From hiking to birding to just standing still looking at what's nearby, everywhere is something worth celebrating and making each day a better experience!

Alan's program "The Natural World Always Has a Story to Share - Celebrating What Is Right with The World!" will be presented on November 16, at 7:30pm in the Great Room of the 1912 Center, Moscow. Please join us for this special holiday program featuring spectacular photographic art, door prizes, and holiday treats. The program is sponsored by Palouse Audubon Society and is free and open to the public.



Wing Tips

A bird's eye takes up about 50 percent of its head; our eyes take up about 5 percent of our head. To be comparable to a bird's eyes, our eyes would have to be the size of baseballs.

The Penguin is the only bird that can swim, but not fly. It is also the only bird that walks upright.

Owls turn their heads almost 360° (a complete circle) but they cannot move their eyes.

Kiwis are blind, so they hunt by smell.

Frigate birds sleep while flying. See this Audubon article:

http://www.audubon.org/news/scientists-finally-have-evidence-frigatebirds-sleep-while-flying?utm_source=engagement&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2016-08-22-frigatebirds

Audubon Magazine Changes

ATTENTION Palouse Audubon members who are also members of National Audubon Society: NAS is moving to a new publication schedule for the Audubon magazine. Instead of six issues a year, each covering a two-month period, the Audubon magazine will be published five times a year on a seasonal basis: summer-fall-winter-spring plus one issue for the Audubon photo contest. The new schedule began with the Summer 2016 issue, and the fall issue should arrive mid-September. If you do not receive these issues, don't hesitate to call Audubon Member Services at [1-844-428-3826](tel:1-844-428-3826).

From the Prez



Ron Force

Each year the Palouse Audubon Society competitively awards a \$500 grant to a graduate student from Washington State University and the University of Idaho whose research supports the conservation and natural history goals of the society. This year, we had no applicants from the UI, so two awards were given to students from WSU.

Lindsay Welfelt plans to use stable isotopes to inform black bear management on the east and west slopes of the Cascades. Hair samples from bears will be analyzed using stable isotopes to determine the amount of human-provided food in the bears' diets so that wildlife managers can determine whether food attractants need to be reduced or other management practices need to be introduced.

(continued on page 3)

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

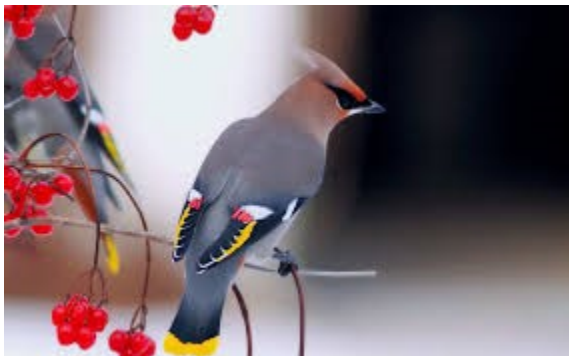
BIRD OF THE MONTH: The Cedar Waxwing

By Paul Schroeder

As I look out the back window of my house in Pullman at this time of year, I find it full of birds because I have a large Mountain Ash tree there which is now heavy with berries.

The tree attracts robins, flickers and our Bird of the Month, the Cedar Waxwing. Everyone enjoys seeing these dapper little birds with their clean-cut lines and cocky crest. Occasionally they dominate the tree, though that role has recently been taken over by the robins. You can generally tell that they are present by their high-pitched call, which becomes almost a continuous sound when a large flock is present. The birds are gregarious and almost always found in flocks, both small and large. In our area they are present year-round, although in the winter they are easier to find in the river valleys than on the Palouse. They rely on berries and other fruits during the winter, but in the summer they may often be found “fly-catching”, much like the other flycatchers. The name “waxwing” comes from the usually bright yellow, wax-like droplets which accumulate along the edges of the secondary flight feathers.

In the winter, the Cedar Waxwings are joined by a more northerly species, the Bohemian Waxwing, which has similar behavior and feeding habits and is more likely to be found in winter on the Palouse than the Cedar Waxwing. Bohemian Waxwings occur throughout more northerly regions of the Northern Hemisphere, from middle Europe (winter) to Scandinavia to Eastern Asia, breeding in Siberia and wintering as far south as Japan and Korea. There is also a Japanese Waxwing, which looks a lot like a Bohemian and has a similar range, but only in the Far East. I hope you have had the chance to watch these lovely native birds this year.



We Need You

The Palouse Audubon Society is in need of interested folks to get involved with the local organization. Currently, there are open board of director and committee member positions available. The board of directors meet monthly from September through May. Meetings usually last an hour to an hour and a half. Committees meet only when necessary and most committees would benefit with some new energy and ideas from members of PAS. Help fulfill the mission of the Palouse Audubon Society: 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. For more information, contact Marie Dymkoski, Vice President at marie-dymkoski@msn.com

From the Prez (continued)

Korey Southerland will be updating a computer model of the Palouse Basin aquifers using the latest data, and testing whether the model is understandable by general audiences, and if an understanding of the model leads people to participate in decisions about the aquifers and make changes in their personal water use.

Congratulations to these two students. We hope that next year we receive applications from the University of Idaho.

Who Gives a Hoot?

There are **216** species of owls. Although there is disagreement, most bird taxonomists believe that the owls' closest kin are the insect-eating nightjars (also called nighthawks). The owl family is ancient — fossil owls are found in deposits more than 50 million years old. In Idaho, fossil owls related to modern Screech-owls, Long-eared owls, and Burrowing owls have been unearthed in the Hagerman fossil beds (3.5 million years BP). Owls found in Idaho include: Barn Owl, Barred Owl, Boreal Owl, Burrowing Owl, Flammulated Owl, Great Gray Owl, Great Horned Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Short-Eared Owl, Snowy Owl, and Western Screech Owl

A group of owls is called a parliament.

Presenting the 2016 PAS Photo Contest Results

This photo contest was held as a fun event to increase the awareness of the presence and involvement of PAS and to encourage appreciation of the environment, wildlife, nature, conservation, ecosystem, and sustainability. The contest provided an opportunity to use photographic skills to capture experiences and impressions of nature and present them in an artistic interpretation that can be appreciated by all! Hopefully, it also served to inform the public of the possibilities available for becoming actively involved in preserving the beauty of nature and our surroundings. The photo contest is a vehicle that contributes to PAS public awareness and activities by providing an interactive venue for participants. This year the contest was open to all amateur photographers with no regional limitations. The three categories included birds, other wildlife, and other nature. A maximum of five entries were allowed to be submitted per participant. Photos were judged on technical merit, composition, creativity, and visual impact. Awards and prizes of \$60 and \$40 were presented to the first and second place winners, respectively, in each of the three categories.

Summary of the 2016 Photo Contest

A total of 20 participants submitted 82 entries from a variety of locations including Yellowstone, Potlatch, Lewiston, Clarkston, Viola, Moscow, Troy, Pullman, California, Indiana, Florida, Texas, Oregon, Illinois, Montana, Kenya, and Tanzania. The entries included 55 Bird, 12 Other Wildlife, and 15 Other Nature photos. Winning photos were selected by our panel of three judges. Awards will be presented at the October 19 program meeting.

THE WINNING PHOTOS:



Birds - 1st Place: "E. Kingbird" by Charles Wheeler.



Birds - 2nd Place: "California Quail" by Nancy LaDuke.



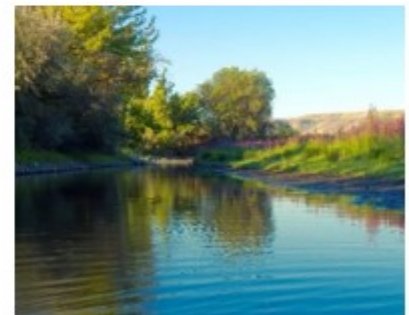
Other Wildlife - 1st Place: "Mink" by Charles Wheeler. **VOTED BY JUDGES AS "BEST IN SHOW"!**



Other Wildlife - 2nd Place:



Other Nature - 1st Place: "Textures" by Jane Finan.



Other Nature - 2nd Place: "Sunrise Paddle" by Jane Finan.

Continued on page 5

Photo Contest Continued

Additional entries can be viewed in greater detail under the "Photos" tab of the Palouse Audubon Website on the 2016 Photo Contest Page. We would like to express our appreciation to all who submitted their excellent photos for the contest. Stay tuned for an announcement informing when the next photo contest will be held. And congratulations to the winners.

Donors 2015-16

Last year the following members gave extra to support the work of the society. Our thanks to them for their generosity.

Elise J Augenstein
 Steve & Anna Banks
 Judy Brown
 Sharon Cabeen & David Wherry
 Cheryl Clancy
 Mary Lou Deyo
 Valerie Drown
 Sid & Renée Eder
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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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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.

Audubon Strategic Plan 2016-2020

"If Audubon truly lived up to its potential, how much good could we do?" That's the question our national leadership asks, given the very effective local leadership of 23 state Audubon offices and hundreds of local chapters. If you would like to download a copy of National Audubon's newest strategic plan, you can do so at

https://www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/strategic_plan_2016-2020_final.pdf

