



THE PRAIRIE OWL

PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 47, Issue 3, Dec 2018-Jan 2019

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

Saturday, December 15 National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count

The 48th consecutive (and 65th overall) Moscow-Pullman Christmas Bird Count will be Saturday, 15 December 2018. Birders interested in counting birds at their feeders or spending the day on a field crew are welcome. Our count circle is divided in two halves. Birders interested in participating on the Idaho side should contact **Kas Dumroese** at kas.dumroese@gmail.com. Moscow participants will meet at the Starbucks in the Palouse Mall parking lot at 6:30am. Birders interested in participating on the Washington side should contact **Kelly Cassidy** at highsteppe@icloud.com and **Marie Dymkoski** at Marie-Dymkoski@msn.com.

We welcome all levels of birders and interests. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch or snack along with plenty of water.

You can find more information about the CBC online:

<http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>

Wednesday, January 16, at 7:00pm in the Great Room of the 1912 Building, Moscow, **Jordan Rabon** and **Aaron Young**, graduate students in the lab of **Dr. Tracey Johnson** at the University of Idaho, will present their research roles in a program to remove juniper trees to support greater sage-grouse populations. Their research is part of a large, regional project on sage-grouse, a species that plays an important role in the management of public lands in the western United States. Jordan is collecting pre-removal data on a population of greater sage-grouse in Owyhee County where a very large juniper removal project is scheduled to begin soon. This juniper removal project is expected to affect other species of birds that occur in the area, the effects of which are the focus of Aaron's project. The program is a follow-up to one presented by Dr. Johnson to Palouse Audubon in October, is sponsored by Palouse Audubon Society, and is free and open to the public.





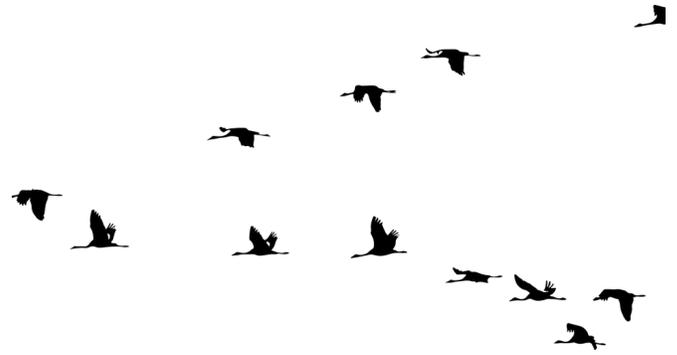
Ron Force

FROM THE PREZ

Birds are smart creatures. The majority, when the weather turns cold and days turn dark, flee to warmer and sunnier climates. I've been following their example this year, with travels to Nepal, Bhutan, and planned trips to Panama and Arizona. In short, I'm turning into a snowbird. This means I've been missing most of Palouse Audubon's program year and won't be back until the middle of March.

Fortunately, the board has been able to carry on, but the situation of an absentee president is unfair to them. Although my plans aren't set for next winter yet, I do plan to migrate to sunnier climes. Given that situation, I feel I must resign the presidency, effective April 2019, when new officers will be installed. Several other officers have expressed the desire to change or minimize their roles.

It's important that the membership come forward to fill the vacancies and take up the work of the Palouse Audubon Society. Please prepare to respond when asked.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Ron Force, 208-874-3207

ronforce@gmail.com

Vice President:

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marie-dymkoski@msn.com

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p_meserve@yahoo.com

Membership Committee:

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catbirdz@roadrunner.com

Newsletter Editor: Marie Dymkoski

Program, Outreach Committee:

Diane Weber

Conservation Committee:

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majcosta@live.com

Field Trips:

RJ Baltierra, 509-332-9043

wolfbaltierra@gmail.com

Members at Large:

David Pierce-Garnett, 208-310-2766

davidpiercegarnett@gmail.com

FIELD TRIPS

We are looking for a Field Trip Leader! Sometimes getting outside just takes someone to say “hey, let’s go!” We would like to find someone who is willing to schedule a few evening or weekend trips that we can promote on *Facebook* and in our newsletter. You do not need to be an ornithologist or ‘professional’ birder, but someone who is willing to lead a group of birders on local trips. Please contact **Marie Dymkoski** if you’re interested in scheduling fall dates!

SAVE THE DATE!

Moscow-Pullman
Christmas Bird Count
Saturday, December 15, 2018
Moscow Contact: Kas
Dumroese,
kas.birder@gmail.com
Pullman Contact: Marie
Dymkoski,
marie-dymkoski@msn.com

MORE CBC OPPORTUNITIES

Once again, we enthusiastically request your expertise, cooperation, and company by joining us for the 2018 Lewiston/Clarkston Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, December 16th. We will need the local experts and seasoned veterans but also want to encourage the participation of all who are interested regardless of your birding skill levels.

Counters should plan to meet in the Lewiston Rosauers dining area at 6:30am of the count morning unless you have made separate

arrangements with the compilers. Feeder watchers are also encouraged to participate and should contact the compilers to arrange data collection.

If you can join us this year, please email (preferred) or call Bryan Jamison @ jami9197@aol.com (208-791-2447)

SAGEBRUSH SONGBIRD SURVEY

Thanks for your assistance with the [Sagebrush Songbird Survey](#). Your time and skills have positioned us to complete field work in 2019 – a whole year earlier than planned! We’ll need substantial help from all our volunteers-current and former to achieve this goal.

Please help us one last season and experience the joy of a dawn chorus as the sun peeks over the sagebrush.

Classroom/field trainings: mid-March-early April

Preferred Survey dates:

April 11-21, 2019

May 2-12, 2019

June 1-9, 2019

Please contact Christi Norman by email:

cnorman@audubon.org



GRADUATE RESEARCH GRANTS AVAILABLE

Palouse Audubon Society has established two grants in the amount of \$500 each. The grants are in support of research fulfilling the chapter's mission statement which 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. One grant is available for a graduate student at Washington State University; the other for a graduate student at the University of Idaho. There are no restrictions in the use of the grant.

Applications must be received by March 30, 2019. Awards will be announced at the April 17, 2019 Palouse Audubon Program Meeting. There are no restrictions on how the grant money is to be used however, in order for Palouse Audubon to share in the activities supported by the grant and to let the students share some of their findings, we strongly encourage that the recipient present a program on their research results at a future program meeting.

The grant application is available at: <http://www.palouseaudubon.org/activities-events/student-grants/> For questions, contact Ron Force, President <ronforce@gmail.com> 208-874-3207

Applications are to be mailed to:
Palouse Audubon Society, Grant Application,
PO Box 3606, Moscow, ID 83843-1914

SAVE THE DATE: The 40th Annual Klamath Basin Winter Wings Festival, February 14-17, 2019. Enjoy over 50 guided birding and photography field trips, workshops, receptions, keynotes, and more throughout the Klamath Basin in Oregon and California. To learn more visit www.WinterWingsFest.org. Registration opens December 15th at 9 am PST.

BOOK REVIEW

Perhaps some readers have heard about **So Simple a Beginning: Celebrating the Evolution and Diversity of Birds**, or more commonly known as **The Wall of Birds** at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It is a 2,500 square foot mural covering the Imogene Powers Johnson Center for Birds and Biodiversity overlooking Sapsucker Woods. Now, without going to Ithaca NY, artists and birders alike can enjoy and appreciate this huge mural through a book by the artist/author Jane Kim called *The Wall of Birds*.

Each of the 243 extant families of birds are represented in life size located on the continent in which they are found, from Cassowary to Marvelous Saptuletail (a hummingbird), on the world map of continents. In addition, members of 5 families of birds that has been hunted to extinction are painted in gray. There is a whole section of the wall showing the evolution of birds from dinosaurs and Archaeopteryx along with a crocodile in color to show the closest living animal to birds.

The author/artist discusses the process she used to paint the birds. She began with graphite studies of each bird followed by a more detailed study, including bones feathers and stuffed specimens. Then she scanned the drawings in and then enlarged them to life size and taped it to the wall. Each bird got foundation colors blocked in before more detailed painting. She studied bird behavior and although there is no perch or ground or trees, the pose of birds allows one to imagine its surroundings. She even lets me 'hear' the birds by how she drew them calling on the section titled *Painting a Song*.

This is more than a coffee table tome of bird illustrations, though beautiful it is. In

discussing the birds, she brings in interesting information about their migration, mating and feeding behavior. She mentions their population from those that are in danger of extinction and those that are the most abundant, Wilson's Storm Petrel. At the end there is a pull out sheet that shows the whole Wall of Birds.

I would be happy to lend this book to anyone interested.

Charlotte Omoto, Secretary

FREE BIRDING SOFTWARE FOR KIDS

Any young birders or students interested in birds and nature who are enrolled in pre-K, grade school, middle school or high school can download the new version 7.7 of Thayer's Birds of North America – **for FREE**.

Just visit www.ThayerBirding.com, select the Windows or the Mac download and enter our special code: **PalouseAudubonYoungBirder**. Then click the Apply button and Free Checkout.

This amazing birding software, for Windows or Mac computers, features the 1,007 birds that have been seen in the continental United States and Canada. The software includes 6,856 color photos, 1,506 songs and calls, 552 video clips of birds in action, 700 quizzes and much, much more. Use the ID Wizard to identify unknown birds in your yard. Keep track of the birds you see. Compare any two birds side-by-side. Read all about the bird's nests, eggs, feeding habits and more.

Thayer Birding Software's founder, Peter Thayer, decided that this would be the perfect way to celebrate his 70th birthday!

"It is time to give back something to the birding community and to the millions of young birders (and potential young birders)

who just need a spark to get them started on a life-long quest for knowledge about our natural world and the importance of preserving the habitat we still have. What better way than this to celebrate the year of the bird? Our goal is to give away one million free copies of the birding program to kids everywhere."

Are you the local bird expert? You soon will be!

College and grad school students, use the code STUDENT for a 50% discount. Teachers use the code TEACHER for a 50% discount.



History of the Christmas Bird Count-National Audubon Society

Prior to the turn of the 20th century, hunters engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt." They would choose sides and go afield with their guns—whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won.

Conservation was in its beginning stages in that era, and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, an early officer in the then-nascent Audubon Society, [proposed a new holiday tradition](#)—a "Christmas Bird Census" that would count birds during the holidays rather than hunt them.

So began the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to the inspiration of Chapman and the enthusiasm of 27 dedicated birders, 25 Christmas Bird Counts were held that day. The locations ranged from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California with most counts in or near the population centers of northeastern North America. [Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied around 90 species on all the counts combined.](#)

CBC in the Modern Era

Each November, birders interesting in participating in the CBC can sign up and join in through the Audubon website. From December 14 through January 5 each year tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas brave snow, wind, or rain, and take part in the effort. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this long-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations, and to help guide conservation action.

How the Christmas Bird Count Helps Protect Species and Their Habitat

The data collected by observers over the past century allow Audubon researchers, conservation biologists, wildlife agencies and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, it provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years.

The long term perspective is vital for conservationists. It informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat, and helps identify environmental issues with implications for people as well.

What conservationists have learned through Christmas Bird Count data

- [Audubon's 2014 Climate Change Report](#) is a comprehensive, first-of-its kind study that predicts how climate change could affect the ranges of 588 North American birds. Of the 588 North American bird species Audubon studied, more than half are likely to be in trouble. Our models indicate that 314 species will lose more than 50 percent of their current climatic range by 2080.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has included Audubon's climate change work from CBC data as one of 26 indicators of climate change in their [2012 report](#).
- In 2009 CBC data were instrumental in the collaborative report by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - [State of the Birds 2009](#).
- In 2007, CBC data were instrumental in the development of [Audubon's Common Birds in Decline Report](#), which revealed that some of America's most beloved and familiar birds have taken a nosedive over the past forty years.

MEMBERSHIP

Palouse Audubon Society (PAS) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 and 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 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, 3rd and Adams St, Moscow ID, at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month, September through May, except in December. The board of directors meets at the 1912 Center at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, September through May.

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. Any questions about membership should be directed to Diane Weber 509-334-3817 or email catbirdz@roadrunner.com.

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

PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership includes an annual subscription to *The Prairie Owl* newsletter. Please consider a donation in support of the programs and activities of the Palouse Audubon Society. Membership renewals are due in September and current members will receive renewal notices at that time. PAS is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

Annual Membership **\$15.00** Donation _____

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE (____) _____

EMAIL _____

Mail this form along with payment to: Palouse Audubon Society, PO Box 3606, Moscow ID 83843-1914

Check one I PREFER TO READ THE PRAIRIE OWL ON THE WEBSITE

(You will be notified by email when a new issue is posted on the website)

PLEASE SEND A PRINTED COPY OF THE PRAIRIE OWL

Any questions, please email palouseaudubon@gmail.com

NEWS

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