

THE PRAIRIE OWL

PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 47, Issue 5, April-May 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

On Wednesday, April 17, at 7:00pm in the Great Room of the 1912 Building, Moscow, **Laura Ehlen**, a graduate student at the University of Idaho, will present *"The Impacts of Shrub Encroachment in a Grassland Ecosystem on Avian Communities."*

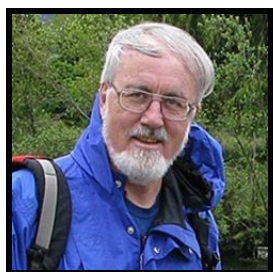
Grassland communities have declined by almost 80 percent and are considered among the most endangered ecosystems in North America. Consequently, the abundance and distribution of grassland bird species and communities has been substantially altered. Shrub encroachment is a main factor driving changes in grassland extent and composition. Shrub encroachment is a wide-spread process that likely influences bird species and communities, thus it becomes important to understand how the density and spatial arrangement of shrubs might influence bird assemblages. The overall objective of this research is to evaluate the effects of shrub encroachment (specifically shrub density and height) on bird community composition, habitat use behavior, and the microclimates that nesting birds experience. Laura is conducting this study on the Weippe Prairie (WEPR), which has recently experienced an increase in shrub density and extent. The WEPR is owned by the National Park Service

and is managed by the Nez Perce National Historical Park (NEPE). This program is sponsored by Palouse Audubon Society and is free and open to the public.

On Wednesday, May 15, at 7:00pm in the Great Room of the 1912 Building, Moscow, **Ron Force** will present: *"Birding Florida: Miami to the Dry Tortugas"*.

The state of Florida has always attracted birders, starting with John James Audubon, for its diverse populations of species found nowhere else. The second edition (1947) of Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds featured a separate page of "Florida Specialties". The state is also on the eastern flyway for migrants from the Caribbean and Central America. Release and escape of exotic species have added to the unique number of birds that can be added to your life list.

In the Spring of 2018 Ron Force joined a birding tour to look for the "Florida Specialties", resident birds, migrants, and exotics in south Florida and the Florida Keys. He'll show pictures of the many species he saw, and discuss conservation practices and challenges in Florida in an era of climate change and population growth.



Ron Force

FROM THE PREZ

Annual election of officers for the Palouse Audubon Society are held in March, and the officers for the following year are installed at the April meeting. At the March 2019 meeting, the following officers were elected.

2019-2020 Officers:

President - Marie Dymkoski

Vice President - Tom Fischer

Secretary - Charlotte Omoto

Treasurer - Peter Meserve

Each of the members of the board also have functional responsibilities. The responsibilities for next year are as follows.

Committee Chairs:

Field Trip: Tom Fischer

Community Outreach: Mike Costa

Conservation: Mike Costa

Membership: Open

Newsletter: Marie Dymkoski

Web: Marie Dymkoski

Program Chair: board will jointly work on programs

As the outgoing president, I'll serve on the board for one year, and will do everything I can to assist the board in carrying out its responsibilities. It's been my privilege to serve on the board since 2009, and as president since 2013. Please support your board members, and if asked to help out, don't be reluctant to step up.

Note from incoming President, **Marie Dymkoski**: I can't thank Ron enough for volunteering time during these important years of his retirement! He's been a good leader and cares very much about the success of our local Palouse Audubon Society. I ask you to thank him for his years of service when you see him next.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Ron Force, 208-874-3207

ronforce@gmail.com

Vice President:

Marie Dymkoski, 509-595-1650

marie-dymkoski@msn.com

Secretary:

Charlotte Omoto, 253-905-7267

omoto@pullman.com

Treasurer:

Peter Meserve, 208-874-8113

p_meserve@yahoo.com

Membership Committee:

Diane Weber, 509-334-3817

catbirdz@roadrunner.com

Newsletter Editor: Marie Dymkoski

Program:

Diane Weber

Conservation & Community Outreach

Committee:

Mike Costa, 509-332-1793

majcosta@live.com

Field Trips:

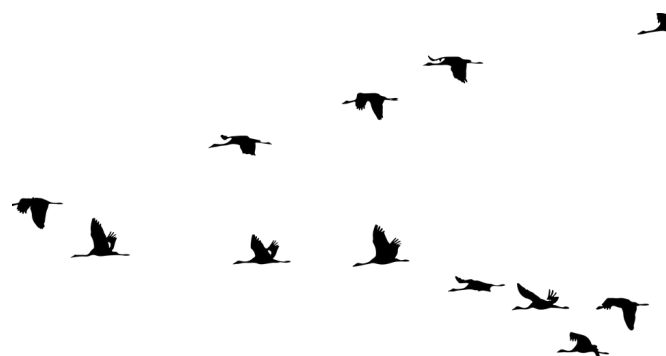
RJ Baltierra, 509-332-9043

wolfbaltierra@gmail.com

Members at Large:

David Pierce-Garnett, 208-310-2766

davidpiercegarnett@gmail.com



FIELD TRIPS

Thank you to new board member, Tom Fischer for stepping up as our new Field Trip Leader! Sometimes getting outside just takes someone to say "hey, let's go!" He is anxious to get outside with you. We will schedule field trips as quickly as possible, but in the meantime, be sure to check our posts on *Facebook* and on our website when plans come together. Please contact **Marie Dymkoski** if you're interested in adding your name to an email list for field trip notices!



BIKE & BIRD-PARADISE CREEK

Join us for a casual bike ride and birding outing along the Bill Chipman Palouse Trail! Saturday, June 1, 2019, 7:00-9:00am

Join birders from the Palouse Conservation District and Palouse Audubon Society as we set out for a nice bike ride along the Bill Chipman Palouse Trail. Starting at the Pullman trailhead, we'll work our way towards Moscow, stopping to identify birds and ideal habitat areas as we go.

Register for this free event here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bike-bird-paradise-creek-registration-59598517771?aff=PAS>

Do you need help registering? Contact Marie @ 509-595-1650

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Thank you to Paul Schroder for giving us the "Bird of the Month" articles.....however, he's away this month and will come home soon with many new birds to report on next year.

In the meantime, I'd like to share with you a project that I have been working on.

I recently celebrated a birthday and wanted to do something on social media that shared my love of birding, and my joy in teaching others about birdwatching.

Every day for a year, I am posting on Facebook a 'bird of the day' complete with photo, some descriptive words and sharing my own personal story of each one. The response has been so positive and many friends are sharing their own stories of birds that somehow made an impact or a memory from their childhood.

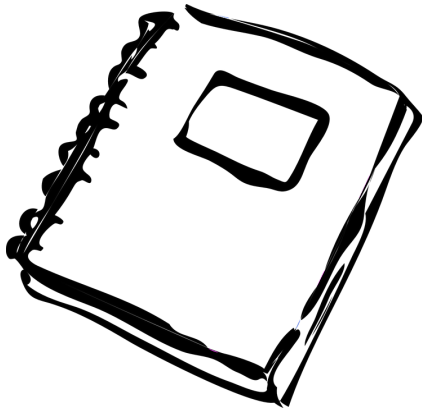
Sharing information about birds that many people don't even notice has been very rewarding. Friends are telling me that they notice more now and while they may not be 'birdwatchers' they are, indeed, watching birds.

Marie Dymkoski, Vice President

New to birding? Maybe you've taken an interest but you are not sure how to identify birds and what to look for. We'd like to help! Sign up for our Bird Classes now so you don't miss out!

This might be a good time to remind you of the ABA Code of Birding Ethics!

Visit: <http://listing.aba.org/ethics/>



PALOUSE AUDUBON BIRD CLASSES OFFERED

Beginning Birding Class will be held from 7pm-8:30pm on Tuesdays & Thursdays April 16, 18, 23, and 25 at the 1912 Center Fiske Room in Moscow. The class is an introduction to birds and bird identification with an emphasis on common, local birds and birds migrating through our area in April/May. Registration fee is \$50 (\$40 for Palouse Audubon members and students.) There will be field trips on April 27 and May 4th.

Birding-By-Ear Class will emphasize identifying local birds by sight and sound with emphasis on calls and songs. The class will be held from 7pm-8:30pm on Tuesdays & Thursdays April 30, May 2 (Friendship Hall) May 7 and 9 at the 1912 Center Fiske Room in Moscow. Field trip joint with the Beginning Birding Class on May 4 and another on May 11. Registration fee is \$50.

The instructor is **Chris Duke**, a graduate student at WSU who has been a teaching assistant for their ornithology class. Before coming to WSU, he taught his own ornithology class at Syracuse University for 2 years. He is an avid birder and has scouted our area birds.

For more information and to register, contact **Charlotte Omoto**, omoto@pullman.com

PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY AT THE KOPPEL FARM SPRING FAIR – COME VISIT US!

Once again, Palouse Audubon Society will host an information table at the Koppel Farm Spring Fair to be held on Saturday, May 11 from 10:00am until 2:00pm. This provides an opportunity for us to interact with and inform anyone interested in our activities. Please stop by to chat with us and get caught up on the latest information about our activities and upcoming events, environmental and conservation issues, grab a sample of bird seed, learn about wildlife-friendly native plants, and take some bird call challenges to test your skill at identifying birds! Learn how you can prepare an ecosystem that can attract various interesting wildlife to your yard and the importance of providing a healthy environment for bees. Tell us about your favorite birding locations and any interesting species that you have encountered. Share your approaches for attracting birds and other wildlife to your yard, and any ideas that you might have. Come on by and join the fun!



The 56th Annual Wenas Audubon Campout will take place on Memorial Day Weekend (May 24-27, 2019) at the The Hazel Wolf Bird Sanctuary at the Wenas Creek Campground (SW of Ellensburg)

This casual and friendly gathering offers a variety of activities, including birding field trips, wildflower walks, field sketching, owl prowls, and campfire presentations PLUS special guest speaker, corvid researcher Dr. Kaeli Swift, Ph.D. You do not need to be an Audubon member to attend. All are welcome to this family-friendly event.

Visit the Wenas Audubon website (www.wenasaudubon.org) for directions, an outline of field trips and programming, and more information (2019 program coming soon). The campout is free and open to all ages. No reservations or registrations needed; just show up, set up camp, and

participate in activities.

Donations are encouraged to cover SaniCans, signage, and other administrative costs. Every vehicle must display a Washington State Discover Pass

(<http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/>).

Barring high fire danger, campfires will be allowed.

Follow us on Facebook, too! We'll be sharing photos and stories from past years, as well as tips from Wenas Campout pros to help make your trip a fun and memorable experience. facebook.com/wenasaudubon/

Contacts:

General questions? Contact Carol Kohler, carolkohler98607@gmail.com



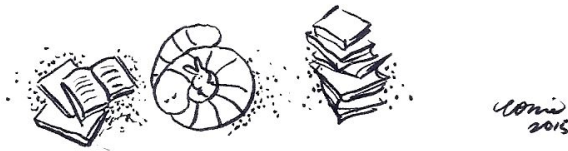
Hear more about the Crested Caracara and other birds from Florida during the May 15 program led by Palouse Audubon Society president Ron Force.

early birds



Oh, if you're a bird, be an early bird
And catch the worm for your breakfast plate.
If you're a bird, be an early bird —
But if you're a worm, sleep late.

shel silverstein



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

I am reading a fascinating book (*Bees in Your Backyard*) right now. It illustrates the most common (out of 4000) species of bees in North America. I am only to about page 24, but it is extremely well done. Below is a short entry about some of bee's enemies. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!**

TWISTED-WING INSECTS (STREPSIPTERA). The life cycle of a twisted-wing insect is jaw-droppingly different from that of "typical" insects. Females never leave their hosts' bodies, living burrowed into the exoskeleton with just a small piece of head exposed. They have no legs, no wings, and no eyes. At least males look insect-like for the few short hours of their adult lives. During those hours, they seek out a bee (or other insect) that is disfigured by the head of a female twisted-wing. He mates with her by piercing the exposed part of her exoskeleton (just behind her head) and filling her full of semen. The semen diffuses throughout the body, and some of it eventually arrives at the ovaries, fertilizing an egg. The resulting offspring develop by consuming their mother's body from the inside out, eventually emerging from the same opening created by their fathers during mating. The tiny grubs then actively seek new bees to infect. Once inside, they induce their hosts to create a layer of tissue around them, protecting them from attack by the host's immune system. Thus secured, they molt into adults. Males leave the body, but females continue to grow inside and can occupy up to 90% of the host's abdominal region. Inevitably, female bees thus infected are unable to reproduce.

Wilson, Joseph S.; Messinger Carril, Olivia J.. *The Bees in Your Backyard: A Guide to North America's Bees* (Page 24). Princeton University Press. Kindle Edition.

Reading books, One of the few advantages of being somewhat housebound!

Recommendation by Gerry Queener

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

Palouse Audubon Society
PO Box 3606
Moscow ID 83843-1914



THE PRAIRIE OWL