



Portneuf Valley Audubon Society News

November 2017, Vol. 45, #3

PVAS website: <http://pvaudubon.org>

Facebook: Portneuf Valley Audubon Society

PO Box 32, Pocatello, ID 83204-0032

November 16, Thursday, Program ***iNaturalist – The importance of Citizen*** ***Science and Opportunities in SE Idaho***

Presented by Chuck Peterson, Idaho
State University Zoology Professor

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Marshall Public Library
Community Room

Dr. Chuck Peterson will follow up our last program on eBird, with iNaturalist, an electronic recording program for nature observations. As funding for museums and science decreases, citizen science plays a more important role.

Peterson will also talk about some of his studies in Southeast Idaho.

iNaturalist has more than 6.6 million recordings to date. It's website, www.inaturalist.org, encourages people to contribute to science. "Every observation can contribute to biodiversity science, from the rarest butterfly to the most common backyard weed." Share your observations with other naturalists.



Peterson is a Professor of Zoology in the Department of Biological Sciences and a member of the Geotechnologies Program faculty at Idaho State University.

Peterson's research interests include the ecology and conservation biology of amphibians and reptiles. He has authored or coauthored 2 books, 20 book chapters, 28 journal articles, and numerous notes and technical reports. Much of his work has focused on reptile populations on Idaho's Snake River Plain and on amphibian populations in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Peterson is also an avid nature photographer.

Refreshments will be served.

November 18, Saturday, Fieldtrip **American Falls Reservoir Birding Safari** **Meet 8 a.m. at the ISU Campus parking** **lot by the Bison Sculpture behind the** **Idaho Museum of Natural History** **Building (5th and Dillon).**

We'll drive around American Falls Reservoir looking for swans, snow geese, and loons.

This is always a productive loop with plenty of opportunities to see other birds and wildlife. Plan to carpool. Bring snacks and a friend. We'll be home by noon.



Red-Shafted Flicker. Photo by Sue Weeg.



Male Sage Grouse photo taken by Ray Laible at the Curlew National Grasslands.

Letter from the Portneuf Valley Audubon Society President Barb North

Letter from the President:

Sage Grouse Conservation Plans are up for discussion again. Secretary Ryan Zinke has put his stamp on these plans, which roll back some of the success of the 2015 plans and negate the science.

There are resources to help you learn more —

- Audubon Action alerts:
<http://www.audubon.org/takeaction>
 - Audubon Sage Grouse web page:
<http://www.audubon.org/conservation/issues/greater-sage-grouse>
 - A National Audubon and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology collaboration:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tx_2oTqRYS0
 - and the Sagebrush Sea:
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/sagebrush-sea-full-episode/12341/>>
- The BLM is accepting comments on Sage Grouse management plans through Nov 27. Please consider writing a letter.

Upcoming in December:

The PVAS and Friends Holiday Potluck on Dec 21, 2017, located downstairs at the Elk's Club at 410 S. Main, will start at 6 p.m. for arrival and 6:30 p.m. for dinner.

The Elk's have a chair device to navigate the stairs. Please do not let the stairs keep you back! We will help arrange rides if you contact us in advance; if you are willing to give a ride, please also call (Barb 208-406-8507).

A holiday ham will be provided for the entrée and the rest of the menu is your potluck --- bring an appetizer, side dish, or desert to share! Please bring vegetarian, gluten-free, or other enhancements if you require them; we will have labels for each dish to help clarity.

There will be a no-host bar for all types of beverages and plug-ins for hot dishes. PVAS will provide plates and utensils. Please let Barb know if you are willing to help! We can stay until 10 p.m., minus clean-up time.

Party Activities:

- **A "White Albatross"** gift exchange will take place at the Holiday Potluck.

We will number your gently used or new, small, wrapped, nature gift as you arrive. Gifts will be placed on a table for later. You will add your name to a basket, for drawing order of gift selection.

Acquiring previously opened gifts is encouraged. This activity is intended for fun, so please do not spend huge amounts and feel free to bring a gently used item.

- **We will have a Haiku reading.** You can create a Haiku at the party, or bring in some of your musings to share.

Haiku is a traditional Japanese poetry that has spread to other cultures. Traditionally, Haiku is a three-line poem with seventeen syllables, written in a 5/7/5 syllable count.

Often focusing on images from nature, haiku emphasizes simplicity, intensity, and directness of expression.

Please give some thought to sharing with us. Strict adherence to guidelines is not necessary; creativity is encouraged!

We have invited our friends from the Native Plant Society and The Watershed Guardians. Please join us!
Happy Birding!

October 19 Meeting Report

At our regular October meeting, avid birder Steve Kahl shared his love of birds and the electronic and web-based tools available to birders and nature lovers at eBird, which has a tagline of "Global tools for birders, critical data for science."

It encourages users to record the birds they see, keep track of their bird lists

October 21 Fieldtrip Report

Six of us went to the trout farm nature trail and watched the bird feeders for juncos and chickadees. A yellow-rumped warbler was seen at close range.

On the way home a coyote and several pronghorns were seen on Michaud Flats.

A Plea from Chuck Trost:

Following up on Barb's letter: **Greater Sage Grouse plans:** We have until Nov. 27th to write BLM about not scrapping the plans to protect sage grouse throughout the West. Please see the Insight article in Nov. 5th issue of the Idaho State Journal. The BLM web site is "blm_sagegrouseplanning@blm.gov". Thanks for sending them an email telling them not to change the management plans.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Our chapter wishes to thank the people who recently joined or renewed their membership.

The PVAS currently has 117 national and 38 local members.

New and Renew Members (Thank you!)

- Theodore Zuber
- Char Phelps
- Jim Herzog
- Kennard Medley
- Joanne Rogers
- Denise Marcel
- James Pascoe
- Kevin Chupp
- Anne Robison
- Sharon Flint
- Earl Smith
- Sueann Tubbs

•Joy Burke



PVAS Board

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Curt Whitaker, 282-2742, whitaker@isu.edu

Todd Winters, toddwinters@gmail.com

In Case of Interest:

Businesses to host Local Climate Summit with Workshops at Idaho State University, Boise State University and University of Idaho

A first-of-its kind statewide summit will bring together Idahoans for an interactive two-day conversation entitled *Safeguarding Idaho's Economy in a Changing Climate - Our Water, Our Land, Our Health, Our Future* on Nov. 16 and 17.

Morning keynote and panel discussions will be live streamed from Boise State University for participants to view at Idaho State University's Pond Student Union Building in Pocatello and the University of Idaho Moscow. Afternoon workshops will be held at all three venues.

Register for *Safeguarding Idaho's Economy* at www.idahoclimatesummit.com.

PORTNEUF VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

New or Renewing National Audubon Member: mail form and your \$20.00 check directly to the New York address. This includes membership in PVAS.

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY.

**Attn: Chance Mueleck
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
225 Varick Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10014**

PVAS CHAPTER LOCAL MEMBERSHIP ONLY, \$15.00 for one year. Make your check payable to the Portneuf Valley Audubon Society.

Mail form and your check to Frank Renn, Membership Chair, PO Box 32, Pocatello, ID 83204-0032

PLEASE PRINT

DATE
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ADDRESS
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