



## Portneuf Valley Audubon Society News

October 2017, Vol. 45, #2

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

Facebook: Portneuf Valley Audubon Society

PO Box 32, Pocatello, ID 83204-0032

### October 19, Thursday, Program

#### *eBird*

Presented by avid birder, Steve Kahl,

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Marshall Public Library  
Community Room

Steve Kahl will share 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, explore dynamic maps and graphs, share sightings, join the eBird community, and contribute to science and conservation.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon Society produce the website. eBird documents the presence or absence of species, as well as bird abundance through checklist data.

Kahl is the Deputy Project Leader of the Southeast Idaho National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Refreshments will be served.



This coyote was one of five spotted by PVAS participants returning from last month's fieldtrip/work party to the Audubon Birding Trail at the IDFG Fish Hatchery below American Falls Dam on the Snake River. Photo by PVAS President Barb North.



Loons are among the birds we will be looking for during the Oct. 21 field trip. Photo by Barb North.

### October 21, Saturday, Fieldtrip

#### **American Falls Trout Farm and American Falls Reservoir, plus the drive home**

This will be a follow-up fieldtrip to the American Falls Trout Farm below American Falls Dam to check which birds are coming to the newly filled feeders, located off the newly cleared trails.

Participants will also look for loons and diving ducks on American Falls Reservoir, and will look for other birds and critters on the drive back. We should be home by noon.

**To Carpool: Meet at 8 a.m. in the lower ISU Campus parking lot by the Bison Sculpture behind the Idaho Museum of Natural History Building (5th and Dillon).**

## Letter from the Portneuf Valley Audubon Society President Barb North

### Letter from the President:

This month we are having a presentation on e-Bird by local birder, Steve Kahl. Steve is the Deputy Project Leader of the Southeast Idaho National Wildlife Refuge Complex, but he is coming here with his desire to share his love of birds and of this media and communication program.

We welcome the update for those of us who seldom or never use the program. This is a great citizen-science tool for counting birds anywhere that they can be counted. Bring your questions, curiosity, and explore with us the opportunities created by participating in this digital bird program.

PVAS is planning to have a Holiday Party again this year. We have not secured a date yet, but will let you know our success with that. The reason I mention the party is because I want you to start thinking about what item you might bring for our White Albatross Gift Exchange for our holiday party. Last year it was so fun and the items were so creative. The White Albatross Gift Exchange is a White Elephant Exchange for Birders and other nature loving people.

You can sharpen your pencils for the Haiku composition and reading as well. If you didn't come last year, we had a lot of fun! The best part was talking and sharing a nice potluck with old and new friends.

Anyone who would like to help plan our party should contact me ([barb.north10@gmail.com](mailto:barb.north10@gmail.com) or 208-406-8507).

We would love to invite some of our other nature-oriented friends, such as the Native Plant Society, and the Flat-tailers.

Happy Birding!

Thanks! Barb North



Here's a picture of the big sky and big country at Camas National Wildlife Refuge that PVAS members were treated to on their September 16 trip to participate in the fourth annual Birds, Bugle and Brunch. Photo by Barb North.

### September 21 Meeting Report

At our regular September meeting Chuck Trost gave a slide show on his April trip to Guyana, Trinidad, and Tobago.

He highly recommends the very comfortable Asa Wright Nature Centre on Trinidad, with excellent food and in-your-face views of about ten species of hummingbirds.

### September 23 Fieldtrip Report

Five of us cleared the trails to the bird feeders at American Falls trout farm, after spotting scores of raptors on the drive to the trails.

Our team battled grass, weeds, and hefty tree branches to clear the way for trail users during the next year. Someone had stolen the rope from the clever pulley system that Paul Allen had rigged up, so Chuck used one of the pulleys to lift the feeder by the river.

On a sad note, the group found a dead immature bald eagle, but the drive home counteracted that sight when, among other highlights, we spotted five coyotes and a herd of pronghorns out on Michaud Flats.

It was definitely a raptor migration time as we saw many more raptors, mainly Swainson's and Red-tailed Hawks, on the drive home.

## 2017 PVAS Summer Highlights

### • PVAS Birdathon Participation

Nine members counted birds on June 3 for our Bird-a-Thon, and we found 148 species.

Our members and members of the public contributed more than \$2,100 to PVAS, for which we are very grateful!

We celebrated the event at the Mink Creek pavilion on June 18th with another delicious ham. Thanks everyone!

### • Loon Safari, abbreviated

We had to cancel our Squirrel Meadows cabin reservation on August 13-14, but Chuck Trost went up and counted loons along the Flagg Ranch Road east of Ashton.

One loon was seen on Indian Lake, and it is suspected that a chick was missed hiding in the lily pads. Two loons were very vocal on Moose Lake, but no chicks were seen. Finally, one loon was present on Loon Lake, and no chicks were seen.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

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

The PVAS currently has 129 national and 38 local members.



Flower photo by Barb North



An American Kestrel, always a good bird to see in Southeast Idaho. Photo by Barb North.



### PVAS Board

President, Barb North, 208-406-8507

[barb.north10@gmail.com](mailto:barb.north10@gmail.com)

Treasurer, Jackie Maughan

[jjm47@cablone.net](mailto:jjm47@cablone.net)

Field Trips, Chuck Trost, 233-4538

[trostchuck@cablone.net](mailto:trostchuck@cablone.net)

Conservation Chair, Dave Delehanty, 232-8757

[deledavi@isu.edu](mailto:deledavi@isu.edu)

Membership, Frank Renn, 233-5638,

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Webmaster, Scott MacButch, 232-7510

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Publicity, including newsletter

Andy Taylor, 317-4965, [taylandy@isu.edu](mailto:taylandy@isu.edu)

### Members-at-Large:

Priscilla Hearst, 232-0233

Sue Weeg, (208) 220-0327, [pvasnews@gmail.com](mailto:pvasnews@gmail.com)

Curt Whitaker, 282-2742, [whitaker@isu.edu](mailto:whitaker@isu.edu)

Todd Winters, [toddwinters@gmail.com](mailto:toddwinters@gmail.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, 7<sup>th</sup> 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**

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<b>NAME</b>
<b>ADDRESS</b>
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