



Portneuf Valley Audubon Society News

February 2018, Vol. 45, #6

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

Facebook: Portneuf Valley Audubon Society

PO Box 32, Pocatello, ID 83204-0032

February 17, Saturday, Field Trip

Wild Snow Goose Chase

We will circle American Falls Reservoir to search for Snow Geese

To Carpool for this half day run:

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the lower ISU Campus parking lot by the Bison Sculpture behind the Idaho Museum of Natural History Building (5th and Dillon).

Frank Renn will lead this wild quest to find Snow Geese, perhaps flocks of thousands of them. If this species plays hard-to-find, don't worry, there will be plenty of other species seen.

Participants should be home by noon, perhaps an hour or two later.

Cancelled: Hagerman Valley Bird Festival Scheduled for Feb. 16-19, the Hagerman Valley Bird Festival will not be held.

The event was cancelled because organizers were unable to attract enough interest.

If you registered for the festival and did receive a refund by Feb. 6, contact organizers at hagermanbirdfestival@gmail.com.

February 22, Thursday, Monthly Meeting "Problems with Plastic": Film and Panel Discussion

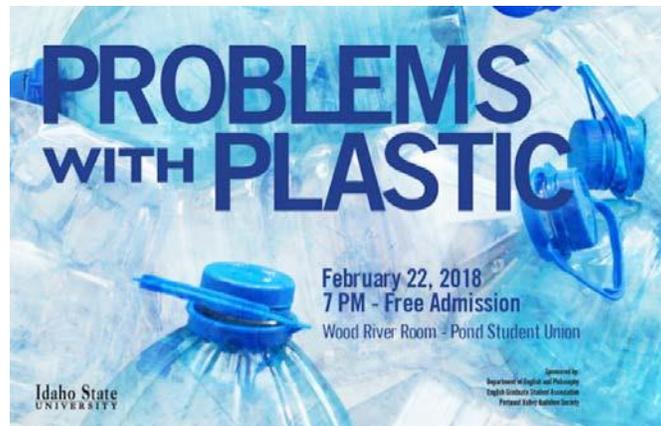
Time: 7:00 p.m. (changed to 4th Thursday)

**Where: Wood River Room,
Pond Student Union**

The event will begin with the award-winning film "Straws," a focused study of one of the most common plastic products associated with fast-food.

Short clips on the struggles of birds and fish in a plastic-filled world will be shown.

Event organizers also hope to cover ecological, political and economic problems associated with plastic and its many uses.



Following the hour-long screening of these materials, the following panelists will discuss challenges in using more sustainable plastic in the Pocatello area and beyond:

- Deb Brady, Recycling coordinator, City of Pocatello Sanitation Department
- Donna Lybecker, ISU professor of political science
- Barb North, president, Portneuf Valley Audubon Society
- Glenn Thackray, ISU professor of geosciences

Curt Whitaker, professor of English at ISU will moderate the event. Admission is free.

Plastic's versatility and cheap price make possible countless products that would otherwise remain out of reach for most people, Whitaker said. Yet the environmental cost of plastic is steep: of the 9 billion tons of plastic manufactured around the world since 1950, less than 10 percent was recycled.

The event will examine how this massive flow of plastic affects wildlife habitat, and why is it so difficult to recycle it effectively.

The event is co-sponsored by ISU's Department of English and Philosophy, the English Graduate Student Association and Portneuf Valley Audubon.

For questions, contact Curtis Whitaker at whitaker@isu.edu.

FEBRUARY 16-19, PRESIDENTS' DAY WEEKEND

The GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT needs you to COUNT FOR CONSERVATION

If you need help getting started, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology has a website to help you: <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/>

Use the following optional form only to record the Species and estimated number of birds in each species. You must file your count information at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org>

If you cannot file your data electronically, please mail the form to: PVAS, PO Box 32, Pocatello, ID 83204-0032

Where did you make your observations? You will choose this location if it already exists in your eBird/GBBC account or name and plot this location on a map if it is a new site for you.

Location: _____

Observation date and details

Use a separate form for each day and location that you count. Do not combine counts from different days or locations.

(Circle one) Friday 2/16 Saturday 2/17
Sunday 2/18 Monday 2/19

Count start time: _____ a.m./p.m.

Total time: _____ hours _____ minutes

I **AM** reporting every species I saw _____ I am

NOT reporting every species I saw _____

How many people participated in collecting the information you are reporting? _____

Bird Counts

Please write your best estimate of the number of birds of each species that you saw. **Be sure you use the correct species name** (example: "White-crowned Sparrow," not "Sparrow.") Check a field guide if necessary.

Portneuf Valley Audubon Letter to Region V Idaho Fish and Game

To Zach Lockyer, wildlife biologist, Region V, Idaho Fish and Game
zach.lockyer@idfg.idaho.gov

Regarding: Beaver Trapping
2018-2019 Upland Game and Furbearer Proposals (Southeast)
Upland Game, Furbearer and Turkey Seasons and Rules

The Portneuf Valley Audubon Society, consistent with its parent organization the National Audubon Society, supports protecting Western high desert watersheds because they are paramount to the survival of native and migratory birds and waterfowl.

Since beaver are pond and watershed builders, a keystone animal whose activity benefits birds and other wildlife, we want their population in Region V (southeast Idaho) to be protected and restored where ever possible.

Particularly and specifically, we advocate the following:

-Close trapping in the entirety of the Mink Creek drainage. This means from the headwaters of each tributary to the U.S. Forest Service boundary on the Mink Creek Road.

-Close trapping and restore beaver in Jackson Creek from its headwaters to the Bonneville Road crossing.

-Near Lava Hot Springs, close trapping in the Dempsey Creek drainage from its headwaters to the Dempsey Creek Road. This includes the portions which flow through private land both upstream and downstream from the cattle guard to the Dempsey Creek Road. Where beaver are active in this drainage, waterfowl, long-legged wading birds, raptors, and perching birds are repopulating or, if they are migratory, resting and feeding. Specific and recent sightings include Great Blue Herons and nesting Sandhill Cranes.

- Close trapping in order to protect the beaver reintroduced in the Birch Creek drainage on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. This includes from its headwaters to the Wilde Ranch property. As noted by the Watershed Guardians, potential road flooding and other problems here can be mitigated by the use of nonlethal methods such as BeaverDeceivers and Pond Levelers.

-We agree that Pebble and Topance Creeks should be divided into two separate management zones. However, we want the beaver take in each drainage to be reduced to zero, not two or five.

In general and statewide, we advocate the following:

--That all areas closed to trapping, but especially those which are popular and/or easy to access, be posted "No Beaver Trapping". The postings need to be well within public view. This way, the public will know and be able to report illegal activity such as shooting beaver or setting traps.

–That trapping reports require the name of the stream from which the beaver are taken. It is contrary to reason that presently only the name of the county is required. We don't understand how anyone, even experienced agency personnel, can understand or quantify how beaver are faring without knowing where the beaver are. Beaver do not move about or build dams according to county lines. The present method makes it impossible for the public to know what is happening and also just makes the job harder for those with a professional interest in the animals.

–We hope this is merely a rumor or a misunderstanding, but we will address it: that permits not be issued after beaver have been trapped/taken.

–That IF&G and county sheriffs' enforcement of laws against poaching be more strenuous. This could be in part accomplished by officer training about what and where to look for illegal activity. These folks are out in the field anyway, so keeping an eye out for illegal traps or knowing where they are likely to be placed should not be a costly burden.

Trappers who engage in illegal takes should be made well aware that their haunts and they themselves are being watched and that their actions do have consequences. Rewards for those who identify illegal activity and/or its perpetrators is something PVAS and other NGOs may be able to help with.

In closing, we do want to thank Idaho Fish and Game for its efforts and cooperation to restore and stabilize the beaver population in the Southeastern Idaho Region. We do appreciate your efforts to relocate problem animals rather than kill them. We do realize there are dangers and difficulties from humans and animals when an officer or other agency employee is out in the field. We do thank you for the risks you take and the sacrifices you make.

Jackie Johnson Maughan, treasurer and conservation cochair
Portneuf Valley Audubon Society
maugjacq1@gmail.com

Note: The reply to this letter will be printed in the March PVAS Newsletter

IN MEMORANDUM

Longtime Portneuf Valley Audubon Society member, local activist, friend and generous host Priscilla D. Hearst of Pocatello, Idaho, passed away peacefully of natural causes at her home at the age of 91 on February 6.

Honoring her wishes, Priscilla will be cremated under the care of Downard Funeral Home.

As of this writing, no memorial services had been organized.

Priscilla was a force for nature and a force for many causes. She will be missed by her friends, family and colleagues inside and out of Audubon.

She regularly shared her home, hospitality, stories, opinions and treats to Audubon members.

A longer obituary will be included in the next PVAS newsletter, and members are invited to submit memories.



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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

NAME

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CITY/STATE/ZIP

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