



Portneuf Valley Audubon Society News

January 2018, Vol. 45, #5

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

Facebook: Portneuf Valley Audubon Society

PO Box 32, Pocatello, ID 83204-0032

January 13, Saturday, Field Trip

Eagle Count

Count all Eagles between the American Falls Dam and the Raft River.

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).

We plan to walk in to the Snake River at all available access points, so dress for the weather. Bring some snacks and a friend.

Participants should be home by noon.

January 18, Thursday, Monthly Meeting

"Carbon Tax, a Solution to the Problem of Climate Change"

Presented by Linda Engle, Pocatello Citizens' Climate Lobby

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Marshall Public Library Community Room.

Linda Engle, who represents the Pocatello Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), will address the problem of climate change and how tax incentives can be used to discourage pollution while encouraging a healthy business climate. It is a topic long thought to address the concerns of both business and environmentalists.

Founded in 2007 in the USA, the Citizens Climate Lobby has grown to be an international organization. In the U.S. it supports working with Democrats, Independents, Republicans, and third party lawmakers to initiate economic solutions to address climate change. To quote from the CCL's web page, the approach is three-pronged:

1. Place a steadily rising fee on fossil fuels
To account for the cost of burning fossil fuels, we propose an initial fee of \$15/ton on the CO₂ equivalent emissions of fossil fuels, escalating \$10/ton/year, imposed upstream at the mine, well or port of entry.

Accounting for the true cost of fossil fuel emissions not only creates a level-playing field for all sources of energy, but also informs consumers of the true cost comparison of various fuels when making purchase decisions.

2. Give 100% of the fees minus administrative costs back to households each month. 100% of the net fees from the carbon fee are held in a Carbon Fees Trust fund and returned directly to households as a monthly dividend.

About two-thirds of households will break even or receive more than they would pay in higher prices.

3. Use a border adjustment to stop business relocation.

Import fees on products imported from countries without a carbon fee, along with rebates to US industries exporting to those countries, will discourage businesses from relocating where they can emit more CO₂ and motivate other countries to adopt similar carbon pricing policies. For more information, visit:

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/basics-carbon-fee-dividend/>.

President's Letter from the Portneuf Valley Audubon Society President Barb North

One of my new Audubon calendars had a quote: **"The earth has music for those who listen."** This is a quote from George Santayana.

Another of my favorites, by Rachel Carson, is: **"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."** Think back on your own experiences in nature. What astounding beauty each of us has observed. Upon recall, your eyes water every time you think about a memory, and make your heart sing even decades later. Haiku can add a different dimension to the experience; the effort of searching for the correct word to fit the memory or create the rhythm is priceless.

During our recent party, the Haiku were a highlight! There were some very creative efforts.

Andy Taylor, our newsletter editor, is compiling the Haiku that were voluntarily turned in. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did. Just to remind you, Haiku was originally Japanese. It is an ancient form of unrhymed poetry. These short poems about nature are structured in three lines, with seventeen syllables total. Proper Haiku is formed with syllables per line of 5, 7, and 5. Rules can be broken. You can research the Masters and many aspects online. Haiku is typically about nature, and is very succinct.

Thanks to those who helped plan, carryout, and attend our Christmas Party. We had fun, along with our guests from the Watershed Guardians and the Native Plant Society. Our potluck was quite tasty. Plan to come next year.

Make the most of your time in nature.

--- Barb North

Christmas Bird Count Reports

**Pocatello Count was held Dec. 16;
American Falls Count was held Dec. 30.
Report by Chuck Trost**

Our two Christmas Bird Counts came off with minimal help from the membership, but we found 63 species on each count.

Highlights for the Poky count were 85 Wild Turkeys and 40 Common Redpolls up Michaud Creek, as well as three species of owls.

On the American Falls Reservoir count we had five Greater Yellowlegs, 2 Virginia Rails, 38 Bald Eagles (26 adults, 12 immature), and 746 Trumpeter Swans! Also we saw 7 coyotes, 3 porcupines, 2 muskrats, 2 mule deer, 1 white-tailed deer, 1 cottontail rabbit, and a 2.5-foot snake in the feet of a Red-Tailed Hawk! What was a snake doing out on Dec. 30, other than getting eaten?

--- Chuck Trost

Holiday Party Haiku

By Barb North

Bright leaves run before wind,
Shimmer loud exclamations!
Briskly, winter comes.

Stout wind proclaims strength
Storm clouds race, obscure fluffy
Morning turns to dark.

By Frank Renn

Dawn sage perfume grouse strutting
2016 we can save the sage grouse
2018 plan for their extinction

Early evening on the stream
A kingfisher shows me how it is done
A rise perfect cast
Hook set miss
Kingfisher laughs.

By Chuck Trost

A sharp-tailed hawk silently
Flies across the meadow
Escorted by six noisy magpies

The Bald Eagle stands
At the edge of the pond
Six Magpies try to steal away fish

By LaRue

Traveling westward
A line of sun among the dark
Bringing in the dawn.

By Laura Gleason

Asleep on a branch
Hidden deep in the fir tree
Are creatures unseen.

Morels, mushroom mint
Looking for the tiny gnomes
Walking with your eyes.

By unsigned

Winter wonderland
Star shinning oh so brightly
Harkens Christmas time

Shortest day of year
Winter solstice here today
Looking toward spring

Ravens are cravin'
For a bountiful feast
This time of the year

By Venita Petti

Christmas festibus
Wonderlust, snow a mustus
Gifts galore, love glee

By Tina Chapko

Birds, water, plant, air
 There's a plague on our house
 Resist, resist now

By Patty Healy

Glistening snow fresh tracks
 Moving herd of snowmobiles
 Backside of Pebble

By Donna

The sound of silence
 Fills the frigid evening air
 As snow flutters gently.

Birds seem to twitter
 Louder than the manmade sounds
 Because they're my muse.

Feathers are so much more
 Than coverings for the birds
 They are works of arts.

Hoku Haiku by Mike Settell

Grey steel stretches high
 Pressure tanks shelter below
 Birth bombs of solar

Dichlor reactors
 Ignite explosive gases for
 A wisp of power

Dinosaurs tremble;
 For coal-fired power to feed,
 Wistful solar dream

Snappy salesmen come
 Enticing with promised green.
 Now, steel stretches, dead.

By Mike Settell and Joan

First day of winter
 Can they be the shortest hours?
 Birth of season's joy!

Painted rocks anchor long roots
 Foaming water crests
 Long green line the river flows
 Embrace me in time

Aggressive patterns
 An ornery being's approach
 Mean hostile manners

Roots as substance
 Lightning styled black and white face
 Burrows at its home.

By Ling Pei Zou

Christmas is coming
 On the way to see the light
 Fantastic manger.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Our chapter wishes to thank the people who joined or renewed during December. **National renewal or new national membership includes membership in the Portneuf Valley Audubon Society.**

Our chapter welcomes the support of:

Renewed:

Georgeanna Russell
 Shirley Rodgers
 Dan Hunt
 John Schmidt
 Rae Stephenson

For membership questions, contact Chair Frank Renn, 233-5638, rennanc@isu.edu

**PVAS Board**

President, Barb North, 208-406-8507
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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

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