



# The Magpiper

May, 2009

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## May Calendar

- May 2 - 8:00 a.m.  
Field Trip: Bluebirds
- May 5, 12, 19, 26 - 8:00 a.m.  
Bennington Lake Walk
- May 10—6:30 p.m.  
Field Trip: Natural Area
- May 14 - 7:00 p.m.  
Board meeting  
219 Newell Street
- May 21- 7:30 p.m.  
Membership Meeting  
Whitman College
- May 30 - 7:00 a.m.  
Field Trip: Summer Birds

## Field Trip Information

- Trips depart from Harper Joy Theatre parking lot on Whitman College Campus.
- Bring plenty of food and water
- Plan to carpool whenever possible and reimburse for gas
- Contact trip leader if you plan to attend
- Changes, cancellations and trip results will be posted at <http://www.blumtn.org>

## Meetings

### Membership Meeting: May 21, 7:30 p.m.

*Gaiser Auditorium, Hall of Science, Whitman College*

### NEW ZEALAND—A NATURAL HISTORY OVERVIEW

Whitney Heyvaert is the first recipient of Blue Mountain Audubon's Rempel Scholarship. Come listen to her presentation on the natural history of New Zealand. Whitney is a senior biology major at Whitman College who recently spent time studying plant ecology in New Zealand, an island that is unique and diverse in its biota and geologic history.

George Jameson will also show photos of some of the birds we are likely to see this summer and comment on locations where these birds can be found.

## Field Trips

### Saturday, May 2 - 8:00 a.m.

#### BLUEBIRDS IN THE BLUES

It's time to check on Blue Mountain Audubon's bluebird boxes south of Pomeroy. We will also venture into the Blue Mountains if the roads are clear of snow. This is a chance to see both mountain and western bluebirds as well as many other mountain and grassland species. Tom Scribner will once again lead this all-day trip. Be sure to bring a lunch and we will have a picnic at one of the scenic stops. We always find something unexpected, so you won't want to miss this trip. Call if you plan to attend.  
Tom Scribner—529-8628

### Sunday, May 10 - 6:30 p.m.

#### REMPEL NATURAL AREA

The Natural Area at Fort Walla Walla is unique. Take an evening walk with Mike and MerryLynn Denny through the area to look for and identify many of the summer birds that nest here. Mike will also acquaint us with the plants, mammals and insects that inhabit this special place. Come enjoy the birds and learn how you can help preserve Blue Mountain Audubon's Natural Area for the future.  
Dennys—529-0080

### Saturday, May 30 - 7:00 a.m.

#### SUMMER BIRDS

George Jameson will lead a trip to look for many of the summer birds that nest in the Walla Walla Valley - flycatchers, warblers, vireos, lazuli buntings, Bullock's orioles, and more. Recognizing bird songs makes it much easier to find and correctly identify many of our summer birds. Here is a chance to see the birds and learn their songs at the same time. Early morning is the best time so we'll get an early start for this trip. We will be doing some walking so dress accordingly and don't forget to bring food and water. George Jameson—526-4609



## *President's Corner*

### MAY THE BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS BITE YOU ON THE ANKLE

*By Tom Scribner*

Have you ever done something really stupid, and even a little dangerous, then after the fact, when your heart rate slowed and your breath was back to normal, asked yourself: "What was I thinking?"

Sure you have. We all have. To some degree we have all been stupid and took unnecessary risks. My all-time worst "what was I thinking?" moment involved, believe it or not, a BMAS field trip. A field trip, initially designed to look for bluebirds, that ended with a dozen or so birders, their heart rates and breathing greatly elevated, spread out across a south facing rock slope outside Pomeroy looking for rattlesnakes. And I, a lawyer, did not have any of them sign a release of liability before they took off, tromping through tall grass and turning over large stones, in pursuit of the most widely distributed poisonous snake in North America. What was I thinking?

This story has its genesis at a BMAS monthly meeting many years prior when Gary Lentz, the Lewis & Clark Trail State Park manager/naturalist, gave a presentation on rattlesnakes. Gary is a very knowledgeable herpetologist with a particular fondness for rattlesnakes. He told me about a den, the very den which I took the field trip folks, where, that spring, on "a perfect day" in late April (that was his description, "a perfect day"), he saw 200 rattlesnakes in four hours. Do the math. That's almost one per minute!

Obviously I had to visit the place, right? Ain't nothing that scares me more than hiking along, minding my own business, thinking about whatever, and almost stepping on a snake. Doesn't matter what kind. Doesn't matter what size. If it's a snake I go into instant and absolute scared \_ \_ \_ less mode. But here's the thing. After I come back to terra firma from however high I jumped, I gotta see the snake. Gotta get up close and personal. And if it's a rattler, I am even more excited to look the guy over. Not kill it. I am opposed to that. I think rattlesnakes have undeserved bad PR.

So when Gary told me about this den near Pomeroy, I rounded up a couple of my brave buddies and we set out to see how many rattlesnakes we could see. Except you don't go walking among rattlesnakes unless you are wearing protection. Safe snakes, I call

it. Fortunately, no one took my picture, but this is what I wore. First layer: Levis. Then heavy socks and hiking boots. Then the Friday Union Bulletin wrapped around my legs from right below my knees to the top of my boots. Then a pair of gaiters. Which means that to sink his/her/its fangs into my tasty calf, any snake foolish enough to try to bite me was going to have to penetrate, in order: nylon gaiters, the Friday U-B, one thickness of denim, and a heavy wool sock.

But that was not all. Oh no, Mrs. Scribner did not raise a son with a death wish. To top it all off, to guarantee that no snake was going to inject poison into my blood, I went to the Alder Street Boutique (aka Goodwill) and bought a plus size pair of bell bottom jeans that, I am not making this up, had been starched. You could drive nails with these things they were so stiff. But, hey, I was going into a snake den, where there were hundreds of poisonous snakes. I wanted to be protected. And from the waist down, I was Mr. Invincible.

We saw about ten snakes that day. And not a single one buzzed. Probably because they were all laughing so hard at my costume.

It was several years later that I led my BMAS bluebird field trip to the den. This time, having vini vidi vici, I felt sufficiently brave to do the deed wearing only boots, hiking socks and Levis. Some of the BMAS folks had on shorts. What was I thinking?

There was, as you can imagine, a definite giddy tension among the group when we parked near the rock slope that housed the poisonous vipers. I told everyone to walk slowly, watch carefully where they were putting their feet, and not to touch anything or bend down to look under rocks or ledges. I might as well have been singing an opera in Italian. They were not listening. They were ready to get it on and see some rattlesnakes. So, with a rush that hadn't been seen since the Oklahoma territory was opened to settlers, they were off. Walking fast, not looking where they were putting their feet, lifting up rocks and getting on their hands and knees to look under ledges.

And they saw snakes. Oh, yes, they saw snakes. Spread out over the hillside, they would rush from one find to another. Lifting snakes with their walking sticks, bending close to take pictures, moving stones to get a better look.

Through it all I stood by the vehicles, utterly unable to believe I had deliberately and knowingly put this fiasco in motion. At any moment I knew, just knew, that somebody was going to get snake bit. I waited for the first scream: "I got bit! Help me! A snake bit me!"

*Continue on Page 4*

## *Spotlight on Nature*

### WILDFLOWERS OF SUMMER

The Blue Mountains are a wonderland of wildflowers in the spring and summer. Among the showiest are the wide variety of penstemon that can be found along roadsides in June and July. These beautiful plants come in a variety of colors—white, blue, purple, pink, red and all the shades in-between. They are especially fond of dry road cuts and rocky ledges. Another of my favorites is the scarlet gilia also known as skyrocket. It has bright red flowers along a long stock. It grows on dry grassy hills and along dry roadsides.



*Scarlet gilia, with yarrow, Indian paint brush and bluebells*

A great way to escape a hot summer day is to head for the mountains with food, water, binoculars, a birding field guide and a variety of wildflower books. The birds are active early morning and evening, so the rest of the day is a perfect time to enjoy the wildflowers. I am a novice so I always take a wildflower book along with me to help me identify the plants. A notepad and a camera also come in handy for those flowers that I cannot readily recognize. Make sure to study the leaves as well as the flowers when working on identification.

There are many great places to look for wildflowers in the Blues, especially around Tollgate. Closer to home, Biscuit Ridge, Jasper Mountain, Lewis Peak and North Fork Coppei Creek all have a good opportunities for viewing wildflowers.

Two of my favorite wildflower guides are:

*Wayside Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest*

Author: Dee Strickler

*Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest*

Authors: Mark Turner and Phyllis Gustafson

## *Bird of the Month*

### HOUSE WREN *Troglodytes aedon*



Size: 4.75 inches

Color: Subdued brown overall with darker barring on the wings and tail (which is often cocked).

Photo by  
Rodger Shoemaker

When this little drab brown bird returns in the spring he is king of the yard despite his small size. And if his feistiness isn't enough to claim his domain, his loud voice certainly is. He begins singing at daylight and continues until dark all during nesting season. Having house wrens nest in our yard for the past 15 years has been a lot of fun. Each spring we wait for the male to return. He begins singing and nest building—getting ready for the arrival of the female. He gathers small dry sticks for one or two boxes. The female usually arrives about a week later. When she arrives, she inspects the sites and picks the box in which she wants to nest. She then lines the nest to make a large cup. This part of the process takes about a week.

Incubation is approximately 13 days and birds fledge in 12 to 18 days. During that time both parents spend their whole day catching insects to feed the chicks. The normal clutch size is 5-8. Fledging can be entertaining to watch. The young birds are very reluctant to leave the nest, and will hang on the opening for several hours before making the plunge. It usually takes two days for all of the chicks to leave the nest (unlike chickadees who pop out of the box in a matter of a few minutes). Most house wrens raise two broods. The male will begin looking for a new nesting site as soon as fledging takes place.

House wrens nest in many natural habitats as well as in backyard bird boxes. They are cavity nesters and can be found in open woods, and riparian areas along our many streams and rivers. Many of them nest at Bennington Lake and are fairly easy to find when you walk the trails. They also love brush piles and similar places where they can hide and look for insects.

**Tip:** If you try to attract house wrens to your backyard by putting up a box, be sure the hole is small enough that house sparrows and other larger birds cannot enter. Our boxes have a one inch opening.

## MAY THE BLUEBIRD.... *Cont. from page 2*

But it never came. Nobody got bit. Nobody had a close call. Everybody got to see snakes and live to tell about it. And we even saw some bluebirds. One kamikaze parent exited a box while I was standing in front of it, almost perforating my chest on impact. It then flew off, probably less frightening by the encounter than was I.

Which, of course, and maybe this was their way of releasing the snake den visit tension, led the group to jokingly conclude that looking at bluebirds is more dangerous than hunting for rattlesnakes.

Don't believe a word. Ain't no one ever talked about the rattlesnake of happiness. You want to see rattlers, talk with Gary Lentz. My snake wrangling days are over. What was I thinking?

*Editor's note:* This IS a true story. I know because I was there to witness it. However, I have to admit that I did not take part in the "rattlesnake hunt" but stayed near the vehicles watching from a safe distance.

### PROTEIN SHAKE-UP

*Excerpts from Natural History Magazine*

Among the subtler effects of rising levels of carbon dioxide is that the crops of tomorrow won't be as nutritious as today's: high CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations reduce the protein yield of crop plants (for reasons that are still unclear).

A number of studies have examined the problem, but not always with the same experimental protocols or results. So Daniel R. Taub and two undergraduate students at Southwestern University quantitatively analyzed the results of 44 of those studies to determine the overall trend. They found that the CO<sub>2</sub> levels projects for the year 2100 (roughly double what they are now) cause barley, rice, wheat, and potatoes to contain 10 to 15 percent less protein than they do today. Of the five crops the team considered, only soybeans will remain relatively unaffected, losing about one percent.

High CO<sub>2</sub> levels may already be causing plant-protein shortfalls. A few studies have reported lower protein levels in today's crops than in the crops of the 1950s and 1960s. Simply a characteristic of modern cultivars selected for high yields rather than nutritional content? Perhaps, but Taub's group suggests that mountain atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> may share some of the blame.

## Conservation

### WASHINGTON AUDUBON PRIORITIES-2009

#### Harmonize the coexistence of wildlife and wind power

The coexistence of wildlife and wind power has been a concern of Blue Mountain Audubon for many years. Mike Denny and Shirley Muse have worked with the wind power industry in the past to insure prudent placement of turbines. Mike continues to monitor information regarding new proposals for additional turbines.

#### Slow global climate change

We can help slow global warming if counties, cities, and towns maintain and increase their urban forests, as called for by the *Evergreen Cities Act*, legislation that Audubon Washington supported and that became law in 2008. Urban forests help offset climate change by capturing atmospheric carbon dioxide in their tissues. Trees planted around buildings also help reduce the amount of energy required to heat and cool structures.

#### Conservation ethic for working lands

Habitat loss is the greatest single threat to healthy bird and wildlife populations in Washington State and the country overall. In many parts of the state, there are large tracts of wildland in conservation status, but farms and working forests also serve as critical habitat during migration and as a means of survival in the ever-increasing urbanized environment. These working lands are part of the bird migration corridor, the Pacific Flyway, that stretches between Alaska and South America.

In 2008, Washington's agricultural and forestry groups invited Audubon Washington to develop financial incentives, and negotiate new regulations and best management practices for wildlife, birds, farms, and timber lands.

The strategy is to use Audubon's *State of the Birds* scientific data during these negotiations to develop regulations, incentives and monitoring programs to maintain and increase habitat on Washington's working timber and farm lands. Audubon Washington's goal is to have wildlife habitat included in all working forests and farms.

Success will be measured by achieving mutually agreed-upon legal and financial actions to maintain and increase habitat on agricultural and forest lands. The toolkit includes "safe-harbor" agreements, conservation easements, and setbacks as buffers between natural and developed areas.

## Miscellaneous

### HOW TO ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS TO YOUR BACK YARD

May brings hummingbirds back to the Walla Walla Valley. We have three species of hummingbirds in our area - rufous, black-chinned and calliope. The rufous hummingbird and the calliope hummingbird do not usually nest in town, but both of these species will spend a few weeks here before leaving to nest, and they will return in August before heading south for the winter. The black-chinned hummingbird does nest here and may be found all summer in your yard.

Hummingbirds have four life-sustaining needs: food, water, cover and perches. While their diet consists of 75 percent nectar, they do eat small insects and spiders to provide 25 percent protein. They don't like to bathe like songbirds, but they do love to zip through moving water such as a birdbath fountain, mist sprayer or garden sprinkler. They spend considerable amount of time perching when they are not eating.

Migration begins before flowers are in bloom so birds arrive hungry. This is when feeders are the most important for the returning hummingbirds. Hummingbird food is simple – four parts water to one part sugar. Bring the mixture to a boil and let cool before putting in the feeder. There is no need to add red food color (in fact some studies have found this to be harmful). Hang hummingbird feeders where they can be easily viewed, near a window, patio or deck. The feeders should be near a shrub or tree where the birds can perch and hide from predators. Feeders should be washed and the sugar-water replaced every four or five days.

Hummingbirds are attracted to many flowering shrubs and perennials that are easy to find in our area. Some of their favorites are salvia, penstemon, coral bells, honeysuckle, trumpet vine, bee balm, petunias and cardinal flowers.

The best time to watch hummingbirds is early morning and evening when the temperatures are not as hot. During the hottest part of the day they will seek out shade to stay cool. They will come close to you if you remain still, so you can sit close to a feeder and watch them without binoculars.

The three species of hummingbirds we have here are easy to identify if you are looking at an adult male. Females and immature birds can be very hard to sort out. My theory is to not worry about it – just enjoy all of them!

## Books

### PRISCILLA'S PICKS

*The Peacocks of Baboquivari* by Erma J. Fisk

Erma J. (Jonnie) Fisk, at age seventy-three, lived alone for five months in a tiny cabin in the foothills of Arizona's Baboquivari Park, recording and banding birds for The Nature Conservancy. The book is the story of her life in this isolated place and includes journal entries, letters to loved ones, and meditations upon ecology and the natural world. You will enjoy her discussion of bird banding and bird lore as well as personal reflections during her pilgrimage. It is a must read for ardent birders and wildlife observers.

*The Willow Field* by William Kittredge

William Kittredge has remastered the western saga, creating a story with classic scenes and characters. It spans most of the 20th century and describes a way of life that hung on in the rural west for decades after the country slipped into the "modern age". Love, sorrow, frustration, the compromises that men and women make to live together, horses, politics, friendship, the look and feel of the West between 1933 and 1991 — it's all in the book. Kittredge uses strong earthy language to tell the story...laying his meanings between the lines like a modern Ernest Hemmingway.

*Owls in the Family* by Farley Mowat

A delightful children's story about the adventures of Wol and Weeps, two owls from Saskatchewan who shake up a hole neighborhood, turn a house topsy-turvy, and outsmart the family dog. Here is a heartwarming tale of how a boy named Billy finds Wol and Weeps and unwittingly adds two new members to his family. The story recounts some of Faley Mowat's adventures during his early days in Canada.

### **THANK YOU**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this year as I muddled through my first year as your *Magpiper* editor. I hope you have enjoyed the monthly publication—I certainly have enjoyed putting it all together for you.

We will be publishing a June edition this year with some special information for summer birding in the Walla Walla area as well as a survey about the *Magpiper*. My goal is to make the newsletter a publication that you, as members of Blue Mountain Audubon, will want to read so I hope you will take the time to complete the survey.

*Ginger*

## *In the Field*

MerryLynn Denny, her mom Shirley and I birded the west end of the county on March 26. Past Port Kelly along the cliffs we found a pair of **prairie falcons** and a **peregrine falcon**. Hopefully they will be nesting on the cliffs again this year. We also saw **white throated swifts** soaring above the cliffs with many **violet-green swallows**. We stopped at the Walla Walla River Delta and although the water was high, we saw two **Caspian terns** and about 250 **dunlin** in with the usual gulls and waterfowl.

On March 28, Mike and MerryLynn braved the rain searching for new arrivals. They found an **American avocet** at the Overlook Pond on Highway 12, a **cinnamon teal** and **rough-winged and cliff swallows** at McNary NWR Headquarters, and **eared grebes** at Penninsula HMU.

On March 28 during the downpour, 39 **California quail**, two female **pheasants**, and a pair of **downy woodpeckers** searched our backyard for food and shelter from the rain.



Jon Lundak went to Rooks Park on March 29 to check on the high water and to look for birds. He found **wood ducks** above the spillway and took this great photo of one. Also above the spillway he enjoyed watching a

**Say's phoebe** fly catching.

On April 1, we saw the first **osprey** of the spring on our Bennington Lake walk. There was also a **northern shrike** and two **Townsend's solitaires** that decided it was not time to move on to summer breeding grounds quite yet. Looking at all the snow on the foothills made me think they were probably wise to stay put.

MerryLynn saw a beautiful male **Cassin's finch** at her feeder on April 2. On April 4 she and Mike found two **tri-colored blackbirds** in their yard.

Sheila Zangar reported some nice birds in her yard along the Wolf Fork south of Dayton on April 2. She had **Clark's nutcrackers**, **flickers**, **Steller's jays**, **spotted towhees**, **western bluebirds**, **varied thrush**, **red-crossbills** and one **white-winged crossbill**.

On April 3 Sharon Cline watched two male **pheasants** in the middle of Wallula Road all puffed up strutting, jumping up in the air and flapping their wings at each other. No doubt there was a female somewhere close by. Ah, spring in the birding world!

April 5 was a birdy day. Rodger and I saw a pair of **Swainson's hawks** near Bussell Road. Nice to have them back. MerryLynn had a **chipping sparrow** in her yard—first one of the spring. Tom Scribner called to tell about a **Townsend's solitaire** in his yard that had been around for several days. And finally, Denis Buet saw a flock of **mountain bluebirds**, a **meadowlark** and about 30 **gray-crowned rosy finches** on the ridge across from his place on Wolf Fork.

Mary Patton saw both a male and a female **black-headed grosbeak** in her yard on April 6.

April 7 at Bennington Lake was sunny and warm for a change and we saw some nice birds including a **turkey vulture**, a **Say's phoebe**, several **tree swallows**, one **osprey** and three **double crested cormorants**.

Joe Corvino watched 10 **tundra swans** flying over the Columbia River on his way to work on April 7. They should heading north now.

A **Lincoln's sparrow** visited the Denny's yard on April 11 along with two **Cassin's finches** and a **tri-colored blackbird**. Also, MerryLynn has been hearing **ruby-crowned kinglets** singing in the neighborhood.

On April 12, Alice Chaney saw an **orange-crowned warbler** along the trail at Harris Park. It was sitting on a shrub happily singing it's spring song.

MerryLynn and I drove out to the west side of the county on April 13. We found 20 **American avocets** at the overlook pond just east of Wallula Junction and 15 more on the Walla Walla River Delta. Also at the Delta were several **Caspian terns** and a large flock of **dunlin**. There were 16 **black-necked stilts** on Northshore millet ponds and 12 **Eurasian wigeons** at Tyson ponds.

There were **sandhill cranes** flying over Walla Walla the evening of April 17. Fifty-six of them flew over the Jameson and Shoemake neighborhood, and about the same time Tom Scribner reported 46 over Green Park school. The call made by the cranes is very distinctive and causes you to look up and scan the skies. Others reported seeing them as well.

On April 18 a male house wren returned to our yard. Unfortunately, chickadees are nesting in the wrens' favorite box, but there are others to choose from. By April 23 the busy little wren had carried sticks to two boxes and was awaiting the arrival of a female.

Pam Fisher reported that the eastern blue jay is still around. It was seen by her husband in their yard on April 18.

April 18 was the Early Arrivals field trip led by Joe Corvino. It was a beautiful day and the birds were all out singing and soaring. We saw a total of 57 birds including Swainson's hawks, osprey, long-billed curlew, Wilson's snipe, great horned owls with chicks, yellow-headed blackbirds, avocets, black-necked stilts, black-crowned night herons, a great egret and two large flocks of sandhill cranes flying high above us. Jon Lundak and Adam Innocent took many photos, You can find links to their photos by visiting our website [www.blumtn.org](http://www.blumtn.org)

Jon was out at Bennington Lake on April 19 and found a Nashville warbler and a calliope hummingbird. He also noticed that one of the great horned owl chicks had fallen out of the nest in the cliff, but was tucked into a hole below the nest. Hopefully the adults will feed it and protect it from dangers.

Wild turkeys are coming into neighborhoods again. Priscilla Dauble watched one along the creek in her back yard on April 20, and the previous week Robson Newbold had several in his yard in College Place.

There were several yellow-rumped warblers in bright breeding plumage at Bennington Lake on April 21. Other interesting birds were 12 buffleheads a house wren and a greater yellowlegs.

Nancy Mitchell reported the return of bank swallows on Cottonwood Road. She saw two on April 11, and 20 on April 21. I had other reports of bank swallows the same day.

Our yard was busy the week of April 20. We had visits from a western kingbird, a Nashville warbler, an orange crowned warbler, rufous hummingbirds and a calliope hummingbird. There were also about 50 migrating white-crowned sparrows singing from dawn to dusk.

Joe and Carolyn Corvino also noticed an increase in the bird activity in their yard the week of April 20. They saw a calliope hummingbird a sharp-shinned hawk, white-crowned sparrows and a Cassin's finch.

Kathy Paddock watched Vaux's swifts go to roost in a chimney near her house on April 21. If you see them using a chimney to roost in during the month of May, **please let me know how many and the location of the chimney**. I am helping with a state-wide Vaux's swift survey that will keep track of the swift roosts this spring and again in the fall.

As of April 22, all three of the hummingbird species we normally have here have arrived when Shirley Muse called to report she had a black-chinned hummingbird in her yard.

Joe and Carolyn walked through the Natural Area on April 22. They found a yellow warbler—the first of many to arrive and serenade us this summer. On April 24 they found a red-necked grebe at Stateline Pond.

Joe and Carolyn, Rodger and I walked S. Fork Coppee Creek on April 25. Spring birds we saw were: a very vocal fox sparrow, several yellow warblers and yellow-rumped warblers, a house wren, a drumming ruffed grouse, a rufous hummingbird, singing ruby-crowned kinglets and a dusky flycatcher. We then took a quick drive up Jasper Mountain Road to check on bluebirds. It was very windy but we did see one western bluebird on the way down. There were several Cassin's finches singing in the cottonwoods and an elusive orange-crowned warbler in the shrubs.

The birds are definitely returning—get out there and enjoy them. And don't forget to let me know about the birds you are seeing out in the field and in your yards. 525-2963 or [housewren@blumtn.org](mailto:housewren@blumtn.org)

#### Board of Directors

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BLUE MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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Non-Profit Organization  
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**Mission Statement:**

Blue Mountain Audubon Society (BMAS) was organized in 1971 and chartered by National Audubon Society in 1972. The Chapter's objectives are to serve its membership and the larger communities of Southeastern Washington and Northeastern Oregon with the goals to appreciate, preserve and enjoy birds, wildlife, and the natural environment of the area. Education is a primary objective of Chapter activities. Through volunteer efforts BMAS provides educational opportunities, conservation activities and enjoyment of wildlife and wildlife habitat opportunities to members and to the public. The Chapter meets the third Thursday, (September through May) at 7:30 in Gaiser Auditorium, Whitman College Science Building. A newsletter, **The Magpiper** is published September through May and is free to members. Non-member subscription fees are \$20 annually. BMAS is a non-profit 501c(3) organization. Find us on the internet at <http://www.blumtn.org>

Join Blue Mountain Audubon Society – Complete the following information and mail along with a check in the amount of \$20 for your first year's membership to: Blue Mountain Audubon Society, PO Box 1106, Walla Walla, WA 99362

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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