

# Sisters Country birds

By Douglas Beall  
Correspondent

The sora (*Porzana carolina*) is the most common and widely distributed rail in North America. It is sometimes also referred to as the sora rail or sora crane.

Although shot in large numbers every year, their high reproductive rate enables them to maintain a stable population.

A variety of calls are made, including ker-wee or sor-ee, wheep, and quink-quink-quink. The song is a loud, descending, nasal whinny. Like other rails, it is easily heard in marsh habitat but difficult to see. It takes some patience to find them, and listening is the first step to discovery.

Their greatest threat is the destruction of the freshwater marshes where they breed; they have consequently become scarce in heavily populated areas.

Soras have earned several nicknames including Carolina rail, soree, meadow chicken, and ortolan. The name ortolan was probably given to them by hunters keen on eating the small bird, much like the actual ortolan, which is a bunting from Europe that is a delicacy in France, although an illegal one.

A group of soras are collectively known as an "ache," "expression," and "whinny" of soras. For more sora photos visit [www.abirdsingsbecauseithasasong.com/recent-journeys](http://www.abirdsingsbecauseithasasong.com/recent-journeys).



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS BEALL

The sora.

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## Obituary

### Marjorie Pithoud Black

Marjorie Pithoud Black, affectionately known as Grandma B, has passed ahead into heaven. Although she will be deeply missed by her family and friends, they are comforted by the knowledge that she is in eternity with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Marjorie was born in John Day on November 17, 1939. She spent her childhood in Enterprise, Oregon. The memories she shared of her childhood in Enterprise were full of fun, family, friends, and hard work. After graduation, she attended Oregon State University on a scholarship. Marjorie had many personal and business adventures throughout her life. All of which she did with enthusiasm and love.

Marjorie is survived by her daughter, Lois Kaping and her husband, Jerry, of Bend; her daughter, Margie Lee and her husband, Clayton, of North Bonneville, Washington; her grandson, Jared Kaping, and his wife, Kelsey, of Bend; and her grandson, Nathan Kaping of Sisters. She is also survived by all of her siblings: Lois Miles of Helena, Montana; John Pithoud and his wife, Darlene, of Enterprise; David Barber and his wife, Cathy, of Maple Valley, Washington; Peggy Lindsey of Georgetown, Texas; and Steve Barber and his wife, Mary, of Camas, Washington.

All who knew Marjorie will miss her loving, joyful, inclusive passion for people



and life. She was generous with kindness, friendship and affection.

Friends of Margie are invited to attend a celebration of her fantastic life. It will be held on Saturday, May 9, 4 p.m. at Westside Sisters Church, 442 N. Trinity Way, Sisters. A small graveside service will be held this summer in Enterprise.

*Obituaries Policy: The Nugget Newspaper does not charge a fee to publish obituaries. Obituaries may be up to 400 words and include one photo. Obituaries outside these guidelines are handled by The Nugget Newspaper advertising department. Obituary submissions must be received by 10 a.m. on Monday by email or hand deliver to our office.*



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In Loving Memory of **Doug & Jean Walker**

In the late 1940s, Doug, at 17, packed his 12-cylinder Lincoln Zephyr and drove from Beverly Hills, California to Fairbanks, Alaska. He went to work in the North Slope. Jean, a registered nurse, learned nurses were needed in Alaska. She traveled from Roseau, Minnesota to Fairbanks where she was immediately hired at Saint Joseph's Hospital.

They met after Doug began attending the University of Alaska, and were married.

Dad graduated from the University of Alaska and went into broadcasting. I was born in 1953. We lived in one of the three tiny houses on the property of the KFAR broadcasting station then on Farmers Loop Road. Years later I would also graduate from the UofA.

Jean and Doug loved Alaska. They especially loved Fairbanks, as I do.

Mom, 90, passed away peacefully on October 14, 2018 in Roseau, Minnesota. Dad, 88, passed away peacefully on February 9, 2019 in Bend, Oregon.

They are remembered fondly by my wife, Carol, and me, Greg Walker.

*"I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again: I leave the world, and go to the Father." — John 16:28*