

Water Pipit a rare visitor here

As a connoisseur of local songbirds, I almost never see a species of bird that I can't identify.

However, a few years ago, I was out on the Crow Creek Road looking to see if the ground squirrels were out yet. It was March and quite chilly, but when I looked on a barbed wire fence there was a grayish/brown bird with stripes on its breast that was all fluffed out like most birds do to keep warm.

Actually, there are numerous species of field sparrows that have similar plumage, but I couldn't get a positive identification on its name. I photographed this mystery bird and took its picture to Pat Matthews at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and even he couldn't name it off the top of his head.

About 10 days later he gave me a call and said this bird was a Water Pipit, sometimes called an American Pipit. I can't remember ever having seen one before. This lone bird was probably migrating to its breeding grounds in northern Alaska.

When I looked in my bird book, there he was, but he looked somewhat more slender — of course, the cold weather fluffed him out.

According to my Audubon Encyclopedia, these pipits travel in loose flocks



Bird on a wire — this Water Pipit stumped Van Blaricom.



BIRD-WATCHING

EH Van Blaricom

and feed in open pastures while rarely ever lighting in trees. They also have a

habit of wagging their tails. They breed mostly in the far north, but sometimes winter as far south as Guatemala.

Now that I learned a few things about this mystery bird, I will add it to my repertoire of song birds to watch for. And it will help keep me humble in realizing that there are, no doubt, other species of birds I can't identify.

WRESTLERS: Local teams see little success at meet

Continued from Page A11

Although a second wrestler on Mel Byers' Wallowa team competed, Fuller was responsible for all 24 points scored by the WHS squad. Wrestling for the Cougars at 138 pounds was Cameron Salmon who lost two matches and was eliminated from tournament play.

The second noteworthy effort made by a local athlete was registered by EHS frosh Cole Farwell,

wrestling at 106 pounds. After recording a relatively routine first round victory, Farwell — trailing 5-0 at one point — rallied against Riverside mat man Andrew Barker to eventually record a high-scoring overtime win. But then things got tougher. Facing Farwell in the championship finale was the defending state champion from Heppner, Ryan Smith.

The young wrestler from Enterprise did not score

a point against the state champ, but had to take satisfaction in the fact Smith was unable to pin his shoulders to the mat in a 13-0 major decision loss.

The only remaining place winner for the Outlaws, although unable to tally team points because he wrestled at the same 106-pound weight class as Farwell, was Clayne Miller, who placed fourth.

Enterprise's remaining pair of wrestlers each recorded one victory and two losses. They were Dylan Staigle at 106 pounds and Zyler Hermens at 138 pounds. Staigle bested a grappler from Machi and Hermens a foe from Grant Union.

As a team, Enterprise scored 22 points.

Joseph coach Tim Kiesecker took six wrestlers to Heppner, said overall his team did not wrestle poorly, yet did not garner the hoped-for results while tallying 27 team points.

Three of JoHi's six wrestlers placed, but one fourth and two sixth places at a meet narrowly won by Culver was shy of the desired return.

Joseph senior Jared Wilcox, at 160 pounds, narrowly lost a 6-5 decision to Elgin's Jaydon McKay in the match for third place. Losing fifth round matches and earning sixth places for the Eagles were Lars Skovlin at 126 pounds and Ben Lopez at 182 pounds.

Team Scores:

Culver 183.5, MacHi 183, Riverside 163, Crane 77.5, Heppner 74, Elgin 73.5, Pine Eagle 64.5, Union 58, Baker 54, Irrigon 37.5, Imbler 36, Adrian 32, Joseph 27, Wallowa 24, Enterprise 22, Grant Union 22.

The final tune-up before the District Wrestling Tournament to be held Saturday, Feb. 21, in Enterprise will arise this coming Saturday, Feb. 14, when all three wrestling teams from Wallowa County and many others will meet in Halfway where the mats will be laid out in the Pine Eagle gymnasium.

Many of those same schools will send junior high school wrestlers to Halfway the day before, on Friday, to compete in a large regional wrestling tournament.

Outlaws' losing streak reaches 13

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

In contrast to Jan. 10 when Cove senior Derrick Murchison scored 11 fourth-quarter points to lead his Cove Leopards to a come-from-behind 42-40 win against the Enterprise Outlaws, Murchison did his damage early and often Friday night, ensuring EHS of yet one more loss during a trying boys' basketball season.

Playing in Enterprise, the Outlaws not only fell 51-42 to Cove (3-7 league and 7-12 overall) Friday, but tumbled 51-24 at home against Burns (9-1 league and 18-5 overall) Saturday. For those brave enough to continue counting, that means that EHS — after a promising 6-1 start to the season — has lost 13 consecutive games and stands in the cellar of the 2A-6 Wapiti League with an 0-11 record.

After nearly upending the Leopards in January, Enterprise Coach Jeff Micka and players were hoping to end their winless skein against Cove, but the 6'4" Murchison with an outside touch and knack for getting on the free throw line would have none of it.

Murchison scored five of Cove's seven first-quarter points. During that initial period, a pair of field goals by EHS's Christian Ruckdashel helped plant the Outlaws into a 9-7 lead. And then the Cove senior got serious.

During the second eight-minute segment of the game, Murchison knocked home two of his game-high four three-pointers, scored 15 of the Leopards' 25 second-quarter points, and was instrumental in erecting a 32-22 halftime point spread the Outlaws never recovered from.

Enterprise senior Kaden Lathrop led his team in scoring with 14 points while Ruckdashel scored in all four periods, accounting for another 11 Outlaw points.

Converting one three-point field goal apiece for the home team were Ruckdashel, Lathrop, and freshman Rylie Hayward.

As has become the norm for the season, Enterprise shot poorly from the free throw line. While both teams cast 20 attempts from the charity stripe, Cove canned 12 and Enterprise five. For the Leopards, Murchison was on the



Rich Rautenstrauch/Chieftain

Enterprise senior Kaden Lathrop puts up a jumper while playing against the Cove Leopards Friday night at Quinn Court. Lathrop dunked the ball later in the contest, bringing the crowd to its feet.

line 17 times and made 11 of those shots.

Burns, the eighth-rated 2A team in the state and Wapiti League leader, played a lock-down defense on Enterprise Saturday night when the Outlaws were limited to fewer than 10 points in any one quarter and fell 52-24. While being held to their lowest point output of the season, Enterprise could muster only nine field goals, one trey by Jimmy Wells, and three of nine free throws.

The game was less than a thriller in the eyes of most fans, as the visiting Hilanders led 25-9 at the half and never were threatened. Burns' scoring was led by 6'1" senior guard Austin Feist and 6'1" junior guard Ty Hueckman. Feist scored 15 points for the victors and Hueckman 14 points.

For the Outlaws, Lathrop scored eight points, all of them in the second half, and point guard Justin Exon had seven.

This coming Friday night, Feb. 13 — again at home — the Outlaws will conclude their season and receive one last opportunity to grace the victory circle, a locale they've not known since before Christmas. The opponent Friday will be Grant Union. Although Grand Union, by its standards, is having a less-than-acceptable season (5-5 league and 10-10 overall), it was the Prospectors who handed mighty Burns its one league loss in late January.

Kindergarten Preparation • Music
Science • Spanish • Outside Playtime
Gardening • Nature Exploration

FOR 3-5
YEAR OLDS,
ON 12
WOODED
ACRES IN
JOSEPH


The Learning Tree

MONTESSORI SCHOOL

State Licensed & Certified Teachers
Please call 541-263-2266 for more information

MAK GRILLS


Proud to be American Made
Superior Wood Pellet BBQ Smoker-Grills



MADE IN USA


- Consistent Cooking Temps at All Settings
- 200 Sq. Inch Flame Zone™ Direct Heat Cooking Area
- Stainless Steel Cooking Grates
- Cold Smoker is standard equipment
- 20 Pound Hopper

1917 LUMBER CO.



Main Street, Joseph
541-432-1917

Winding Waters Clinic



**OHSU Resident
Kristin Bendert, MD, MPH**

1/12/15 - 1/22/15 and 2/2/15 - 2/27/15

Hours:
Monday - Friday
7:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday
9:00am to 1:00pm

603 Medical Parkway
Enterprise, OR 97828

Winding Waters Clinic

P.C. Physicians & Surgeons
Improving the Health of Our Community



Ariella Rose Wilber, M.A.
Whole Heart, Whole Mind, Whole Body
Alternative Healing Arts Practitioner

**Stress, Anxiety, Trauma Resolution
Marital Issues, Allergies and More**
... and you don't have to talk about it!
CERTIFIED TAT® PROFESSIONAL

Phone: (541) 432-1902
www.ariellawilber.vpweb.com
83365 Joseph Hwy



Elks Lodge Crab Feed

Feb. 21

Clover Leaf Hall
Doors Open at 4pm
Tickets at the door

3 dinner options

- All You Can Eat Crab
- Prime Rib Dinner
- Combo - 1 bowl of crab and prime rib

No Host Bar

Annual Membership Drive

Save BIG on Pet and Gardening Supplies

Pet Expert

HOT DEAL! YOUR CHOICE \$5.49

A. 6-Lb. Multi-Flavor Dog Treats
H 170 759 B2 While supplies last.

B. 25-Oz. Bacon and Cheese Flavor Strips
H 183 756 B6 While supplies last.

C. 25-Oz. Pepperoni and Beef Flavor Jerky Sticks
H 183 757 B6 While supplies last.

Pet Expert

HOT DEAL! YOUR CHOICE 4/\$5

Gro-ables® Seed Pods™
Choose from basil, cherry tomatoes, globe tomatoes or cucumber. L 176 709, 710, 712, 716 F30 While supplies last.

M-F 8AM-6PM • SAT 8AM-5PM • SUN 9AM-3PM

Hurricane Creek Road
Enterprise, Oregon
541-426-3116

**WALLOWA COUNTY
GRAIN GROWERS**

True Value
START RIGHT! START HERE!
Sale Ends 1/04/2015
©2013 True Value® Company. All rights reserved.