

BIRDS

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The male redwings come back to this latitude as early as the last of February or the first few weeks in March. Apparently, they stake out the territory where they will defend until the females come north about a month after the males. They tend to nest in colonies, and each male may have only a few square yards to call his own. The females are rather drab with black stripes. However, they do all the nest-building, which takes from three to six days. The nestlings are fed a diet of insects, and they are ready to leave the nest in less than two weeks.

Redwings are fearless while guarding their nests. They will chase after any crows or hawks that pass over their domain. The males seldom are quiet during nesting season. They are either



The redwing black bird

singing or wheezing all day long. But in spite of their tendency to populate a marsh with other redwings, when migration time comes our redwings join huge flocks of other blackbirds that contain starlings, Brewers blackbirds,

cowbirds and grackles. These flocks also roost together by the thousands. However, if anyone wants to see these majestic male redwings this summer just go where there is a marsh with a patch of cattails and they will be there.

E.H. Van Balaricom

RODEO

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“The regular season of rodeo is terrible,” said Team Roper Clay Tryan to KT-VQ-TV in Billings, Montana in Feb. 2015. “It costs so much money to make money. All your heavy money is made at NFR, and I know it’s been that way forever, but to me it just doesn’t make sense.”

There have already been 211 rodeos associated with the PRCA this year, while

the ERA tour has only nine events spread out from March through October before the World Championships, which will take place on Nov. 9-13 at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas.

The PRCA followed up the formation by releasing new bylaws aimed at cutting the cord with competitors that have ties to competing associations, denying them memberships, permits, or renewals with the organization.

“When we look at the membership-the rodeo committees, contestants, stock contractors and contract per-

sonnel-we decided to put in place a couple of items that will better serve the quality and popularity of our sport,” said PRCA Board Chairman Mark Keith in a press release.

“What the board did is look at our history and what has made the PRCA the most successful and popular rodeo-sanctioning body in the world. Accordingly, we have taken steps to ensure the future generations of fans and members will continue to enjoy the highest quality rodeo events for years to come.”

Aside from Brazile, Round-Up fans will miss out on seeing many other big-name cowboys and cowgirls this year such as bareback riders Richmond Champion and Kaycee Field, saddle bronc riders Spencer Wright and Jesse Wright, steer wrestlers Luke Branquinho and Hunter Cure, tie-down roper Tuf Cooper and barrel racers Fallon Taylor and Lisa Lockhart.

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Team Vault fields 3 at Boise Spartan Sprint

6-year-old Diana Soto makes debut

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Three competitors from the local Team Vault finished the Reebok Boise Spartan Sprint held Saturday in Payette, Idaho.

Team Vault sent Noelle Horvath of Enterprise, her brother Lucas Parney of La Grande and little Diana Soto, 6, of Enterprise to the competition.

Horvath failed two obstacles, the spear throw and the alternating monkey bars. Each failure requires 30 burpees (a pushup and leap up) before the competitor can continue. Lucas Parney also failed the spear throw.

“This really cuts down on your time,” Horvath said.

Nevertheless the brother/sister team put in a very respectable time of 1 hour and 45 minutes to complete the 20 obstacles and nearly 4 miles over rugged terrain.

Soto ran the Junior Division half mile and declared her favorite obstacle by far to be the mud. Although no times are posted for children, Horvath said Diana went to the lead of her pack and stayed there for the entire race.

There were 3,500 racers who showed up for the event, with the top male competitor turning in a time just under 48 minutes and the top female



Boise Spartan Sprint finishers Noelle Horvath and Diana Soto.

competitor turning in a time of 1:06:38. All finishers receive a medal.

CLUB

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Targets in the shooting area bristled with arrows as the archers paced off progressively longer distances. While most of the archers shot compound bows, several shot “barebow” — a recurve bow without a sight or pulleys — and one archer shot a wooden longbow (think Robin Hood).

Cole Gomes, 14, is a five-year veteran of the sport and did not shoot a single arrow outside of the bullseye at the Spring Shoot. He is entering Enterprise High School as a freshman this coming fall and shoots in the intermediate division. This year was his second

trip to the state tournament.

“I did much better this year,” he said. “They had a few new events, and I tried them out and did pretty well.”

Gomes, who also is a bow hunter, got his entire family involved in shooting.

Trevor Doherty, 12, is one of the club’s bare bow archers.

“Those bare bows are not easy,” Doherty said. “When we went to (club leader) training, I had to shoot one of those, and you have to give those kids credit.”

Doherty will enter seventh grade this fall at Joseph Charter school. He competed at the state tournament this year, his first year at the sport. He said he enjoyed the competitions and did as well as he expected. He doesn’t plan to shoot competitively this summer.

Doherty said he rarely practices. However, “I do when I visit my uncle’s farm,” he said.

Doherty is the son of Justin and Carolyn Doherty of Joseph.

Chance Arbogast, 13, shoots the wooden longbow and qualified for the state tournament, although he couldn’t make the trip this year.

“We know he’ll qualify and we’ll get him there next year,” Julie Gomes said.

Arbogast will enter eighth grade in Enterprise this fall and already is a seven-year veteran of the sport. He started with the bare bow, but took up the longbow this year under the influence of his older brother, Cody. He said he enjoyed the transition.

“It’s about the same, but the longbow doesn’t have the curve at the end,” He said. “I think I shoot a little better with it.”

Arbogast said he mainly practices with the club, but intends to do some bow hunting with his brother this fall. He is the son of Jill Arbogast of Enterprise and John Arbogast of Utah.

Julie Gomes sees a bright future for the club.

“We’re pretty excited now that we have two seasons at the state fair. We now have the gist of what’s going on. We have a lot of really good kids shooting in the juniors division, and we can get these kids who are really interested going to state.”

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