



## **P.E.R.T.**

### **Parkwood Emergency Response Team**

Well October is behind us, we lose more daylight ( over an hour) in October than any other month. Also the temperature starts to cool down letting us know that winter is just around the corner. So start preparing for colder wet weather. With the time change on November 6 great time to check your smoke detector and flash light batteries. When replacing batteries put a little Vaseline on the terminal's this will help to stop corrosion. Disconnect hoses from outside faucets and put a cover on them. It's going to snow how much is anyone's guess but we should all have a minimum of two weeks of food and water so we can cut down on our trips to the store in bad weather. Power outages are going to happen but we are very lucky where we live and they do not happen very often. The clubhouse has a generator so in the event of a long power outage there will be somewhere warm to go. Plan on coming to the November 11 PERT meeting when we will be discussing how to shut off the water, electricity, and propane to your house . Be safe out there. Goose.

## Ants and Other Clever Creatures

What good are insects?

Well, they pollinate plants, provide food for birds and work the soil in various ways.

Take ants, for instance:

Ants are very industrious: they distribute plant seeds and other nutrients, are highly efficient predators and keep pest populations low. They move earth with their tunneling and clean up the dead. Of course you would rather they did not do all this in your kitchen.

I have found that they shy away from cinnamon.

## Other Clever Creatures are People

I am thrilled to see a bevy of new products available that will make it possible to accomplish every-day tasks without their bulky and difficult to dispose of containers.

Toothpaste is available in little pellets, detergent and other cleaning products come in individual sheets of dehydrated product.

Shampoo and conditioner come in little cakes like bars of soap.

I especially like these as it is easier to use them without getting them in my eyes.

So far I have only seen them online but am getting to like doing some shopping that way!

Jennifer Brodie

The newest addition to the Parkwood maintenance team! This upgrade is a welcomed improvement to our otherwise aging equipment and will provide greater maintenance efficiency for the crew.



**Parkwood Community Seminar ~ November 19th 11 AM**

**At the Clubhouse**

**"Nuts and Bolts of Dying and Death"**

**(The real world experience!)**

**Share in a discussion about the present day facts and**

**figures of preparing for the passing rites: for yourself, a loved one, or friend. Frank and open presentation on the monetary and emotional expense, as well as legalities involved In this unavoidable experience.**



**OPEN MIC NIGHT!!  
NOV 16TH ~ 6PM**

**THIS IS A VERY CASUAL EVENT.**

**BRING AN INSTRUMENT, A POEM, STORY, HOBBY, JOKE (OR TWO) SHOW AND TELL, A SKIT OR SING A SONG. A SMALL PA AND A COUPLE OF MICROPHONES WILL BE AVAILABLE IF NEEDED. SOME SNACKS AND COFFEE WILL BE PROVIDED, BUT FEEL FREE TO BRING A TREAT TO SHARE. LET'S GET TOGETHER AGAIN AND HAVE SOME FUN!**

**Quick Tip:**

If you put your purse in the front of the cart at the grocery store, fasten the child seatbelt thru the handles of your bag. Would-be purse snatchers will have no luck with a grab and run attempt.



Dog walkers : We have been asked to remind Residents to pick up after your pets. It is your responsibility and a rule of this park.

**Fall Back ~ Daylight Saving Time Ends  
Sunday November 6th  
(yes even for you retired folks...)**

Photo by Roxanne Cole



*Recipe Corner: Linda's Spaghetti Sauce*

*Linda's Spaghetti Sauce*

- 1 28oz canned tomatoes
- 2 14oz tomato sauce
- 1 pkt spaghetti sauce mix
- 1 Tbls dry basil
- 1 Tbls garlic salt
- sliced mushrooms - amount you like
- 1-2 bell peppers, chopped
- 1 med. onion chopped

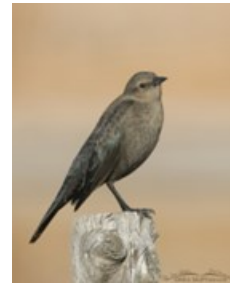
Brown burger in large pan. Drain grease then mix remaining ingredients and simmer 2 hrs.

Enjoy over your favorite pasta.  
Freezes well.

## Parking Lot Birds - Episode 1

### Brewer's Blackbirds

By Jane Nicholas and Ida Domazlicky



It's been a glorious few months, but by the time you read this things will likely be wetter, and the darker days will have taken hold. This doesn't mean we have to give up birding if we get creative. While thinking about this month's article I remembered that a pro bird photographer told me that a car makes a great "shooting blind," especially in places where birds are used

to cars, such as parking lots. How many of us have slowed for a bird crossing the parking lot only to have a passenger say, "You know they can fly, don't you!" "Of course, but it seems rude to rush them when they look so happy hopping around looking for treats." Rain or shine, cold or hot, you can usually find birds hanging out like teenagers on Friday night. You might see various gulls, ducks, American Crows and Brewer's Blackbirds. Several local birding hot spots are visible from your car. Locally Three Crabs, Dungeness Landing, John Wayne Marina & Home Depot come to mind.

In spring of 2016 I was still living in Missouri. While at a park I spotted an apparent pair of birds that were not familiar to me. They were about the size of an American Robin. The male was black with a purplish iridescent head, longish tail and surprising yellow eyes. The other was plain brown with dark eyes. I found out they were male and female Brewer's Blackbirds. In Missouri they are uncommon except during migration so I was excited to add them to my life list.

Then I moved to Sequim in July and I went to Home Depot for carpet cleaner. I was very surprised to find a whole flock of Brewer's Blackbirds sashaying around the parking lot! Later I found out they can be found there most days and some people even find them annoying. "Get out of the way. I'm trying to park here!"

Besides providing entertainment in parking lots, Brewer's Blackbirds are really an interesting species. While the populations of many songbirds have been greatly reduced due to loss of habitat and other tribulations, Brewer's Blackbirds are holding their own. Why? Adaptability. These birds are at home in a wide variety of habitats from coastal scrub to sage brush, from sea level to 8000ft in the mountains. Their diet is also varied, consisting of seed, grains and insects, plus they will eat most anything left lying around, sounds familiar. They forage on concrete, but also hopscotch on lily pads searching for live prey in secluded ponds. Brewer's Blackbirds have taken what could be disadvantages for some species in their stride and have even made use of them.

They aren't picky about nest sites either choosing low shrubs one year and tree tops the next. A few female scouts pick a new site to start their twig and mud nests and the rest of the flock follow their lead. They mold a shallow cup nest that will hold 3-7 eggs. Sometimes the same pairs will reunite year after year, but don't hang out together after nesting season. Guard birds will warn the colony of predators and even dive on and strike much larger birds such as hawks or owls. They migrate in sort of a leap frog way so that the birds we see here in winter maybe from farther north as our summer birds fly further south.

While Brewer's Blackbirds are common enough here that we may take them for granted, they are an interesting and resilient species available for viewing many places around town. I hope you can get out and enjoy birding from your cars this winter. It's a good way to beat the winter blahs.

\*Special Note: Sadly a few hummingbirds that cannot retract their tongues have been spotted in Parkwood. This is due to a fungus that will likely be fatal to those birds. It's a good idea to remove feeders if you will be out of town for more than a week, or unable to clean and refill them regularly. Better no feeder than one that might cause an illness. <https://eugene.wbu.com/hummingbirds>