



YELLOWSTONE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

- FROM THE PRAIRIES TO THE PEAKS.

Mission: Building on the tradition of special interest in birds, Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society is organized to promote enjoyment and protection of the natural environment through education, activism, and conservation of bird habitat.

VOLUME 43, NUMBER 5

MAY 2013

NEW THIS ISSUE

- BIRDATHON
- BY-LAW CHANGES
- REPORT FROM THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE
- SPRING BIRDING CLASSES
- PRYOR WEED PULL



Inside this issue:

This Month's Chapter Meeting

Meetings Schedule

Officers and Committees

Membership Forms

Field Trip Schedule



BORN WITH A FEATHER ...

Cranes, Captive Breeding and The Effect on Wild Populations

***Monday, May 20th at 7:15pm**

Jeff Brown turned 39 on April 26th, thus sharing a birthday with John James Audubon! He first began working with birds at age 7 and has not been without one around since. Jeff is now an ardent aviculturist, living in Medford, Oregon, with his wife Alexandra, two daughters and his owl Johanna. He works with sick and injured birds, and provides expertise in care, housing, diet, brooding, raising, and artificial insemination, not only for the birds he cares for, but for the birds that belong to a community of students and breeders who seek his advice.

Jeff was the first private individual in the western hemisphere to own and work with the blackneck crane, and he was the first to breed the giant wood rail. This breeding contributed important knowledge to a class of birds endangered worldwide due to diminishing habitat and ground behavior. He is known for his successful reproductive work with the Saurus crane, his training of cranes such as the Florida sandhill and the Stanley crane for bird shows, and his educational programs around the country.

He will display an actual crane wing to demonstrate the awesome power of these birds and show a video featuring Walt Sturgeon of Operation Migration, working with cranes at the International Crane Foundation. Jeff is also an advisor to the Montana Wildlife Emergency Response Team. He will be doing more informal and technical work/talks at WJH WJH Bird Resources, at 2753 S. 56th St. W. while in Billings. Interested members are invited to contact Shelia McKay: 652-7175, cell 694-7918, wjhbird@yahoo.com

YVAS MEETINGS

***All YVAS Meetings are at Mayflower Congregational Church, corner of Rehberg Lane and Poly Drive, Billings, MT unless otherwise The public is welcome, there is no admission fee and ample free parking is available.**

Monday, May 13, 6:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, May 20, 6:45-7:15pm: General Membership Meeting

We will hold a YVAS fundraiser dinner at 5:45, before the membership meeting. Dinner donation: \$6. It will feature something special from Shelia McKay. Please contact her at 652-7175, cell 694-7918, or wjhbird@yahoo.com for reservations and to tell her what you will bring.



☞ We're on the web! yvaudubon.org

THIS FLYER IS PUBLISHED ON SFI CERTIFIED PRODUCT

- Board Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 6:00pm. Board Meetings are open to the entire membership.
- General Chapter Meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm. All meetings are open to the public.

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The Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society is a sponsor for a weed pull and 'war on weeds day' in Bear Canyon, Pryor Mountains. The June 5 weed fighting efforts will focus on major weed infestations in Bear Canyon, a special birding area for YVAS-ers and others, as well as a designated IBA (Important Bird Area), and an overall recreational sweet spot.

We will meet in the parking lot on the north side of Rocky Mountain College's Tyler Hall at 7:00 AM and travel to Bear Canyon as a group. We will meet the Carbon County Weed District crew on site. Bring drinks, snacks, sandwich(s), gloves, and a good hat.

✓ FRIDAY, JUNE 7 TO SUNDAY, June 9

14th ANNUAL WINGS ACROSS THE BIG SKY FESTIVAL, LEWISTOWN. Hear great speakers, visit with awesome birders from around the state, and get outside. An amazing variety of field trips are planned, taking advantage of the many riparian and wetland areas, forests, and birding hotspots in the surrounding areas. Pre- and post-festival field trips will once again be featured. For registration and more information, visit www.mtaudubon.org.

*** PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN *** Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans

Public comment periods are now open on three Bureau of Land Management DRAFT Resource Management Plans. **Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation is an important component of these plans.** Details are available on the YVAS website and BLM websites:

Billings and Pompeys Pillar RMP http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/billings_field_office/rmp.html

Miles City RMP http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/miles_city_field_office/rmp.html

HiLine RMP http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/malta_field_office/rmp.html

REPORT FROM THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE

A very sincere THANK YOU FROM THE MONTANA SPORTSMEN ALLIANCE.....



This has been a difficult legislative session, one that has considered numerous bills affecting sporting organizations and various birding groups. In the past there have been complaints that groups only testify on very narrow subject matter that specifically concerns them. **The Montana Sportsman Alliance** considers birders a critical part of the outdoor sports fraternity, and Montana Audubon has been there with us.

In this session there have been bills proposed to "micromanage" FWP, to remove or constrain commission authority, and to mandate game management without science based objectives and discussion. Just as important, there even have been attacks on the North American Model protecting the Public Trust and on Fair Chase, and several bills have been introduced increasing permit and license fees for non-residents at the expense of state of Montana resident sportsmen/women. Once again there have been many bills which negatively affect conservation land management and reduce Montana's efforts to increase habitat and access for all wildlife--including birds. Other bills negatively impact the ability and, more important if the species is to survive, the need to transplant bighorn sheep. The Montana Sportsmen Alliance would like to thank Montana Audubon, including YVAS Audubon Chapter, Billings, for their due diligence on legislative issues this session. You have been there on issues affecting your members and ours. We understand and respect your choice to remain on the sidelines on some issues, but we really appreciate your help on issues common to the Montana resident sportsmen/women. Your foresight and dependability are well known by our members, and we thank Janet Ellis and Justin Sakalis of Montana Audubon, for their work on our behalf and that of all Montanans.



Events at the Audubon Conservation Education Center Spring 2013

7026 South Billings Blvd, Billings, MT, 59101 406-294-5099 www.mtacec.org

MAY 6 Hands-on Home school Science Class 12:30 – 2 PM. Lessons geared to 6 – 12 year olds, \$10/child. Call 294 – 5099 to register

MAY 10 Nature Night from 6 – 8 PM, for 5 – 10 year olds. Cost is \$15/child or \$12/Friends of the Center. Drop your child off for an evening of outdoor adventures with our Teacher Naturalists. Call 294 – 5099 to register.

MAY 13 Hands-on Home school Science Class 12:30 – 2 PM. Lessons geared to 6 – 12 year olds, \$10/child. Call 294 – 5099 to register.

MAY 19 Weekend Wonders Family Program, 1:30 – 3 PM. Open to all ages! Fee is \$2/person or free for Friends of the Center. Theme this month is Wings of Spring: our feathered friends are returning with the warmer weather. We will learn about their migration journey and will focus on some featured species that are back in Montana for the summer. Call 294 – 5099 to register.

MAY 20 Hands-on Home school Science Class 12:30 – 2 PM. Lessons geared to 6 – 12 year olds, \$10/child. Call 294 – 5099 to register.

NESTING MATERIALS

- **THINKING OUTSIDE THE FEEDER: BEST BIRD WALKS**, From owls to oystercatchers, from warblers to whimbrels, chances are you're closer than you think to world-class birding. Audubon's Guide to Birding Trails profiles 40 hotspots around the country guaranteed to boost your life list. Chicagoans for instance, can spy Bobolinks, tanagers, hawks, warblers and rails—and still be home in time for lunch. Read more at www.audubonmagazine.org.
- **HUMMINGBIRDS ARE WINGED CONTRADICTIONS**. Tiny yet tough, these powerhouses can migrate 1,000 miles without food or rest. Lately it seems that some hummer species are turning up in all the wrong places. Are these shifts symptoms of a changing climate? Or are we just paying closer attention? Go to www.audubonmagazine.org to read more.....
- **BIRDS, BEES, AND AQUATIC LIFE THREATENED BY GROSS UNDERESTIMATE OF TOXICITY OF WORLD'S MOST WIDELY USED PESTICIDE**. As part of a study on impacts from the world's most widely used class of insecticides, nicotine-like chemicals called neonicotinoids, American Bird Conservancy has called for a ban on their use as seed treatments and for the suspension of all applications pending an independent review of the products' effects on birds, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, and other wildlife.. Read the full story at www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/130319.html
- **DON'T MISS BIRDS-OF-PARADISE PROJECT INTRODUCTION** - YouTube takes you inside the world of these spectacular birds to show you how they create their complex displays. You'll be able to see and understand what's going on at a level of detail that's unprecedented for any group of animals—it's almost like going into the forests of New Guinea yourself. Visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?&YTR21os8gTA>.



FIELD TRIP NOTES

SATURDAY APRIL 13 EXXON PONDS

A group of 22 birders including YVAS members, several Rocky Mountain College students, an eleven year-

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old beginning birder, and Mr. Ron Kuhler of Exxon, spent the morning of April 13, 2013 at the Exxon Ponds and adjacent Yellowstone River area. The weather was pretty typical of an April day in Montana, a little chilly, a little overcast, but pretty nice all in all.

We saw about 30 species of birds at the Exxon ponds area, and enjoyed some good conversations about birds, environments, and the world in general. Birds recorded included: Northern Shoveler, Canada Goose, Eurasian Collared-Dove, European Starling, Rock Pigeon, Red-winged Blackbird, Ring-necked Pheasant, Mallard, American Wigeon, American Coot, Song Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadee, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Bald Eagle (on a nest along the river), Ring-billed Gull, Western Meadowlark, Common Flicker, Great Blue Heron and Sandhill Crane (flying by), Red-breasted Merganser, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, an Owl (likely a Great Horned Owl), Belted Kingfisher, Black-billed Magpie, and a Wood Duck flushing from the heavy undergrowth along one of the ponds. Thanks Ron and Exxon for opening up the Exxon area for a nice morning of wandering around looking at some April birds!

Some of the group continued on to the Emerald Hills area after leaving the Exxon Ponds. On the way they had a great look at a pair of Sandhill Cranes in a field. On top of Emerald Hills they saw many Mountain Bluebirds and several Red Crossbills. On the way down they encountered a Raven and were pleased to get off the dirt roads before a strong rain squall hit them. Thank you to Steve Regele

NOTICE OF YVAS BYLAWS CHANGES

The Bylaws of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society have been reviewed by the Board of Directors in an attempt to update and clarify selected sections. The following changes that appear in **bold**, *italicized* print are amendments proposed to be added by the Board. Items proposed to be eliminated are printed in gray ink. A complete copy of the current Bylaws is accessible on the website, yvaudubon.org. Copies will also be available at the May 20th membership meeting. If you wish a personal copy of the Bylaws, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to YVAS, P.O. Box 30324, Billings, MT 59107. Members will be asked to vote on these amendments at the May 20, 2013 meeting.

Proposed Amendments May 20, 2013

We, Citizens of the State of Montana, associate ourselves together **as a nonprofit corporation** for the purpose of educating members of our community, regardless of sex, race, creed, color, or national origin, in natural history and the environment, and to otherwise engage in such scientific and charitable pursuits that are consistent with the stated purpose.

Mission Statement: Building on the tradition of special interest in birds, the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society is organized to promote enjoyment and protection of natural environment through education, activism, and conservation of bird habitat.

Article I: Name:

Section 2. The name "**Audubon**" is owned by the National Audubon Society, a nonprofit Corporation of the State of New York, and is used with express permission.

Article II: Membership:

Section 1. Any person interested in the purpose of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society may become a member, regardless of sex, race, creed, color, or national origin.

Section 2. Types of membership shall be the same as those maintained by the National Audubon Society, namely: Individual, Student, Family, Sustaining, Supporting, Contributing, Donor, Patron, and Life. In addition, a Supporting Chapter Membership is available to all members who wish to help pay the costs of Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society chapter membership.

Section 3. Each National Audubon Society member shall enjoy the rights and privileges of members of the National Audubon Society and the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society. Each Supporting Chapter member shall enjoy only the rights and privileges of members of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society.

Section 4. Annual dues of members shall be the same as those of the National Audubon Society and payable directly to the National Audubon Society, which shall then remit to the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society its portion of the

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annual dues. Annual dues of members who join through the National Audubon Society are paid directly to the National Audubon Society after the first year of membership when dues are paid through the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society. Supporting Chapter members pay their annual dues directly to the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society.

Section 5. Membership dues shall be payable at the time of application and shall be effective from the date of election and yearly thereafter, except in the case of Life members. Dues of Life members shall be paid in full in one sum at the time of application and shall be accepted as of the time of election.

Section 6. Should renewal of membership dues not be paid within the time allowed for renewal by the National Audubon Society (six months) or the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society (two months) after due date, a member so in default shall forthwith be dropped from the rolls

Section 1. Any person interested in the purpose of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society may become a member.

Section 2. A Supporting Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Chapter Membership is available to all persons who wish to participate in and support the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, its mission, projects, and overall membership.

Section 3. Supporting Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Chapter Members pay their annual dues directly to the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society and have no membership obligations to National Audubon Society.

Section 4. Each Supporting Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Chapter Member shall enjoy the rights and privileges of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society.

Section 5. Supporting Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Chapter Membership dues shall be payable at the time of application and shall be effective for one year from the date of subscription and may be renewed annually.

Section 6. Should renewal of Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Chapter Membership dues not be paid within the time allowed for renewal (two months after the due date), a Member so in default shall forthwith be dropped from the rolls by Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society.

Section 7. A National Audubon Society Membership is available through Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society to those persons joining National Audubon Society for the first time and residing in areas of Montana mutually agreed upon by National Audubon Society and the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society.

Section 8. The first year dues for a National Audubon Society Member recruited by the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society are sent to the National Audubon Society by Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society. The first year dues are then returned by National Audubon Society to the Yellowstone Valley Society for the recruitment. Thereafter, all National Audubon Society Members' renewal dues are paid directly to National Audubon Society by the National Audubon Society Member.

Section 9. Each National Audubon Society Member shall enjoy the rights and privileges of Members of the National Audubon Society and a courtesy membership in Yellowstone Audubon Society for those National Audubon Society Members residing in areas noted in Section 7.

Article III: National Affiliations

Section 1. **Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society is an independent, not for profit (501 C3) corporation, governed by its Membership and their elected Officers and Board of Directors.** The Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, each year, shall obtain its renewal **of National Audubon agreements noted under Article I, Section 2, and Article II** chapter charter from the National Audubon Society. and shall comply with the affiliate agreement of the National Audubon Society. All activities undertaken by the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society shall comply with the stated purpose **and Mission** of the **Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society.** National Audubon Society.

Section 2. Representation of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society shall **must** be **pre-**approved by the Board of Directors **prior to any member representing Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society for** at State, Regional, and National Audubon Society meetings, conferences, workshops, conventions and other such gatherings. convened for the purpose of assisting the local or national bodies.

Section 4. **Other affiliations may be approved by the Board of Directors in accordance with Article IX, Section 1, and shall be amended into Article III. Temporary agreements to partner with or support individuals or**

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groups, consistent with the stated purpose of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, may be approved by the Board of Directors in accordance with Article XII. Notice of these agreements must be in writing and shared with the membership in accordance with Article VI.

Other affiliations may be approved by the Board of Directors in accordance with Article IX, Section 1, and shall be amended into Article III. Temporary agreements to partner with, or support, individuals or groups consistent with the stated purpose of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, may be approved by the Board of Directors in accordance with Article XII. Notice of these agreements must be in writing and shared with the membership in accordance with Article VI.

Section 5. No other affiliations are implied.

Article VI: Notices:

Section 1. Except in cases of **urgent or compelling need**, emergency, notices of all meetings of Members and of the Board of Directors shall be in writing and sent through the United States mail or by email to each Member and each Member of the Board of Directors at his latest address as recorded on the books of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, or as otherwise designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Actions required/permitted to be taken by the Board of Directors may be done without a noticed meeting, if two-thirds of Board of Directors agree. Such consent and record of action shall be recorded in next official Board of Directors' meeting minutes.

Article VIII: Officers:

Section 7. The Secretary shall keep a record of proceedings of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society and its Board of Directors. and shall be the custodian of the Corporate Seal. The Secretary shall distribute minutes to the Board of Directors in a timely fashion, maintain records of all meetings, preserve all correspondence relating to the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, and perform other duties as the Board may direct.

Article IX: Board of Directors

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers (See Article VIII, Section 2), the Immediate Past President, and that number of Members as specified in Section 5 of this Article, all of whom must be in good standing. If there is no immediate Past President, there shall be elected one additional Member to the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Any Member of the Board of Directors may be removed from the Board, with a vote of no confidence, by a two thirds vote of the Board of Directors. Any Member of Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society may request in writing to the Board of Directors that any Officer or Board Member be removed.

Article XI: Quorum

Section 1. A quorum for the purpose of holding any meeting **or vote** of the Members shall be ten percent of the Members or 20 Members, whichever is less, **and unless otherwise provided.**

Section 2. A quorum for the purpose of holding any meeting **or vote** of the Board of Directors shall be a simple majority.

Article XIV: Commitments and Limitations

Section 2. The Officers and Board of Directors shall not be liable to the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society for any mistake or judgment, negligent or otherwise, except for their own individual willful misconduct or bad faith. The Membership of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society shall indemnify and hold harmless each of the Officers and Members of the Board of Directors from and against all contractual liability to others arising out of contracts made by Officers or Members of the Board of Directors on behalf of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, unless such contract shall have been in bad faith or contrary to the provisions of Montana law or these by-laws, except that such liability is satisfied by Directors' and Officers' liability insurance. Officers and Members of the Board of Directors shall have no personal liability with respect to any contract made by them on behalf of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society.

National Audubon Society
Recruitment Code: C0ZN500Z
Application for New Membership

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society. I understand that I will receive the Audubon Magazine and Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Flyer. Make check payable to **National Audubon Society**.
*Renewals will be sent to you through National Audubon.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

One Year Membership

☐ \$20 One year new membership

Send this application and your check made out to **National Audubon Society** to:

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society
Attention: Membership Secretary
P.O. Box 1075
Billings, MT 59103-1075

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society
Recruitment Code: C0ZN500Z
Application for New & Renewal Membership

Please enroll me as a supporting member of Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society. I understand I will be supporting local chapter activities and receiving the local newsletter. I will enjoy full Chapter benefits. Make check payable to **Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society** for \$20. If applying for a new or renewing student membership, make check for \$10 and indicate academic affiliation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Do you want to receive the Flyer electronically?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Send this application and your check to:

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society
Attention: Membership Secretary
P.O. Box 1075
Billings, MT 59103-1075



WHOOPS!!

Is it time for you to become a YVAS member or renew your chapter membership?

PLEASE CHECK THE MAILING LABEL ON YOUR FLYER. IF IT SHOWS "YVAS JAN 12" BELOW YOUR NAME, THEN YOU ARE A SUPPORTING CHAPTER MEMBER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED IN JANUARY 2012. IF YOU ARE NOT A SUPPORTING MEMBER OR YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED, HELP US OUT BY JOINING OR RENEWING NOW WITH YOUR CHECK FOR \$20, USING THE FORM ON THE RIGHT. YOUR MEMBERSHIP HELPS FUND THE PUBLICATION OF THE FLYER ALONG WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR CHAPTER.

Membership Information

Although the National Audubon Society gives complimentary membership in our chapter as a benefit, no dues come to us. We strongly encourage you to join YVAS as a Supporting Chapter Member, which is offered for \$20 a year. Use the application form above to join as a Supporting Chapter Member or to renew your Chapter Membership.

1. **Moving???** Let us know as early as possible when you plan to move. The Post Office does charge us a fee for returned flyers. Include your old address as well as your new address so we can track you. You may write, call, or email the information to the Membership Secretary.
2. Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society offers Supporting Chapter student memberships for a reduced rate of \$10 a year. If you applying for a new student membership or are renewing a student membership, make sure you indicate your academic affiliation in your application. Joel Bowers, Membership Secretary



YELLOWSTONE VALLEY AUDUBON FLYER

Non-Profit Organization
PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BILLINGS, MT
PERMIT NO. 27

P.O. Box 1075
Billings, MT 59103-1075

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Field Trip Calendar:

All field trips depart from Rocky Mountain College parking lot on Rimrock Road, adjacent to Billings Studio Theater, unless otherwise noted, and will be by car. All field trips are open to the public. **Please do not bring pets.** Passengers will share gas costs with driver when car-pooling. Do make sure you check all field trips with listing in flyer each month for any changes.

May 4	Sat	LAKE BASIN 8 a.m.	Sack lunch. Mike Weber, leader
May 11	Sat	MEET AT RIVERFRONT PARK at 8:00 a.m. S Billings Blvd, 1st parking area on right. Half day.	George and Bernie Mowat, leaders.
May 16	Thur	MEET AT RIVERFRONT PARK. 5:30 p.m.(See above location)	Mike Weber, leader.
May 18	Sat	STILLWATER AND WOODBINE AREAS. 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Sack lunch. Ruth Vanderhorst, leader.
!!NEW!! MAY 21-23	TUES- THUR	BOWDOIN NWR, CMR, AND MALTA AREAS. Waterfowl, Shorebirds, and Migrants. Make your own reservations at the Maltana Motel in Malta (406-654-2610 for 21st and 22nd of May).	Mandatory to call Ruth Vanderhorst at 245-5118 to confirm plans. Ruth Vanderhorst, leader.
May 25	Sat	POMPEY'S PILLAR. 7 a.m. to early p.m.	Sack lunch optional. Ruth Vanderhorst, leader.
June 4	Tues	MEET AT PICTOGRAPH CAVE. 5:30 p.m. Exit I-90 at Lockwood (Exit 452) and turn onto Coburn Road	Ruth Vanderhorst, leader

George and Bernice Mowat, General Chairmen, 656-7467

