

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 42, NUMBER 10 OCTOBER 2012

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- Chapter Memberships
 - Osprey Project Surveys
 - YVAS Conservation Grants
 - Christmas Fundraiser
 - Nesting Materials



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**MONDAY OCTOBER 15
YVAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

On Monday October 15th, the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society will host a presentation by Becky Kean, director of **THE MONTANA RAPTOR CONSERVATION CENTER**

(MRCC). Becky will be assisted by her ambassador owls Bu and Nigel. The presentation begins at 7 p.m. at Mayflower Congregational Church, corner of Rehberg Lane and Poly Drive, Billings. Raptor rehabilitation offers a unique opportunity to witness the impacts humans have on our wildlife and our environment. Lead poisoning is one of these impacts. YVAS has helped in this effort by providing funds to MRCC for a quick test for lead poisoning. Becky's work with lead poisoning is nationally recognized and has been documented in a film by National Geographic. We look forward to her success stories and to saving the lives of the birds we all know and love.

MRCC was founded in response to the rapid development of southwest Montana and the resulting negative conflicts between humans and birds of prey. Through education, research, rehabilitation, and release of injured raptors, their mission is to conserve and restore raptor species. These birds are an important indicator of the health of our environment. More information about MRCC is available at <http://montanaraptor.org>.

The Montana Raptor Center (MRCC) is a raptor rehabilitation organization located in Bozeman, MT. and serves the entire state. Established in 1988, it is funded entirely by donations, specialty license plates, grants and fundraisers. and does not receive any federal or state funding.

YVAS MEETINGS

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

Monday, October 8, 6:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, October 15, 7:00pm: General Membership Meeting

We will hold a YVAS fundraiser dinner at 5:45, before the membership meeting. Dinner donation: \$6. It will be hosted by the always generous Bernie Mowat. Please email her at gmowat@bresnan.net or call 656-7467 before October 12 to make reservations and tell her what you are bringing.



 We're on the web! yvaudubon.org

THIS FLYER IS PUBLISHED ON SFI CERTIFIED PRODUCT



HERE'S THE WRINKLE YVAS doesn't receive any funding from the National Audubon Society after the first year of membership. We depend on your local Chapter Membership support of \$20.00 a year to continue the features you are accustomed to. We currently have 464 people on the mailing list who are members of National Audubon and thus entitled to receive the YVAS Flyer and 128 people who are contributing members to YVAS and whose dues pay all our expenses of printing and mailing the Flyer.

The structure of membership in The National Audubon Society, Montana Audubon Society and the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society is complex and needs to be explained. The \$20.00 membership fee that you pay to National Audubon Society every year gives you access to your local Audubon Chapter (in our case the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society) which is one of the many benefits of that membership. A portion of the \$20.00 annual fee from only the first year of membership in National Audubon is shared with our local YVAS; after the first year YVAS receives no \$ from National. YVAS automatically includes all dues-paying National Audubon supporters in the Chapter area in our membership. Regular meetings, special events, the Flyer, field trips, bird alerts, special projects, and education activities are some of the Chapter features that are offered to the entire membership. **PLEASE BE SURE YOU ARE SUPPORTING YVAS.** Turn your Flyer over and look at the address label. If it includes "YVAS" and a date, you are a supporting Chapter Member. If it doesn't, please fill out the YVAS application form on page 7, and send it along with a payment for \$20 to YVAS, Attention Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 1075, Billings, MT 59103. We appreciate your support.



Osprey Nest in Absorkee
2011. Photo by
Starr Stevens

OSPREY PROJECT SURVEYS

Monty Sullins who heads up the YVAS Osprey Survey Project has asked that members who volunteered to monitor nests over the summer be reminded to turn in their data sheets. They can be mailed to YVAS, P.O. Box 1075, Billings, MT 59103, submitted to any Board member or turned in at a membership meeting. You can reach Monty at 656-5242 or msullins@mt.gov. This YVAS Project depends on volunteers who contribute to the concepts of citizen science and play an important role in the YVAS mission.

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Officers:

President: Bill DeMeyer, 671-7501, battie@bresnan.net
Vice-President: Steve Regele, 962-3115, sregele@juno.com
Secretary: Dorothy Bartlett, 252-0757, dpadanyi@live.com
Treasurer: Deb Regele, 962-3115, dregele@juno.com
Past-President: open

Board of Directors:

Donn Bartlett: 252-0757, donnbartlett@msn.com
 Rita Harding: 259-7586, mtroses22@bresnan.net
 Shelia McKay: 652-7175, cell 694-7918, wjhbird@yahoo.com
 Jeanette Tasey: 669-3169, jtasey@gmail.com
 Nancy Wiggins: 651-0218, nwiggins83@gmail.com

Montana's Congressional Delegation:

Sen. Max Baucus: U.S. Senate, Wash. D.C. 20510
 website: <http://baucus.senate.gov>
 email: max@baucus.senate.gov

Billings: 657-6790 Wash. D.C.: 1-800-332-6160

Sen. Jon Tester: U.S. Senate, Wash. D.C. 20510

website: <http://tester.senate.gov>

email: senator@tester.senate.gov

Billings: 252-0550 Wash. D.C.: 1-866-554-4403

Rep. Dennis Rehberg: U.S. House of Rep. Wash. D.C. 20515

website: www.rehberg.house.gov

email: denny.rehberg@mail.house.gov

Billings: 256-1019 Wash. D.C.: 202-225-3211

Committees and Special Assignments:

Archives and History.....open
 Audubon Adventures.....Jeannette Davis 656-7618
 Bird Questions..... George Mowat 656-7467 or
 Helen Carlson 248-8684
 Christmas Bird Count.....Helen Carlson, 248-8684
 or Billie Hicks, 962-3798
 Conservation Chair.....Kayhan Ostovar 256-7481,
kayhan@q.com
 Editor.....Nancy Wiggins 651-0218, nwiggins83@gmail.com
 Field Trip Chairs... George and Bernie Mowat 656-7467,
gmowat@bresnan.net
 Greeters...Phyllis Holt 252-7373, Audrey Jurovich 656-2748
 Injured Raptors...Jeanette Tasey 669-3169,jtasey@gmail.com
 Membership Secretary.....Joel M. Bowers 534-3672,
 cell: 591-5635, jmba@jmba.com
 Program Chair.....Shelia McKay 652-7175,
wjhbird@yahoo.com
 Recycling (aluminum)...Will Crain 697-9156, william-crain@earthlink.net,
 Website.... Tom Lyman, Tomglyman@gmail.com

Meetings are held September through May at Mayflower Congregational Church, corner of Poly and Rehberg:

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



FIELD TRIP NOTES



JUNE 8-10 THE MONTANA AUDUBON FESTIVAL was a terrific success! Along with their partnering chapter, Flathead Audubon, MA shares these highlights:

- with the help of Flathead Audubon and enthusiastic support (auction bids, raffle tickets, T shirts, extra donations), MA raised over \$15,000. The locally-made exquisite desserts were reason enough to come to the festival banquet dinner! Shared proceeds from the dessert auction and raffle went to Flathead Audubon to support their stellar education program led by award winning Ashley's Mason.

We are thankful for all 260 people who attended. Let's celebrate success; visit mtaudubon.org to see:

- Memorable photos.
- Master Bird Species list in pdf (or excel spreadsheet on our website).
- 2012 Festival T-shirt discounted. \$10 + \$5 shipping. See the shirt and ordering details.
- Professor Guano stole the show... It was really fabulous... Wonderful time... Enjoyed the speakers, field trips, and cake auction... It's always fun to share birding with everyone.. Everyone was positive even with rainy weather... Great views of Short-eared Owls and Trumpeter Swans... eBird - yes!"
- We also thank participants for constructive suggestions for improvement - we'll take them to heart for 2013 in Lewistown.

AUGUST 24 – 26 BOWDOIN AND NORTHERN MONTANA

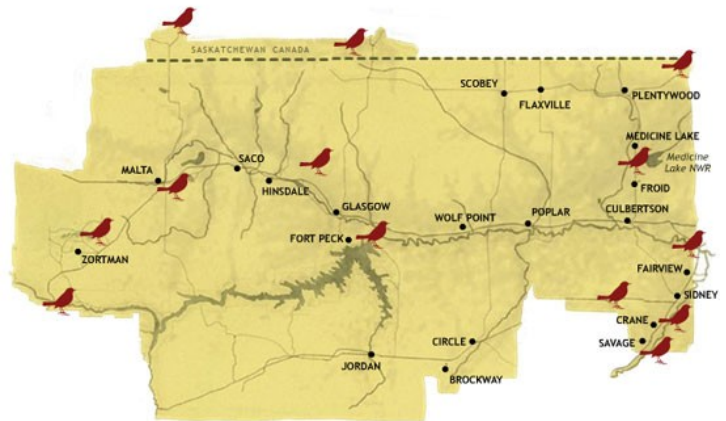
Seven auduboners went on a trip to Northern Montana. We are sorry for those who couldn't join us because the trip was a terrific outing, and we logged 65 species of birds. We departed on Friday morning and blew along with the winds all the way to Fort Peck, seeing birds along the way. In Fort Peck we spent a couple of hours at the home of Jean and Chuck Carlson where we enjoyed their beautiful backyard sanctuary and saw blue jays, ruby-throated hummingbirds, a brown thrasher, black-headed-grossbeaks, and a white-breasted nuthatch, as well as others. Thanks so much for your hospitality!

On Saturday we took a leisurely tour around the lake at Bowdoin. We saw marsh wrens flitting around the reeds, a white-faced ibis flying above, as well as a great blue heron wading in the water. Soon we became aware of masses of American White Pelicans on the islands in the lake, and as we drove, it seemed that every bit of island was covered by these beautiful birds. We counted one thousand eight hundred and sixty two of them.....not really, but there were hundreds and maybe a thousand or more gathering for migration. It was an awesome spectacle. On the far side we saw more white-faced Ibis and avocets, along with other shorebirds, geese and ducks; many of them brown this time of year.

Still having time, we drove out to Nelson Reservoir. It became a bit windy again so we spent most of our time in a stand of trees where there were some warblers flitting around. We isolated one that, with all the expertise in the group, is yet to be identified. We'll keep you posted!

The next day in Zortman we went into the campground, and found it silent of birds. As we walked quietly an amazing array showed up: Black-capped and mountain chickadees in large numbers followed and chatted with us. A cedar waxwing posed on top of a tree, and a Clark's nutcracker beat-up on a pine cone and finally flew to show us his true colors.

It was good fun to see the birds, spend time in good company of good birders, and finish the eating part of the tour with fresh out-of-the oven Blueberry pie at Grass Range. Thank you to Dorothy Bartlett





Conservation Grants Announcement

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society (YVAS) is offering the following grant opportunity.

For 2012-2013, YVAS is offering a conservation grant of up to \$1000.00. The grant will be awarded to an individual or a group engaged in some project which supports the YVAS mission: **“to promote enjoyment and protection of the natural environment through education, activism and conservation of bird habitat.”**

Grants can be awarded help fund a variety of conservation projects including, but not limited to,

- research on birds, plants, habitat, alternative energies, effects of CO₂, etc.
- field work projects, such as habitat restoration, building/establishing bird/bat boxes, monitoring bird/wildlife populations, etc.
- travel, continuing education, advocacy for natural resources, etc.

We are excited about the opportunity we have to help students engage in fulfilling our mission, and we encourage you to apply for a Conservation Grant. **Applications need to be received by February 1, 2013**, and the award winner will be expected to submit a written report of their project and its success within one year of the initial award date. They will also be asked to present their results at either an YVAS Board meeting or at a general membership meeting.

All grant applications must provide a brief statement of the proposed project, illustrating how it ties in with the YVAS mission stated above. Applications should not exceed two pages in length, and must also include a budget, illustrating how the project would apply the funds. Any applicant under the age of 18 must provide a letter of support from a supervising teacher.

Address grant applications to YVAS Board, P.O. Box 1075, Billings, MT 59103-1075

For further information and application forms, visit yvaudubon.org or contact Nancy Wiggins nwiggins83@gmail.com or (406) 651-0218.

⇒ At the October 15th Membership Meeting we will take written suggestions re items you would like to see offered for auction or raffle at the Christmas dinner. Please take some time to organize your thoughts.

SAVE THE DATE

YVAS CHRISTMAS FUND RAISER

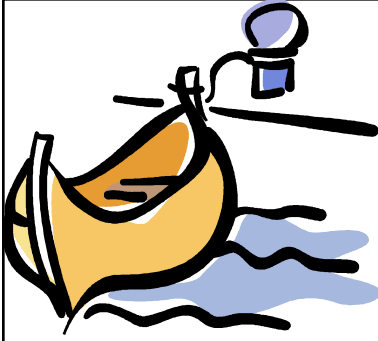
WHEN: MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

WHERE: HARVEST CHURCH 1234 WICKS LANE, BILLINGS HEIGHTS

FEATURED SPEAKER: Bob Landis, Wildlife Photographer

- Pot Luck Dinner
- Raffle
- Silent Auction

See the November/December issue of the YVAS Flyer for more information or contact Dorothy Bartlett 252-0757, dpadanyi@live.com



EVENTS AT THE AUDUBON CONSERVATION EDUCATION CENTER

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

Fall 2012

October 12 Nature Night at the Audubon Center! Drop your child off for an evening of outdoor adventures with our Teacher Naturalists. Program is open to 1st – 6th grade students, and runs from 6 – 8 PM. Fee is \$15 per child or \$10 for Friends of the Center. For more info and a registration form, visit

www.mtacec.org or call 294 – 5099.

October 19 School Break Camp for kids in 1st – 6th grades! Join us to learn about Forts, Fires, and Furs – We'll spend the day outdoors learning survival skills as we build our own forts, make and cook on fires, and make unique craft projects with natural items. Runs from 8:30 – 4:30. Cost per day is \$45 or \$40 for Friends of the Audubon Center. One hour of after-care until 5:30 is available for an extra \$5. Call to register at 294-5099 or print out a registration form from www.mtacec.org!

October 21 Weekend Wonders Family Program from 1:30 – 3 PM: Gone Fishing – hone in your fishing skills in our ponds and learn about native MT fish. Bring your own pole if possible. Fee is \$2/person or free for Friends of the Center. For more info and a registration form, visit www.mtacec.org or call 294 – 5099.

October 23 Free Evening Lecture from 7 – 8 PM with Bo Walker, senior in the Environmental Science Program at Rocky Mountain College. Mr. Walker will present “A Fisherman for Frog Fecundity – Amphibian and Fish Population Dynamics in the Beartooth Mountains”. Over 300 lakes in the Beartooth Mountains of south central Montana are stocked with fish. This presentation will discuss the potential impacts of fish stocking on native montane amphibian populations, as well as the study methods used to assess the impact of fish stocking on amphibians.

YVAS YELLOWSTONE RIVER BIRD CONSERVATION PROJECT UPDATE

Bird data from numerous trips to Isaac Homestead WMS, Two Moon Park and Gray Bear Fishing Access Site have been accumulated and submitted to Rocky Mountain College Yellowstone River Research Center. Cameron Sapp (RMC Intern) and Professor Luke Ward are incorporating that data into a database, GIS and Google Earth formats. The data is being shared with the Montana Natural Resources Information System at the State Library in Helena. A trip to Yellowstone Lake in YNP and one to the mouth of the Yellowstone River in North Dakota are scheduled for September to accumulate bird data at those locations. Plans are being made for additional birding trips and bird data accumulation along the Yellowstone River for fall of 2012 and summer 2013. An-

ouncements in that regard will be included in the Flyer. Trips will be coordinated with George and Bernie Mowat, the YVAS birding trip General Chairmen. The YVAS Osprey project work being done by Monty Sullins, Cameron Sapp, Kayhan Ostovar and the YVAS Osprey working group is being coordinated with the YVAS YR Bird project, data base, and mapping work. Thank you to Steve Regele



NESTING MATERIALS



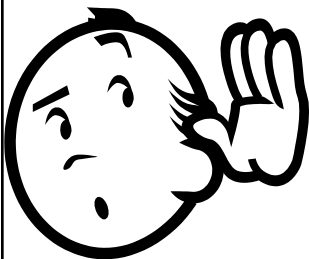
STOP

- “Identify Yourself: The 50 Most Common Birding Identification Challenges” by Bill Thompson III, Julie Zickefoose and Kenn Kaufman. Written by the experts at Bird Watcher's Digest, this book gives beginning and intermediate bird watchers a helping hand with some of the most confounding identification challenges -- birds that are commonly encountered but difficult to tell apart. Combining clear, easy-to-understand text with beautiful illustrations that show key field marks, “Identify Yourself” is the solution to identifying many of North America's hard-to-distinguish birds.
- “A Child's Introduction to the Night Sky: The Story of the Stars, Planets, and Constellations--and How You Can Find Them in the Sky” by Michael Driscoll and Meredith Hamilton Children eight and up will enjoy this conversational but information-packed introduction to astronomy and stargazing, which includes the achievements of the great scientists, the history of space exploration, the story of our solar system, the myths behind the constellations, and how to navigate the night sky. Whimsical color illustrations on every page and handy definitions and sidebars help engage younger readers and develop their interest. The special star wheel helps locate stars and planets from any location at any time of year. This is the third in Black Dog & Leventhal's successful series including ‘The Story of the Orchestra’ and ‘A Child's Introduction to Poetry’.



LOOK

- “**Birders: The Central Park Effect**” follows a diverse group of birders through the seasons as they passionately pursue their hobby in New York City's Central Park. Cornell Lab of Ornithology director Dr. John Fitzpatrick is among the experts interviewed about the so-called Central Park effect--the funneling of millions of birds into the park during migration. The film also highlights the profound impact birds can have on people. The documentary is produced and directed by Jeffrey Kimball and airs on HBO. Visit <http://www.hbo.com/documentaries/birders-the-central-park-effect/index.html> for more information.
- American Bird Conservancy reported on a new study of house cats allowed to roam outdoors which finds that nearly one-third succeeded in capturing and killing animals. The cats, which wore special video cameras around their necks that recorded their outdoor activities, killed an average of 2.1 animals every week they were outside, but brought less than one of every four of their kills home. Of particular interest, bird kills constituted about 13 percent of the total wildlife kills. Based on these results, American Bird Conservancy and The Wildlife Society estimate that house cats kill far more than the previous estimate of a billion birds and other animals each year. Visit <http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/120806.html> or view video and photos from the Kitty Cam at the University of Georgia's website, kittycams.uga.edu/photovideo.



LISTEN

- Hey Bird Lovers and Backyard Enthusiasts! Join “Batman” Ken and the Bird-house Guy as hosts on “The Backyard Network” radio show. They explore how you can attract song birds and bats to your yard, install bird feeders, manage natural insect control, design water-scales, plant flowers to attract birds and much more. They talk about anything and everything to help you bring your backyard to life! Join in the fun with your comments and questions to The Backyard Network by calling 307-514-1071 or email the guys at: wildlifelhouses@yahoo.com! Visit Www.1480krae.com/birds.asp

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.

- 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.
- 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
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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. 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.

Oct 6	Sat	STILLWATER AND COONEY DAM. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Sack lunch. Helen Carlson, leader.
Nov 10	Sat	YELLOWTAIL DAM AFTERBAY. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Sack lunch. George Mowat, leader.
Dec 15	Sat	ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.	More details will be in the Nov. FLYER.
Jan 1	Tues	NEW YEAR'S FIELD TRIP. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Sack lunch. Yellowtail Dam Afterbay. Helen Carlson, leader.
Jan 5	Sat	ANNUAL EAGLE MIDWINTER SURVEY in Lower 48 States. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Yellowstone River: Billings to Columbus	Brad Hall or George Mowat, leader. No Host Lunch.

FIELD TRIP CHAIRS: George and Bernie Mowat 656-7467

