

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 45, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2015

MAY THE WONDER OF NATURE BRING YOU JOY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW BIRDING YEAR!

CHAPTER MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 19

Rocky Mountain College Internship and the Osprey Project

For the past three years the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society has helped support an intern from the Yellowstone



River Research Center (YRRC) at Rocky Mountain College (RMC). One of the goals of this internship is to engage youth in Audubon and in conservation activities. This past summer Matt DeWit, a senior at RMC, helped coordinate data collection from the citizen science volunteers on the Osprey Project, and entered birding data from YVAS field trips into a database. Matt carried out additional independent research, supported by the YRRC on osprey foraging behavior all along the Yellowstone River. The osprey project was unique in that it involved community input from Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, Rocky Mountain College, St. Cloud State University and numerous power companies. Matt will be presenting some of his preliminary results at the chapter meeting.

The Osprey Project is a long-term study with many partners. The study area stretches along the Yellowstone River which is the longest free flowing river in the lower 48 states. Matt and his

Matt DeWit banding osprey nestlings at the Laurel nest in July research partner followed in the footsteps of past Osprey Project student researchers from Rocky Mountain College with a slightly new focus. His research specifically looked at the Central Place Foraging and Optimal Foraging Theory. Central Place Foraging Theory focuses on animals that must return to a specific site such as a den or nest to consume or store their food. Optimal Forage Theory states that animals will forage as to maximize

their energy intake per unit of food while keeping energy costs at a minimum. A study of both of these theories as applied to osprey will help us better understand possible limiting factors for reproductive success. Matt randomly observed selected active osprey nest sites, fledgling success rates, forage species, and size of food loads in relation to location on the river, distance to the river, and water clarity.

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, January 12, 6:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, January 19, 7:00pm: Chapter Meeting

We will hold a YVAS fundraiser dinner at 5:30, before the Chapter meeting. Dinner donation: \$6. By popular demand, Trenay Hart has generously volunteered to coordinate a vegan dinner. Please contact her at 406-860-1175 or allent@rocky.edu, <u>before Friday</u>, <u>January 16</u> to make reservations and tell her what you will bring.



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HOLIDAY POTLUCK Over 90 people attended the YVAS traditional MONDAY DECEMBER 15 Pot Luck Holiday Dinner, where the food was wonderful and the help and support were way beyond expectations! Many thanks to Mayflower Congregational Church for hosting our group so graciously. With the technical assistance of Dr. Mike Downing, Bob Landis brought wonderful new videos of his filming during the past year, continuing the saga of the wolf packs and antics of bears, birds, bison and other wildlife. We are grateful for his ongoing support of YVAS.

Dave Pauli, Senior Director, Wildlife Response for the Animal Care Centers of the Humane Society of the United States, again served as our multi-talented master of ceremonies and did a wonderful job auctioning three special Lennox bird figurines and entertaining us with the game of Heads or Tails. YVAS is about \$1500 richer because of this event. Thanks to our volunteers and to our Holiday Event Director, Dorothy Bartlett, for an outstanding performance.



Bob Landis answers questions Photo by Jim Wiggins



Dave Pauli auctions bird figurines

Photo by Jim Wiggins

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Officers: AREA CODE 406	Committees and Special Assignments:
CODE 406 President: Steve Regele, 962-3115, sregele@juno.com Vice-President: open Secretary: Dorothy Bartlett, 252-0757, dpadanyi@live.com Treasurer: Pam Pipal, 245-4517, ppipal@charter.net Board of Directors: Donn Bartlett: 252-0757, donnbartlett@msn.com Steve Linder: 380-0073, becon1@bresnan.net Sheila McKay: 652-7175, cell 694-7918, wjhbird@yahoo.com Deb Regele: 962-3115, debregele@gmail.com Marco Restani: 425-2608, restani@stcloudstate.edu Sue Weinreis: 855-4181, granpeak@bresnan.net Nancy Wiggins: 651-0218, nwiggins83@gmail.com <i>Montana's Congressional Delegation: (This will be updated February 2015 when updated contact information is available)</i> John Walsh: U.S. Senate, Wash. D.C. 20510 website: http://walsh.senate.gov email: john@walsh.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_Steve Daines: U.S. House of Rep. Wash. D.C. 20515 website: www.dianes.house.gov email: steve.daines@mail.house.gov Wash, DC: 202-225-3211	 Audubon Adventures: Jerry Dalton, daltonlj@centurylink.net Bird Questions: George Mowat, 656-7467 gmowat@bresnan.net or Helen Carlson Cummins, 248-8684 Birdathon: Ruth Vanderhorst, 245-5118, acrv@bresnan.net Christmas Bird Count: Jim Court, 259-5099, C: 860-0450, custertours@gmail.com Conservation Chair: Steve Regele, 962-3115, sregele@juno.com Editor: Nancy Wiggins, 651-0218, nwiggins83@gmail.com Field Trip Chair: Donn Bartlett, 252-0757, donnbart- lett@msn.com Hospitality: 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 Osprey Project: Deb Regele, 962-3115, de- bregele@gmail.com Publicity: Dorothy Bartlett, 252-0757, dpadanyi@live.com Program Chair: Sheila McKay, 652-7175, wjhbird@yahoo.com Recycling (aluminum): Larry Handsaker, 406-855-9832 Website: Deb Regele, 962-3115, debregele@gmail.com Meetings are held September through May at Mayflower Congregational Church, corner of Poly and Rehberg, Billings, MT: 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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FIELD TRIP NOTES

YVAS RARE BIRD ALERT The YVAS Rare Bird Alert has been temporarily suspended. Run by George Mowat, the RBA was designed to report rare birds that were sighted in the Billings area and approximately as far from Billings as 75 miles or so and was designed to not compete with the MOB (Montana's Outdoor Birding Group). Unfortunately, the email groups that were used to notify birders who had signed up were erased by Charter Communications. I hope to reinstate the Alert, but getting names and email addresses will take some time. If you wish to remain on the Alert or would like to be added to it, please email me at: gbmowat@gmail.com. I will continue to monitor my bresnan email address gmowat@bresnan.net but I can't depend on it. My "Sent" mail folder was also erased.

RAPTOR RESCUE The Montana Raptor Conservation Center (MRCC) has been rescuing injured raptors since 1988. Under the direction of Executive Director Becky Kean, the Center responds to almost 200 distressed birds a year. On November 26, an immature female bald eagle which may have fallen into the river while hunting was found in the Billings area. Bald eagles can swim, and it appears the bird managed to pull herself out of the river, but was too worn out after to do much besides lay on the bank, according to Jeff Ewelt, Director of Zoo Montana. Passersby notified authorities, and the eagle was located and transported to the Raptor Center for assessment and observation. She did not have any apparent injuries or broken bones, but appeared to be exhausted, was kept for observation, where she dried out and underwent some extra flight conditioning. Becky Kean and Jordan Spyke, MRCC Assistant Director, then brought the eagle back to Billings to be released. It took wildlife officials a few minutes to coax the 2.5 year old, 11 pound bird out of her cage and back into the wild, where Jordan Spyke of the Raptor Center had to duck to avoid her 7 foot wing span. The talented Jeanette Tasey, who directs the Raptor Rescue Program for YVAS, was on hand for the release which she documented with these photos:





SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8TH

AFTERBAY

Nine cars with 25 birders left Billings headed for the Afterbay below Yellowtail Dam south of Hardin. The weather was warm and beautiful. I was particularly impressed by the abundance of mallard and American wigeon on the lake, and how few were the winter waterfowl such as common goldeneye.

Rarities were two each of greater white-fronted goose, Bonaparte's gull, and red-breasted merganser. We saw the usual wintering birds such as eight rough-legged hawk, a northern shrike, American tree sparrow, and Harris's sparrow. At the upper end of the Afterbay we were greeted by our resident American dipper. Overall, we had a total of 45 species and great looks at the variety of waterfowl. Submitted by George Mowat

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14 115TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Hampered by the weather, forty five hardy bird watchers directed by Jim Court on 15 routes, plus six feeder watchers, saw only 51 species. Mallard and ring-necked pheasant are the only species that have been seen on all 70 counts by YVAS. A count of 192 wild turkeys set a new record for Christmas Bird Count. Canada goose was the most numerous species, with 9774 counted. There was a total of 21,984 birds. We had a great turnout of volunteer watchers, but the cloudy, snowy weather held the number of species to a near record low. All had a great time gathering afterwards for soup, chili and other goodies at Mayflower Church. Each year the CBC and similar programs attract a wide variety of citizen scientists, including stalwarts like Jessica Zelt. Barely out of her 20s, Zelt has spent the last six years digitizing a trove of handwritten bird observations that reach back to the 19th Century. Visit <u>audubonaction.org</u> for more information.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS AT THE AUDUBON CENTER

7026 South Billings Blvd, Billings, MT, 59101 <u>406-294-5099</u> <u>education@mtadubon.org</u> <u>www.mtacec.org</u>

Every second Saturday night ~ *Nighthawk Adventure 6—8 PM*. Join us at the Audubon Center for a nature filled evening and then an amazing snack. Fee is \$5/person or Free for Friends of the Center.

- · January 10th ~ Wild Canines & Hot Soup!
- February 14th ~ Owl Hike & Hot Soups!

Eco-Splorers. Tuesday afternoons from 4:30—6 PM. The start of our Nature Afterschool classes! Eight-week series of classes for \$65. \$60 for Friends. Jan 27th to March 17th ~ Topic: Outdoor Survival

Hands-on Homeschool Science Class Eight-week series for \$65. 1:00 – 2:30 or 3—4:30 pm PM. Lessons geared to 6 – 13 year olds, \$65 per child for Friends of the Audubon Center, \$72 for non-members. Jan 27th to March 17th ~ Topic: Minecraft Adventures

Nature Nuts for children 2-5 years old with a parent, 9-10 AM. First of our 8 week series. Fee is \$40 for Friends of the Audubon Center and \$45 for non-members. Jan 27th to March 17th

One day events, more information on <u>www.mtacec.org</u> ó January 24th, 10 am - 3 pm—Geocaching Event ~ *Electronic treasure hunt* **ó January 31st, 10 am - 1 pm—Bird Felting Workshop ~** *Learn a new hobby* **ó February 7th, 2 - 2:30 pm—Bird Feeding Workshop ~** *What, how, who to feed??* **ó February 28th, 10 am - 12 pm —Ice Fishing ~** *An amazingly chilly event*

School Break Camps ~ A day off from school is a day to explore the great outdoors, so turn off that TV and get out! Camps are for 4 - 13 year olds, and run from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. Cost per day is \$45 or \$40 per day for Friends of the Audubon Center. After-care until 5:30PM is available for an extra \$6/child. February 13th & 14th.

June 5-7, 2015 MONTANA AUDUBON FESTIVAL Red Lion Colonial Inn, 2301 Colonial Drive, Helena

The Helena-based Audubon chapter, Last Chance Audubon Society (LCAS) has been busy planning a spectacular event for June 2015! The LCAS Chapter has hinted at fabulous birding tours—possibly river floats, as well as non-birding trips such as a historical tour of Helena and a trip to a local arts center. Scott Weidensaul will be our keynote speaker this year. He is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist "Living on the Wind," about bird migration; "Return to Wild America: A Yearlong Search for the Continent's Natural Soul"; and "Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding." His last book, "The First Frontier: The Forgotten History of Struggle, Savagery and Endurance in Early America," was published in 2012, and he is the author of the forthcoming "Peterson Reference Guide to Owls." Weidensaul is a contributing editor for Audubon Magazine and writes for a varie-ty of other publications. He lives in eastern Pennsylvania, where he studies the migration of hawks, owls and humming-birds. For more information contact <u>mtaudubon.org</u> or Cathie Erickson: <u>cerickson@mtaudubon.org</u>.

BILLINGS ATTRACTS THE BIRDERS!

June 10 – 14 WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS Be it black rosy finches in the high mountains or Sprague's pipits on the rolling plains, these birds and much more await you as they prepare for their first Montana meeting. Open to all interested birders, the event is scheduled to highlight the peak of bird activity. An active slate of fieldtrips led by expert birders is scheduled to explore the region. In addition, a variety of workshops will be offered. Jon Dunn will address sparrows, Dan Casey will cover flycatchers, Denver Holt will present owls, and Steve Hoffman will cover his passion, birds of prey. Other workshops are planned. There will be the very popular bird identification panel conducted by Ed Harper and the masterful bird sound identification challenge presented by Nathan Pieplow, both events always conference highlights. The scientific papers, a main attraction, are always cutting-edge, immensely informative, and a universally popular venue for both amateur and professionals alike. The featured Saturday evening keynote will address mountain plovers. Speaking is Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ph. D. whose extensive research in Montana with this imperiled species is supported by 22 years of extensive fieldwork.

Registration for the conference will open in February 2015 www.westernfieldornithologists.org/join.php.



NESTING MATERIALS

Birds and Warming: It's Personal

Among the 314 North American bird species threatened by climate change are avian residents of every state. Nine state birds, including the Baltimore oriole, common loon and brown pelican, are threatened in the states that have adopted them, and some could disappear locally. Use our local effects calculator to see which birds in your state are threatened and just how bad things might get for each affected species. *Visit <u>audubonaction.org</u> for more information*.

Prairie Dogs: Candy Bar of the Prairie

Predators trick-or-treating across the Reserve are on the look out for their favorite full-sized candy bar: the prairie dog. In a new video hear from our biologists as they talk about the crucial role that these miniature rodents play in the larger ecosystem. Prairie dogs not only construct a diverse landscape with their eating and digging habits — look at those claws! — they are also an important part of the grassland food chain. Watch the video to learn why American Prairie Reserve is increasing prairie dog populations and how this work benefits species ranging from birds to bison. *Visit americanprairie.org for more information*.

Sleeping with Penguins

Pitch Your Tent Next to a Penguin Ever wonder what it might be like to try to sleep with a colony of 2,000 penguins? (Answer: It requires earplugs.) ABC's Michael Hutchins tells the story of his research on Magellanic Penguins in Patagonia, and he couldn't have been closer to the action: "A pair of penguins was living right under my tent, and they frequently began their loud 'braying' in the middle of the night." *Visit <u>abcbirds.wordpress.com</u> for more information*.

Dial in Your Binoculars: Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Migrants are migrating, days are cooling down, and winter birds are getting ready to flock around your feeders. Make sure your binoculars are giving you the best possible view. For some fast tips on setting up your binoculars (including the mysterious "diopter"), and how to find and focus on birds, <u>watch this video</u>.



More Ways to Get the Most From Binoculars: Our <u>full review of the best binoculars on the market</u>, including which aspects to pay closest attention to Our tips on <u>how to buy optics on a budget</u> Our <u>Inside Birding video series</u>, with more great birding advice from our experts

Visit us2.campaign-archive1.com/ for more information.

Introducing "Pelican Dreams," a New Documentary

With her "Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill," filmmaker Judy Irving captured the inner lives of San Fran's psittacine citizens. Now she's turned her camera on pelicans with her new documentary "Pelican Dreams." Irving presents the journey of Gigi, an injured pelican rescued on the Golden Gate Bridge and in the process weaves a stirring conservation portrait of one of America's oddest and most beloved birds. *Visit <u>audubonaction.org</u> for more information*.

Galapagos: Dispatches From An Endangered Eden No place on earth is safe from human impacts, including the storied Galapagos Islands, home to dozens of endemic bird species. Three prominent authors visited earlier this year to remind us all what we stand to lose. Their trip journal is both poetic and poignant. Visit <u>audubonaction.org</u> for more information

"Look Up!" Bird-Watching In Your Own Backyard

Calling all young bird-watchers, or those hoping to inspire a burgeoning birder. Filled with humorous illustrations and lively tongue-in-cheek comments from the birds themselves, this book by Annette LeBlanc Cate makes a great gift or addition to any nature lover's library.

The text instructs in avian classification, migration, behavior, and other identification skills while remaining interesting and accessible for children aged 5 to 7. "Look Up" reminds us to observe birds in our own neighborhoods while hope-fully inspiring the new generation of birders to enjoy the hobby we know brings a lifetime joy with the journey. Have this book close at hand for curious minds.



CONSERVATION NEWS

Pipes in the West Threaten Birds

A New Mexico study says "very large" numbers of birds may be killed by open pipes such as mining claim markers in the western United States. Western Bluebirds accounted for 61 percent of the identifiable affected bird species; other species affected include Ash-throated Flycatcher, Acorn Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee, and Western Scrub-Jay. *Visit abchirds.org for more information*.

Historic Land Deal: Saving Land in the American West The Nature Conservancy announced the purchase of 165,073 acres of forestland in Washington and Montana that will protect clean water, forests and wildlife habitat. *Visit support.nature.org for more information.*

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION ANNOUNCES 12 WINS IN 2014!

WIN #1 WILD BISON: Back Where They Belong on Tribal Lands In 2014, NWF worked closely with the Montana Wildlife Federation and other partners to return 138 of these magnificent beasts to their historic range on Assiniboine and Sioux tribal lands on Fort Peck Reservation in Montana.

WIN #2 ORCA: Dirty Coal Project Stopped! In August wildlife advocates secured a huge win for orcas, trout and many more wildlife in the Pacific Northwest when Oregon Governor Kitzhaber rejected a permit for the Port of Morrow coal export terminal. The decision severely hinders any future progress on this dangerous project, which would have destroyed crucial fish habitat, polluted critical waterways and accelerated climate change.

WIN #3 MOUNTAIN LION: California Habitat Permanently Protected In October, President Obama permanently protected 346,000 acres of wild land in California's San Gabriel Mountains that provide critical habitat for mountain lions and other wildlife. The monument designation protects vital wildlife habitat not only for mountain lions, but also other wildlife such as California condors, yellow-legged frogs and Nelson's bighorn sheep. Next step for mountain lions: create a wildlife crossing that will provide safe passage near the Santa Monica Mountains, where their natural range is split by a massive, multi-lane freeway.

WIN #4 BROWN BEAR & SALMON: Bristol Bay Forever Initiative Passes A proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska, would be the largest open pit mine in North America and cause disastrous, irreversible damage to Bristol Bay, home to the greatest remaining runs of wild sockeye salmon on earth. An allotment measure now requires legislative approval, an environmental review and the finding of no significant fisheries impact from any mining project in the watershed of the Bristol Bay Fisheries, which provides another layer of protection for this stunning natural resource. WIN #5 MOOSE: No Dirty Tar Sands Oil in Maine Over the past few years, the oil industry has been quietly advancing plans to ship Canadian tar sands from South Portland, which would include placement of large industrial com-

bustion towers that would spew toxic chemicals in the air, threatening the health of people and wildlife like moose along South Portland's scenic coast. Natural Resources Council of Maine passed an ordinance that would prohibit toxic tar sands oil from being loaded onto tankers in this coastal port.

WIN #6 GREAT BLUE HERON: New Jersey Approves Funding to Protect Wildlife Waterways

In November New Jersey voters said yes to the New Jersey Open Space Preservation Funding Amendment. The measure dedicates state funds to protect the state's clean drinking water, open spaces, farmland and historic sites, as well as improve water quality and clean up polluted sites across the whole Garden State.

WIN #7 MANATEE: Funding Approved for Habitat Restoration Florida manatees have fascinated people for centuries, from early sailors thinking they were mermaids, to families visiting everglades today. But pollution and coastal development are damaging their habitat. In November, Florida conservation voters secured a victory for manatees and other wildlife with the passage of Florida Amendment 1. The initiative will provide more than 15 billion dollars of dedicated funding to restore the Everglades, protect drinking water sources, and revive the state's historic commitment to preserving natural lands and wildlife habitat.

WIN #8 MEADOWLARK: Congress Passes Wildlife-Friendly Farm Bill Meadowlarks, vibrantly colored songbirds, build their nests and forage for food in native grasslands, meadows, and farm fields during the winter. Now, farmers can help them! In February Congress passed a new farm bill that provides huge wins for wildlife. The 2014 Farm Bill is a strong, conservation-friendly bill that supports healthy soil, clean water and abundant habitat for wildlife. It contains a substantial increase in funding to help farmers create wildlife habitat on working lands and important improvements for protecting our fragile native grasslands. WIN #9 CARIBOU: Keystone XL Pipeline on Hold Adapted to live in wintry climes, caribou have snowshoe-like hooves and antlers that they use to shovel aside snow to reach the caribou moss and lichen beneath. Caribou herds in the tar sands area are at great risk from the loss of their boreal forest habitat to development, timber cutting and tar sands oil projects destroying the landscape. The massive Keystone XL tar sands pipeline threatens what remains of their fragile habitat. In April, Secretary of State John Kerry delayed a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline, citing the need for more clarity on the project's route.

WIN #10 DEER: New Safeguards in Place A deadly epidemic of chronic wasting disease threatens free-ranging white-tailed deer herds in Missouri. Some legislators in Missouri proposed to reclassify captive deer as live-stock. Missouri Governor Nixon vetoed the measure, but the legislature tried to overturn his veto. Tireless advocates helped stop the legislature from overriding the veto, protecting deer populations across Missouri from greater risk of disease.

WIN #11 SCREECH OWL: Thousands of New Trees Provide Homes and Food for Wildlife

Trees throughout America are rapidly disappearing right now, leaving wildlife like screech owls without cavities to nest in. Known for their distinctive trill, screech owls are found most anywhere deciduous trees are found. However, the owls cannot survive if all the trees in a locale disappear. National Wildlife Federation sponsored community tree plantings throughout America. This year supporters helped plant nearly 20,000 new native trees, each a refuge for wildlife. Hoot hoot!

WIN #12 GOPHER TORTOISE: Garden for Wildlife Volunteers to the Rescue

Gopher Tortoises have roamed the Earth for somewhere between 500,000 and 2 million years. Habitat loss and other threats caused their numbers to diminish in the last few decades, and today they are listed as a federally threatened species in Louisiana, Mississippi and part of Alabama. The State of Florida considers them threatened as well. Volunteers have worked successfully with the City Council to create a habitat for adopted gopher tortoises at the Lakeside Sand Pine Preserve. Volunteers have also educated children and youth and created more than 150 wildlife habitats and gardens at schools, homes and businesses.

National Audubon Society Recruitment Code: C0ZN500Z Application for <u>New</u> Membership Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society. I understand that I will receive the Audubon Magazine and Yellow-	Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society 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 family
stone Valley Audubon Society Flyer. Make check payable to <u>Na-</u> tional Audubon Society. Renewals will be sent to you through National Audubon.	Audubon Society Audubon Society for \$20. If applying for a new or renewing stu- dent membership, make check for \$10 and indicate academic affili- ation.
Address	Name
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StateZip	City
Email Address	State Zip
One Year Membership	Email Address
\$20 One year new membership	Do you want to receive the Flyer electronically?
Send this application and your check made out to National Audubon Society to:	□ YES □ NO Send this application and your check to: Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society
Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Attention: Membership Secretary P.O. Box 1075 Billings, MT 59103-1075	Attention: Membership Secretary P.O. Box 1075 Billings, MT 59103-1075

SHOWSTONE WILL

YELLOWSTONE VALLEY AUDUBON FLYER

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

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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. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING PETS**. 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. Binoculars and birding books are available on loan for the field trips. FIELD TRIP CHAIR: Donn Bartlett 252-0757, donnbartlett@msn.com

Jan 10	Sat	ANNUAL EAGLE MIDWINTER SURVEY IN LOWER 48 STATES. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Yellowstone River: Billings to Columbus. No Host Lunch. George Mowat, leader.
Mar 21	Sat	DUCK DAY: LEARN YOUR WA- TER- FOWL at WJH 8 a.m. to noon	Meet at Rocky Mountain College at 8 a.m. for guidance to WJH (2753 S 56th Street W), or at WJH between 8 and 8:30a.m. Sheila McKay and George Mowat, leaders
Apr 7	Tues	SHARP-TAILED GROUSE VIEW- ING. 5 a.m. to 10 a.m.	Jim Court, leader. Contact 259-5099, custertours@gmail.com, check the Flyer or visit yvaudubon.org for more details.
April 11	Sat	EXXON PONDS AND EMERALD HILLS. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Sack Lunch. ONE MILE WALK. Ron Kuhler and George Mowat, leaders.
May 2	Sat	OPEN	
May 9	Sat	MEET AT RIVERFRONT PARK S Billings Blvd, 1st Parking Area on right at 8 a.m. Half Day.	George and Bernie Mowat, leaders.
May 14	Thur	MEET AT RIVERFRONT PARK at 5:30 p.m. (See above location)	Mike Weber, leader
May 16	Sat	LAKE BASIN. 8 a.m.	Sack Lunch. Mike Weber, leader.
May 19	Tues	STILLWATER RIVER AND WOOD-BINE AREAS. 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Sack Lunch. Ruth Vanderhorst, leader.