

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.

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APRIL 2015



In his journal of March 18, 1858, Henry David Thoreau welcomed spring by writing: "Each new year is a surprise to us. We find that we had virtually forgotten the note of each bird, and when we hear it again it is remembered like a dream, reminding us of a previous state of existence. How happens it that the associations it awakens are always pleasing, never saddening; reminiscences of our sanest hours? The voice of nature is always encouraging. Published in the YVAS Flyer some 20 years ago.

Shared by Jim Hansen Central Flyway Migratory Bird Coordinator, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

CHAPTER MEETING MONDAY, APRIL 20

7:15 pm

The YVAS evening program for April 20th will feature a discussion about Yellow Rails, other rails, Sora, and other secretive marsh birds. The relative abundance and proposed habitat improvements for rails and other marsh birds, the efficacy of vocal and night surveys, and the National Marsh Bird Monitoring and Research Program will be some of the topics that may be covered. Our speakers have developed a protocol which greatly helps marsh bird monitoring activities and should be of interest to birders who want to see some of the more elusive species of these birds.



Yellow Rail - *Coturnicops noveboracensis*

Many of these birds are categorized as species of concern. Montana has populations of Sora, Yellow Rail and Virginia Rail. The Yellow Rail is listed as potentially at risk in Montana. It is apparently secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, and/or suspected to be declining. Yellow Rails are a Species of Management Concern in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6 which includes Montana, the Dakota's, Wyoming and 4 other states.

Some fun and useful tidbits will be shared: One method of locating a rail is to go to a damp meadow or marsh in the evening. Rails like landscape depressions and shallow standing water. Click two stones together at the rate of 3 to 5 clicks per second. This mimics one of their monotonous calls. They sometimes also respond to humming. Your first indication of a rail sighting may be the flick of their back tail feathers that stand straight up at times. In most species these feathers are black.

Enjoy this evening program opportunity to learn more interesting things about marsh birds, their habits, habitats and status.

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, April 13, 6:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, April 20, 7:00pm: Chapter Meeting



We will hold a YVAS fundraiser dinner at 5:30, before the Chapter meeting. Dinner donation: \$6. Carolyn Jones has generously volunteered to coordinate. Please contact her at caro-lyn648@gmail.com or 670-4449 before April 17 to make reservations and tell her what you will bring.

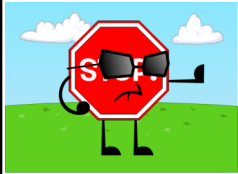
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☞ We're on the web! yvaudubon.org



OSPREY NEST MONITORS

If you, or you and a friend, are interested in monitoring Osprey nests from mid-April through August, please contact Deb Regele at [406-962-3115](tel:406-962-3115) or debregele@gmail.com for more information. Osprey monitors are needed in the Big Timber area. Visit yvaudubon.org for a description of the Osprey Nest Monitoring Program. Training and manuals are available.



APRIL 7 TUES FIELD TRIP SHARP-TAILED GROUSE VIEWING IS CANCELLED

Due to unforeseen circumstances,, the Sharp-tailed Grouse viewing field trip had to be cancelled. We will try and pick a better time and place next year. YVAS apologizes for any inconvenience to members.

YVAS STUDY GROUP The conservation issue study group's next project will be the book Last child in the woods: saving our children from nature deficit disorder by Richard Louv. The group will meet for discussion Thursday, April 16, 7:00 to 9:00pm, at Jerry Dalton's house, 2255 Darcy Lane, 656-3656, daltonlj@centurylink.net. Please join us! Call Jerry to borrow a copy of the book and get on the group contact list. This discussion coincides with the MT Audubon Center's celebration of *Earth Day*, Saturday April 18, which will be dedicated to creating a nature play space on the grounds.

CONSERVATION GRANT Each year, YVAS awards Conservation Grants to an individual(s) or a group(s) 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." The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the Montana Audubon Center has been awarded a Conservation Grant of \$400 in support of the project "Living Fences of Urban Shrubbery!" The goal is to increase shrub habitat, empower Montana Audubon Center visitors to create further habitats in their communities, and support educational and informational opportunity for the Yellowstone Valley and regional communities.

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Officers: AREA 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

Montana's Congressional Delegation:

Sen. Steve Daines: website: daines.senate.gov
 Billings: 406-245-6822 Wash. D.C. 202-224-2651
 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. Ryan Zinke: website: zinke.house.gov
 Billings: 406-702-1182 Wash, D.C: 202-225-3211

Committees and Special Assignments:

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, acrvc@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, donnbartlett@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, debregele@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.

SOUNDS OF SPRING As the earth tilts its northern axis toward the sun, bird migration is in motion once again. The rumps and tail feathers of Tree Sparrows, Rough-legged Hawks, Snowy Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, and Snowy Owls can be seen as they head for their breeding grounds to the north. Sandhill Cranes, Mountain Bluebirds, Ospreys, Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, Killdeer and Red-winged Blackbirds are already arriving in Montana as the Song Sparrows fill the spring days with their songs, Northern Flickers tap out tunes on chimneys, and robins look for worms on warming grounds.

Soon to be seen at favorite birding areas are Gray Catbirds, House Wrens, Bullock's Oriole, Yellow Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Redstarts, Red-naped Sapsuckers, Lark Buntings, Spotted Towhees, Common Nighthawks, Swainson's Hawks, and a wonderful variety of grebes, teals, and flycatchers. And if you happen to be in the right place and the right time, there are Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Baird's Sparrows, McCown's Longspurs, Green-tailed Towhees, Wood Ducks, and Ferruginous Hawks. Birds in their finest plumage! And to think there are over 400 species in Montana. What an exciting time to be a birder! Check out the YVAS Field Trip Schedule on page 8. Submitted by Deb Regele

SPRING BIRDING GALLERY by Jeanette Tasey



MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS at a nest box .
Photo by Jeanette Tasey



HOUSE WREN. Photo by
Jeanette Tasey



HOUSE FINCHES Photo by Jeanette Tasey

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS (FWP) is planning some exciting field work for this summer. FWP will have multiple opportunities to help us learn more about several species.

*Many of you are familiar with the **NORTH AMERICAN BREEDING BIRD SURVEY** initiated in 1966 to track the status and trends of North American bird populations. The survey continues to provide a valuable long-term look at avian trends on a large scale. There are several vacant routes that require just one day a year to run, and we need expert birders to help! I am currently aware of two routes in our neck of the woods that could use dedicated observers. The first is about 15 miles east of Melville, MT (lat-46.1032917, long-109.6664819) and the second is near St. Xavier, MT south of Hardin (lat-45.4319207, long—1077207419). Observers must have great birding skills and plan on taking the route on for more than one year. .

*Perhaps you have come across **BLACK ROSY-FINCHES** at your backyard feeder over the winter or feeding on the edge of snow fields high in the Beartooths in the summer months. Little is known about the distribution of this species in Montana. During the breeding season they nest in cliffy, alpine areas making them hard to observe. We have not yet put forth efforts to focus specifically on this alpine species. This summer we are planning to take single or multi-day backpacking trips in the Beartooths and numerous mountain ranges in southwest Montana to look for this species. We will likely be following trails and ridges looking for Black Rosy-Finches feeding on and around snowfields. We will need volunteers to help us in this endeavor.

*Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is interested in increasing our **GOLDEN EAGLE SURVEY** efforts and plan to add some survey flights this spring/summer to try and locate additional territories and check up on some historic territories. We know there are likely some we will miss. If you know of a golden eagle nest and are willing to monitor it with any level of effort from once during a season or up to fledging, we would love to hear about it and share these data with the Montana Natural Heritage Program. Please send nest location and other details to Megan @ moreilly@mt.gov or call @406-247-2966.

If you want more information or would like to volunteer for the Breeding Bird (BBS) or the Rosy-Finch Survey, contact Megan O'Reilly (moreilly@mt.gov, 406-247-2966) or visit the BBS website pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/





UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY APRIL 23 BALING TWINE COMMITTEE MEETING

It's time to get the "Raptor Protective Twine Ball (term coined by Dave Pauli) rolling"! The first meeting for the baling twine committee will be held at Off The Leaf Coffee Bar, 819 Grand Ave. on Thursday, April 23rd from 6pm-8pm. This meeting is open to all. We will discuss ideas on how to reduce the hazardous impact of twine in the environment, and how to educate the public on this subject. If you cannot attend, please send your thoughts and ideas to Lisa at Osprey-BTC@gmail.com or leave a message at (406) 698-9405.

THE PROBLEM IS, IT CAN KILL THEM Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Nest Monitoring Project volunteers observe nests and record behavioral data of Osprey along the Yellowstone River from Gardiner to Miles City, Montana. Part of YVAS' Osprey Project mission is finding safe solutions to the birds dangerous habit of decorating nests with colorful baling twine. Along the Yellowstone River, approximately 3-4% of nestlings are entangled each year. They would certainly die without human intervention. To date, entanglements have occurred at 5 different locations in the Project area. The data reflect that in:

2012: 3 nestlings entangled (one dead in nest, one euthanized, one freed and fledged normally)

2013: 1 nestling entangled (it was freed and fledged normally)

2014: 4 nestlings entangled (all freed and fledged normally)



The "Twine Ball", a 1.5 mile long piece of twine recovered by Lisa Besasparis & Jean Boone. (Photo by Lisa Besasparis)



Nestling being de-twined at banding. Unfortunately, he had to be freed again around fledging time. (Photo by Lisa Besasparis)

MAY 11, 12, AND 15 ORNITHOLOGY CLASSES

Dr. Marco Restani, Professor of Wildlife Ecology and YVAS Board Member, will offer ornithology classes again this year. Past lecture topics included bird identification (e.g., general tips, raptors, shorebirds, flycatchers, and sparrows), feathers and flight, reproduction, migration, and the national bird monitoring program of MAPS. This year Dr. Restani will present a review of bird topography and classification, bird conservation in a modern world, birds and climate, and perhaps identification by species group. If you have a topic of interest that you would like to have incorporated in to the program, please contact him at restani@stcloudstate.edu. Classes will be held at the Mayflower Congregational Church, corner of Poly and Rehberg in Billings, and are scheduled from 6:00pm to 8pm on May 11, 12, and 15. The cost is \$20.00 per class for YVAS members and \$25.00 per class for non-members. Please contact Deb Regele to register at 962-3115 or debregale@gmail.com



SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MAY 30-31 BIRDATHON 2015

It is April and time to start planning for the annual Birdathon to be held on May 30-31! Every spring YVAS sponsors this project to raise money for important chapter activities. Birdathon is competitive fund-raising and bird identification (in the field) during a 24 hour period. Teams compete with one another.

Birdathon begins at 5 pm on Saturday May 30, and continues to 5 pm on Sunday May 31. As teams are developed, think about the major goal of fund-raising as well as the fun to be had searching for bird species. It is time to get your team together and plan strategy for both these activities. When your team is final be sure to fill out the enclosed Registration Form and submit it with a \$5.00 fee for each team member. Supporters are also encouraged to fill out the enclosed Pledge Form. Both forms are also available on the chapter website (yvaudubon.org).

A gathering of teams to report species identified will be held at 5pm on Sunday May 31, at 897 Adobe, Billings Heights 59105. Refreshments will be served. Contact Ruth Vanderhorst at 245-5118 or acrvc@bresnan.net with any questions.

AUDUBON CENTER Check out our website www.mtacec.org for more information on all of our programs including: afterschool, homeschool, preschool, family, special events and school day out camps.

***EVERY SUNDAY ~ WEEKEND WONDERS 2—4 PM.** Open to all ages! Fee is \$2 to cover equipment use per person, or free for Friends of the Center. Every Sunday afternoon we will explore and discover! Stop in at the Audubon Center to get your supplies or challenge for the day. No registration required.

***APRIL 3 & 6~ 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 5:30 PM is available for an extra \$6/child.

***APRIL 18 9AM - 12 PM ~ EARTHDAY CELEBRATION.** The Montana Audubon Center began celebrating Earth Day in April of 2008 with a land restoration work party. Join us to build our new Shepard Nature Play Space, go on naturalist-led trash pick up hikes and help with planting. Children's activities include face-painting and fun outdoor games. Volunteers will be given a BBQ lunch donated by Lucky's Market, Wheat Montana and American Water. For more information go to www.mtacec.org

***APRIL 23 4PM – 6PM** ~ Join us for our Fledglings preschool open house. Fledglings is founded on the philosophy that children learn best through play and hands on experience. Our preschoolers spend a large majority of their time exploring and learning in the outdoors. A typical day at Fledglings Preschool includes: exploring outdoors, animal encounters, hands on science and math, writing and drawing, helping to prepare and grow healthy snacks and plenty of unstructured outdoor play.

JUNE 5-7

WINGS ACROSS THE BIG SKY

HELENA MONTANA

The annual Montana Audubon Bird Festival is fast approaching. You should have already received your registration brochure, so please register early by mailing the registration page or by going online at www.mtaudubon.org. Rooms have been blocked at the Red Lion Colonial Inn. Call 1-406-443-2100 and mention you're with Montana Audubon Bird Festival to get the rate, or book online with the booking code MONT0604.

Last Chance Audubon, co-sponsors of the event, are offering something different and fun this year. Read the following and then sharpen your pencils and create your own bird or birding-themed limerick or haiku masterpiece and submit for prizes.

A limerick's not too hard to write

If you keep the rhyme sequence in sight;

Just let your mind go.

The ideas will flow.

So you don't want to try it? You might. Haiku is traditionally a 17-syllable poem arranged in 5 – 7 – 5 syllable lines without rhyme. Limericks are five lines with rhyming as illustrated above. You may submit up to two of each. Be sure to keep copies for yourself and submit your entries to: Jo Lace, 210 S California St., Helena MT 59601 or email to Janice and Jo at jan2854@gmail.com NO LATER than May 1, 2015.

10–14 JUNE 2015 WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! Western Field Ornithologists (WFO) is an organization of amateur and professional field ornithologists that promotes the study of birds throughout western North America including Hawaii, the northeastern Pacific Ocean, and Western Mexico. Each year WFO holds a multi-day conference with scientific papers, field trips, workshops, panels, a keynote address, the annual membership meeting, and other events. This year field trips will visit a variety of habitats around Billings, from the high mountains (Black Rosy-Finch) to the grasslands (Sprague's Pipits). We'll see courting McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs in their finest plumage, Upland Sandpipers and Lark Buntings. History buffs will delight in viewing the Little Bighorn Battlefield where Custer saw his last Sharp-tailed Grouse.

There will be workshops on field identification of sparrows (Jon Dunn) and flycatchers (Dan Casey), natural history of owls (Denver Holt), bird sound identification (Nathan Pieplow), and more. Friday and Saturday afternoon science sessions will update you on the most current avian research from the region, and the Saturday evening banquet will feature a keynote address by Stephen Dinsmore on Mountain Plovers. Ed Harper and Nathan Pieplow will again offer their ever-popular sessions on bird ID by sight and sound.

Email erpfomca@aol.com to be added to the electronic mailing list. WFO members are able to register for our conferences at a reduced rate and have early access to registration. You can join at westernfieldornithologists.org/join.php.

HOTEL: To book a room at the WFO rate (\$96.00/night) call the Billings Hotel & Convention Center at (406) 248-7151 or (800) 537-7286 and ask to receive the WFO room rate.



NESTING MATERIALS

MILES CITY EAGLE CAM <http://53431558b81c6.click2stream.com> In 2014 YVAS awarded a Conservation Grant to the Miles City community to help install a webcam to observe nesting Bald Eagles. The Eagles are back on the nest now and are captivating to watch!

On March 4, Dean Hanvold · Miles Community College reported “We went up the 125' to the nest on 2-23-15 and serviced the camera and adjusted the view to the new nest. Thanks to the MCFD and their ladder truck. No eggs in the nest then, a ball of grass appeared later that afternoon in the center of the nest. They have been in the nest almost constantly since the afternoon on the 25th of February. I'm guessing there was an egg laid on the 25th or 26th. Guess we will know more about the 1st week of April.”

HOW TO ENJOY OWLS IN WINTER (OR ANYTIME)

Owls have been in the spotlight recently, from the DC snowy owl to the Colbert Report. They are incredible and elusive creatures. Here are some ways you can experience and learn about owls first-hand.. Visit nwf.org/2014/01/how-to-enjoy-owls-in-winter-or-anytime

Spring is here, which means one thing for many birds - migration. You can be a habitat hero this season by transforming your yard into a haven for wildlife. Everything you need is right here - a list of bird-friendly native plants, tips on landscaping for birds, and instructions for a homemade bird feeder. So grow local. You can keep birds healthy now and safeguard them against long-term threats like climate change. Visit audubon.org/section/spring-greening for interesting information.



CONSERVATION NEWS

MONTANA LEGISLATURE 2015

IMPORTANT THINGS ARE GOING ON IN THE 2015 MONTANA LEGISLATIVE SESSION - HOW DO WE MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD? It takes time, but it is time we MUST take! There is a whole range of opportunities. Here are some excerpted ideas:

*Send a message to legislators or committees:

- <http://leg.mt.gov/css/Sessions/64th/legwebmessage.asp> and fill in the boxes:
- Using the Legislator bullet and “drop down menu” - select a legislator and input your message; repeat the process and send to numerous legislators!
- Using the Committees Bullet and “drop down menu”, select a Committee (e.g. House/Senate Natural Resources, Fish and Game) and input your message; repeat the process and send to Montana Legislature [http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd/law0203w\\$.startup?P_SESS=20151](http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd/law0203w$.startup?P_SESS=20151); also makes communication easy for specific bills.

*Talk to your representatives – Push them to “do the right thing” and thank them when they do.

*Write letters to newspapers - Politician staffs really do read these.

Remember you do not always have to be limited to one topic nor does it always have to be conservation. If you have opinions on sage grouse, public lands, schools and yoga pants, express them.

*1250 characters or less - The entire text above is 1250 characters – words and spaces! Write twice or more if need be. (Visit yvaudubon.org for a detailed article about lobbying by Rita Harding)

DO YOU EBIRD? eBird is a free, web-based tool for sharing your bird observations, and is revolutionizing how citizen scientists contribute to our knowledge of birds. Currently, there are large geographic and species gaps within eBird for the state of Montana. To fill in these gaps, Kate Stone and Eric Rasmussen from MPG Ranch challenge you to share more of your observations. MPG Ranch, east of Florence, MT, sponsors scientists who guide restoration efforts and seek to understand the ecology of organisms present from microbes to mammals and trees. Their goal is to promote and incentivize eBird use in Montana. They will have fun prizes for monthly challenges, and the eBirder with the most species and most counties at the end of the year. They'll also share tips for how you can use eBird to learn more about birds in Montana and elsewhere. For more information, contact Kate and Eric at montanachallenge2015@mpgranch.com, www.mpgranch.com or www.raptorview.org.



RENEWAL NOTICES

The YVAS Board of Directors is trying to find a better way to alert supporting Chapter Members of their renewal dates. The list below consists of those members up for renewal in April and May. Please use the application form below (include your email address) and submit it, along with a check, to any Board Member or mail it to the address on the application when it is time to renew. Please contact Membership Secretary Joel M. Bowers at 534-3672 or jmba@jmba.com, with any questions.

APRIL

- Tom Agnew
- Judy Anderson
- Angus & Margie Fulton
- Colleen Model
- Jim Shesne
- Jan Stearns
- Nancy Traeger

MAY

- Dan Crabtree
- Cheri Dale
- Tom & Jeannette Davis
- William DeMeyer
- Brenda Dunham
- Dennis Holschbach
- Margaret McCarty
- Velma Pedersion
- Robert Pond
- Marco Restani
- Vernon Sundberg
- Cheryl Tatum
- Janet Weisz

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
 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 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



**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. **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 at the field trips FIELD TRIP CHAIR: Donn Bartlett 252-0757, donnbartlett@msn.com

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.
May 23	Sat	POMPEY'S PILLAR. 7 a.m. to early afternoon.	Sack Lunch optional depending on how long we bird in the morning. Ruth Vanderhorst, leader.
May 30-31	Sat-Sun	BIRDATHON	Contact Ruth Vanderhorst 245-5118, acrv@bresnan.net. Check the Flyer or visit yvaudubon.org for more details.
June 5-7		MA WINGS ACROSS THE BIG SKY	Bird Festival in Helena, MT. Contact mtauduon.org
June 10-14		WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE	Billings, MT Contact westernfieldornithologists.org/join.php
June 13	Sat	RED LODGE AREA 7 a.m.	Sack Lunch, Jerry Dalton leader
June 20	Sat	PRYOR MOUNTAINS 7 a.m. at Rocky Mountain College for carpooling or Bridger Rest Stop at 8 a.m.	Sack Lunch. Steve Regele, leader.
Aug 8	Sat	SHOREBIRDS, HAWKS AND PRAIRIE BIRDS. 8 a.m.	Mike Weber, leader

