



*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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JUNE/JULY 2015

## **YVAS Bird of the Month: Sagebrush Sparrow**



*Photo credit Images of SBSP on the web.*

The Sagebrush Sparrow is an elegant sparrow intimately tied to the great open spaces of the intermountain West. They live among sagebrush and other shrubs, where they forage mostly on the ground for insects and seeds. In early summer, males sing an abrupt, lively song from the shrub tops, where their soft gray upperparts complement the muted, gray-green sage. These sparrows depend on intact, relatively undisturbed tracts of sage for their breeding success; they winter in desert scrub and grasslands in the Southwest and Mexico. *Adapted from All About Birds at [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org).*

In 2013, the American Ornithologists' Union split the Sage Sparrow into two species: Bell's Sparrow (coastal California) and Sagebrush Sparrow (Great Basin/NW States). Found in only three counties in Montana, Beaverhead, Carbon, and Meagher. *Adapted from Montana Audubon, 2014.*

The Sagebrush Sparrow has been seen by YVAS members this birding season near Bear Canyon in the Pryor Mountains.

## **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, September 14, 6:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting***

***Monday, September 21, 7:00pm: Chapter Meeting***



**THIS FLYER IS PUBLISHED ON SFI CERTIFIED PRODUCT**

**☞ We're on the web! [yvaudubon.org](http://yvaudubon.org)**



**YVAS FLYER ANNOUNCES A NEW EDITOR.** Talented YVAS member Trenay Hart has generously offered to take over as Editor of the FLYER. Look for some exciting changes as Trenay introduces new ideas. As always, she encourages membership participation. Contact: 860-1175, [allent@rocky.edu](mailto:allent@rocky.edu). This is the last issue of the Flyer until August. YVAS news and updates are on the website: [yvaudubon.org](http://yvaudubon.org).

## MAY 18 ANNUAL MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

\*Officers elected for one-year terms:

Steve Regele, President; Doreen Hartman, Secretary; Pam Pipal, Treasurer. Vice-president: vacant.

\*Board of Directors elected for two-year term: Dorothy Bartlett



## YELLOWSTONE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBER JEAN

**BOONE** recently made a generous \$700 donation to the Osprey Rescue Fund. **SHE IS CHALLENGING THE MEMBERSHIP TO MATCH HER DONATION OF \$700 TO PREVENT THE DEATH OF BIRDS WHO BECOME ENTWINED.** The Osprey Project raises funds to establish

platforms to replace nesting sites on power poles, which could be harmful to Osprey and costly to the electric companies. The Osprey Rescue Fund is designed to offset expenses incurred in securing equipment and personnel needed to save nestlings and adults who are caught in baling twine which has been incorporated into the nest. Other YVAS members are working with Baling Twine Committee Chair Lisa Bessasparis to find ways of removing twine from the environment all together. Along the Yellowstone River, approximately 3-4% of nestlings are entangled each year. They would certainly die without human intervention. In the last year, entanglements have occurred at more than 5 different locations. In keeping with YVAS' mission to "promote enjoyment and protection of the natural environment through education, activism, and conservation of bird habitat", your donation will help achieve our mission. **YVAS is encouraging members to meet Jean's challenge and send donations to YVAS, Osprey Rescue Fund, P.O. Box 1075, Billings, MT 59103-1075!!!!!!**



**Thanks** to Ruth Vanderhorst who organized a 2015 Birdathon! We wish to recognize all who joined to raise funds for the Osprey Rescue Fund, and to bring a nationally recognized birding expert to speak in Billings. Watch for details of participants and results in the August Flyer.

### Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Officers:

AREA CODE 406

**President:** Steve Regele, 962-3115, [sregele@juno.com](mailto:sregele@juno.com)

**Vice-President:** open

**Secretary:** Doreen Hartman, 697-0277, [rdzlhman@bresnan.net](mailto:rdzlhman@bresnan.net)

**Treasurer:** Pam Pipal, 245-4517, [ppipal@charter.net](mailto:ppipal@charter.net)

### Board of Directors:

Donn Bartlett: 252-0757, [donnbartlett@msn.com](mailto:donnbartlett@msn.com)

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Nancy Wiggins: 651-0218, [nwiggins83@gmail.com](mailto:nwiggins83@gmail.com)

### Montana's Congressional Delegation:

Sen. Steve Daines: U.S. Senate, Wash. D.C. 20510

website: [daines.senate.gov](http://daines.senate.gov)

email: [senator@daines.senate.gov](mailto:senator@daines.senate.gov)

Billings: 406-245-6822 Wash. D.C. 202-224-2651

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

website: [tester.senate.gov](http://tester.senate.gov)

email: [senator@tester.senate.gov](mailto:senator@tester.senate.gov)

Billings: 406-252-0550 Wash. D.C.: 202-224-2644

Rep. Ryan Zinke:

website: [zinke.house.gov](http://zinke.house.gov)

email [representative@zinke.house.gov](mailto:representative@zinke.house.gov)

Billings: 406-702-1182 Wash, D.C: 202-225-3211

### Committees and Special Assignments: AREA CODE 406

Audubon Adventures: Jerry Dalton, [daltonlj@centurylink.net](mailto:daltonlj@centurylink.net)

Bird Questions: George Mowat, 656-7467

[gmowat@bresnan.net](mailto:gmowat@bresnan.net) or

Helen Carlson Cummins, 248-8684

Birdathon: Ruth Vanderhorst, 245-5118, [acrv@bresnan.net](mailto:acrv@bresnan.net)

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Hospitality: Audrey Jurovich, 656-2748

Injured Raptors: Jeanette Tasey 669-3169, [jtasey@gmail.com](mailto:jtasey@gmail.com)

Membership Secretary: Joel M. Bowers, 534-3672, cell: 591-5635, [jmba@jmmba.com](mailto:jmba@jmmba.com)

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Publicity: Dorothy Bartlett, 252-0757, [dpadanyi@live.com](mailto:dpadanyi@live.com)

Program Chair: Sheila McKay, 652-7175,

[wjhbird@yahoo.com](mailto:wjhbird@yahoo.com)

Recycling (aluminum): Larry Handsaker, 406-855-9832

Website: Deb Regele, 962-3115, [debregale@gmail.com](mailto:debregale@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.



GHO, G. Mowat

**SATURDAY MAY 9 RIVERFRONT PARK** The weather was forecast to be cold and rainy, so only 5 crazy birders showed up. However, the weather turned out to be perfect and a good time was had by all. Well, not exactly - at 40F, the northeast wind and occasional drizzle were a bit less than perfect - but at least it didn't rain. The group identified 32 bird species in a few cold hours at the Riverfront - nice park! Also note that quite a few new trees have been planted around the lake.

When you go birding in the woods, it's really helpful to turn your ears on. Even if you don't know many birds by voice, or can't hear very well, you WILL find more birds if you listen than if you don't. Song Sparrows and House Wrens initially tormented us, singing while hidden in the brush. Later, we got very nice looks at the songsters to help us get a little more familiar with their songs. Yellow Warblers were singing, too and we managed brief views of several - probably heard at least a dozen. We heard a couple of Downy Woodpeckers and certainly heard many more Flickers than we saw. The Black-capped Chickadees and Cedar Waxwings were also heard before seen.

At one point, the Red-capped Blackbirds were singing and showing off so much, it was difficult to listen for other birds. But not long after that we heard a ruckus and saw a Yellow-headed Blackbird (YHBB) fly by followed by several Red-wings. The YHBB sat in the top of a dead tree to show off a bit as well, but we did not hear him sing. Unfortunately, we were still distracted by a Black-headed Grosbeak that had also flown by. It had sat and allowed a brief look before disappearing into the trees.

Near the river, we spotted a Great Horned Owl (GHO) perched in a Cottonwood. It flew to another tree a little farther away, but still sat calmly in the open so we could all enjoy its awesomeness. George, is that why you haul a spotting scope through the woods? Thanks! Wow! We did not see any fledglings, but did hear another GHO calling from deeper in the trees.

We saw 2 pair of Wood Ducks: one pair perched in trees (wood) and the other pair on the water. Is that why they're called Wood Ducks? Didn't see their nest cavity, but they were in cottonwoods, so there should be some holes available. Wood Ducks reportedly have sharper claws to help them perch in trees. George's scope gave us great views (thanks again!), but alas we were unable to inspect their pedicures.

Lake Josephine had quite a few swallows. Violet-green were the most numerous, but there were also a few Bank and Northern Rough-winged Swallows. Getting a good look at swallows on the wing is like playing video games - takes practice and determination! Also around the lake, the gaggle of geese will soon be a herd - the goslings have hatched! Finally, of all the birds we heard singing or calling, perhaps the loudest were the ones we never saw - Ring-necked Pheasants seemed to have us surrounded, even in the woods! Glad they weren't velociraptors! *Submitted by Brian Henderson.*

**THURSDAY MAY 14 RIVERFRONT PARK** Despite the cool and cloudy day, seven lucky birders braved the weather and had a great evening of birding. The woods were ringing with birdsong: House Wrens, Yellow Warblers, Bullock's Orioles, American Goldfinches, Gray Catbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Song Sparrows, Black-headed Grosbeaks, woodpeckers, Least Flycatchers and a Yellow-breasted Chat. The Black-headed Grosbeak provided a lot of color and wow factor with many great looks through the scopes and binoculars and it was serenading all with its incredibly rich song. The Yellow Breasted Chat stayed hidden deep in the dogwoods while it loudly scolded and mocked in its almost unworldly calls.

We were all lucky to get very nice looks at a mature Cooper's Hawk. We were surmising that it may be part of a nesting pair, as there was an active nest very near the area two years previous. The lake held a few Eared Grebe, a Ruddy Duck and a Western Grebe; and many Tree and a few Barn Swallows were flying above the lake. As dusk was falling we observed a pair Spotted Sandpipers standing on a log at the waters edge and a large flock of Double Crested Cormorants flew overhead. *Submitted by Mike Weber*

## **SATURDAY MAY 16 LAKE BASIN**

A small brood of YVAS members braved what was to be inclement weather, to head out on the Molt-Rapelje Road towards Big Lake near the defunct town of Wheat Basin. A joy for everyone was a dozen Short-eared Owls confirmed flying and perching along the route. A total of 84 species was observed. The "bird of the day" was a Broad-winged Hawk. The hawk was observed in a shelter belt around a homestead perched with his back facing us. Dr. Marco Restani, Raptor Expert Extraordinaire, was even unsure of what species it was initially. Thankfully, the bird moved to face the direction of the observers, and it was confirmed a Broad-winged Hawk. Eventually, we saw the bird in flight to further confirm the identification. After another stop at a shelter belt, where a beautiful Swainson's Hawk was seen near her nest, we moved on to Big Lake for lunch and a hunt for shorebirds with the expertise of Mike Weber. Though there was plenty of water, and eventually rain, the shorebird highlights were slimmer than expected: Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, American Avocet, Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Willet, Long-billed Curlew, and Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes. *Submitted by Trenay Hart*



**TUESDAY MAY 19 STILLWATER AND WOODBINE AREA** The trip was led by Ruth Vanderhorst. It was a long day and 72 species of birds were seen. Yellow-Headed Blackbirds, a Pied-billed Grebe, and Great Blue Herons were seen near the 64<sup>th</sup> Street Ponds. Not everybody went to the Laurel Ponds because they got separated from the group. Luckily, everybody caught up to the group by the next stop. The next stop was Itch-Kep-Pe Park by Columbus, where Yellow Warblers and a Gray Catbird were both spotted. Some small birds that couldn't fly yet were spotted pecking around in the grass. We think the small birds were European Starlings. A majestic Cedar Waxwing was spotted sitting in a tree. At the next stop, Fireman's Point, we saw two Cinnamon Teals in a small pond. Two Red-tailed Hawks were sitting on a pole. Lunch at Cliff Swallow Fishing Access was great, even though it was chilly outside. Mountain Bluebirds, American Dipper, a Red-shafted Northern Flicker, a Wild Turkey (Looking great! Juicy for Thanksgiving.), and some Turkey Vultures were spotted all on the lunch break. After lunch, the group started to head down to Castle Rock Campground when a young Golden Eagle was spotted sitting on a gnarled tree branch off the road. Once we arrived at Castle Rock Campground, we saw an exquisite Calliope Hummingbird zipping through the air displaying for its mate. This hummingbird seems to go back to the same bush every year. A short while later, the group traveled to Woodbine where a few Red-naped Sapsuckers were seen busy in the trees. Another bird could be heard but was too stubborn to come out of its dense forest home, even when we tried to lure it with recorded calls. The last part of the trip was Fiddler Creek Road. *Submitted By Mikaela Bessasparis, 8th grader*

### EVENTS AT THE AUDUBON CENTER

7026 South Billings Blvd, Billings, MT, 59101 [406-294-5099](tel:406-294-5099) [education@mtaudubon.org](mailto:education@mtaudubon.org) [mtacec.org](http://mtacec.org)



- **RESTORATION SATURDAYS: THE 2ND AND 4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH**, except May 23 and September 12, when there will NOT be one. Drop in anytime between 9am-12pm. There will be a variety of physical and nonphysical activities, focusing on planting seedlings, mulching, and monitoring and pulling weeds. Please bring a pair of work gloves and wear sturdy shoes. Questions? Contact [restoration@mtaudubon.org](mailto:restoration@mtaudubon.org).
- **JUNE 15 - AUGUST 14: ADVENTURE IN NATURE SUMMER CAMPS** We offer kids a unique outdoor experience. Here are just a few reasons why our campers say "This is the best camp ever!" Please go to [mtacec.org/programs/camps/](http://mtacec.org/programs/camps/) for more information.
- **JUNE 7, 1-4 PM: GET OUTSIDE MONTANA KICK-OFF EVENT.** Get Outside Montana is a free, back to nature event for the whole family! Explore Billings and surrounding areas through active outdoor programs. Kick off event June 7, 1-4 at the Montana Audubon Center. Sign up before May 19th for a free t-shirt! More details at [getoutsidemontana.com](http://getoutsidemontana.com).
- **JUNE 13, 6-8 PM: NIGHT HAWKS LAND STEWARDSHIP** with Sun Tea, cookies and fruit. 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. Please RSVP at [education@mtaudubon.org](mailto:education@mtaudubon.org) or call [406.294.5099](tel:406.294.5099)
- **JUNE 19, 6-9 PM: NATURE NIGHTS** 4 – 12 year olds welcome. Cost is \$22/child or \$20 for Friends of the Center. Drop your child off for an evening of outdoor adventures with our Naturalists. Please RSVP at [education@mtaudubon.org](mailto:education@mtaudubon.org) or call [406.294.5099](tel:406.294.5099)
- **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 SAVE THE DATE! EVENING UNDER THE BIG SKY**-Montana Audubon Center's annual fundraising event will be held at the Yellowstone Country Club. Live music from the Peach Pickers, fine dining, silent and live auctions. More information [mtacec.org](http://mtacec.org) or call to buy tickets starting July 1, at 294-5099.

**JUNE/JULY 3RD THURSDAY CONSERVATION READING GROUP** will meet at Sheila McKay's home throughout the summer, at 2222 S. 54th Street West, Billings Montana 59106. South 54th street intersects Neibauer Road. Call [406-694-7918](tel:406-694-7918) if you need directions. The topic will be "The Yellowstone River". What are the most important issues to you? Feel free to bring a guest. Anyone interested in YVAS or river conservation is welcome, and the discussion is framed such that a last minute decision to join us will not exclude anyone. If you have time to prepare, please bring a river issue that you feel is important, and would like to share with the group, and/or research some information on "free-flowing rivers" versus rip-rap (Rip rap locks a river into a specific channel, deepens the channel, and may have downstream implications).

**JUNE 12-13 FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AFTERNOONS THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM OF THE WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CONFERENCE** will be held in the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. Each afternoon will feature 4-5 scientific presentations followed by either a song or photo identification session on birds. YVAS members will present results of the first three years of the Osprey Monitoring Project on Friday 12 June at 1:40PM.

**OSPREY NEST MONITORING PROJECT REPORT May 13, 2015**

Most Ospreys are now incubating. Two days ago the osprey nest on the power pole along I-94 near the Waco Exit was removed and a pole/platform was installed by Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative (YVEC). The property owners were very agreeable with this arrangement. When talking with Jerry Ellis, I offered YVAS funds to help with the cost of the pole/platform. YVEC did not request any money as part of the conditions for installing the pole/platform. The nest on this pole was going to cause major problems for YVEC this summer and the osprey pair was very persistent with nest building. By the time the linesmen left, Ospreys were already on the new platform. Marco has had a report of one osprey fatality due to baling twine at a nest near Rosebud. A MDU linesman reported an adult male entangled in twine. Lisa Bessasparis held the first Baling Twine Committee (BTC) meeting Thursday, April 23, to outline various possibilities. A second meeting will be held later this month when additional information is gathered by some of those attending. *Submitted by Deb Regele, YVAS Osprey Nest Monitor Chairperson*



*Osprey and nest platform.  
Photo by George Mowat*

**New Montana Law will Fund Sage Grouse Preservation**

The measure will provide millions of dollars for the state to conserve habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS // MAY 7, 2015

Governor Steve Bullock has signed into law a plan to pay for and enact Montana's strategy to preserve a struggling bird species. Bullock signed Senate Bill 261, the Sage-Grouse Stewardship Act, during a small ceremony in his office Thursday. The measure will provide millions of dollars for the state to conserve habitat for the chicken-sized birds. Part of the money will be used by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to hire at least five new employees to manage the program.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must decide by September 30 whether sage grouse should be added to the list of threatened and endangered species. Before then, Montana and other states want to demonstrate that sweeping federal protections aren't needed.

Links to the Bills: [leg.mt.gov/bills/2015/billpdf/SB0261.pdf](http://leg.mt.gov/bills/2015/billpdf/SB0261.pdf)  
[governor.mt.gov/Portals/16/docs/2014EOs/EO\\_10\\_2014\\_SageGrouse.pdf](http://governor.mt.gov/Portals/16/docs/2014EOs/EO_10_2014_SageGrouse.pdf)

**SAGE GROUSE HUNTING IN MONTANA**

I contacted Catherine Wightman, Habitat and Farm Bill Coordinator at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks regarding the latest Sage Grouse Hunting Regulations. This is what she had to say:

The MSGOT is tasked with overseeing the Sage-grouse Program, i.e., Governor Bullock's Executive Order, and the recently signed Sage-grouse Stewardship Act [see above]. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will continue to manage sage-grouse harvest through our Fish and Wildlife Commission process. The MSGOT will not be making hunting season decisions.

In 2014 Montana closed portions of the state to sage-grouse hunting. Eastern Montana south of the Missouri River, the Shields River valley, and north of Highway 2 were closed. The area south of Highway 2 but north of the Missouri River (primarily south Phillips and Valley counties) and southwestern Montana were open for hunting but the season was shortened from 60 to 30 days.

The Commission will finalize upland game bird regulations for 2015 mid-summer. It is likely that the regulations for 2015 will be the same as 2014. *Submitted by Trenay Hart*

**US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ANNOUNCED ON MAY 5, 2015** its intent to address millions of grisly and unnecessary bird deaths by strengthening implementation of the Migratory Bird Treat Act. The process will address threats like : Power lines killing up to 175 million birds per year, Communication towers killing up to 50 million birds per year, Oil waste pits killing up to 500,000 to 1 million birds per year, and Gas Flares: no reliable mortality estimates, but an infamous 2013 incident in Canada incinerated an estimated 7,500 birds. While obtaining reliable estimates of bird mortality from various hazards is challenging due to lack of standardized procedures and poor or absent reporting by some industries, it is clear that millions of birds could be saved by addressing these sources of mortality. [Let alone what it could do for the rest of the environment.] *Adapted from [Audubon.org](http://Audubon.org)*

**SALUTATIONS! I AM MIKAELA BESSASPARIS** and I am trying to start a teen's birding club. I will be going to West High School this fall and I would like to start my club there. I plan on having bird-related activities, such as hanging bird feeders, studying birds, having guest speakers from the Audubon Society, and field trips to Riverfront Park and Norm's Island. I need a teacher that would be interested in sponsoring the club; so, if you know any teachers at West that would take that position, please contact me. If you know any teens (ages 13 – 18) from any high school that would be interested in joining my club, please contact me for that, too. [teenbirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:teenbirdclub@gmail.com) Submitted by Mikaela Bessasparis

## **WINNERS OF THE 2015 AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS**

View the winning photos at <https://www.audubon.org/features/photoawards> and enjoy a sharable gallery of top 100 photos. Facebook cover images and social media sample posts are also available on Audubon Works in the Social Media Managers, Chapters and Centers Groups. Thank you for helping spread the word about this year's contest. With your help, Audubon is able to visually demonstrate, in a very powerful way, why birds matter, and why protecting them and their habitats is so tremendously important. Adapted from [audubon.org](http://audubon.org)



**WHEN BIRDS SQUAWK, OTHER SPECIES SEEM TO LISTEN** By Christopher Solomon, NY Times, May 18, 2012 Provided is a link to a very interesting article about a research scientist in Missoula, MT using robotic owls to study the acoustics associated with predators in the forest. Much of the acoustics comes from birds and is recognized by other forest animals. [nytimes.com/2015/05/19/science/decoding-the-cacophony-of-birds-warning-calls](http://nytimes.com/2015/05/19/science/decoding-the-cacophony-of-birds-warning-calls).

## **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 (10,000+ acres of conservation property in Western MT dedicated to research specializing in restoration and ecology) challenge you to share more of your observations. Our goal is to promote and incentivize eBird use in Montana. We will have fun prizes for monthly challenges and the eBirder with the most species and most counties at the end of the year. We'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 [mon-tanachallenge2015@mpgranch.com](mailto:mon-tanachallenge2015@mpgranch.com).

YVAS-Let's show Western Montana what Eastern Montana is all about! Get out and eBird!

**STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIRDS... BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL** offers a website providing an overview of birds around the globe and what impacts the bird world. Check out their website: [birdlife.org/datazone/sowb](http://birdlife.org/datazone/sowb).

**THE 7<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF P.D. SKAAR'S "MONTANA BIRD DISTRIBUTION"** is an invaluable resource for both armchair and motivated birders seeking detailed information on our state's most visible wildlife. The breeding and wintering ranges of species are depicted on maps divided into geographic blocks (i.e., latilongs). All birders are encouraged to submit observations to the Montana Natural Heritage Program to increase our knowledge of common and rare species.

A map depicting the total number of records submitted per latilong can be found on page 186 of the book. YVAS members regularly go birding in latilong 41, which contains Billings, and the over 19,000 records submitted reflect that time in the field. Billings birders often visit latilong 42, which contains the Yellowtail Dam afterbay and prairie habitats surrounding Hardin and Crow Agency. Did you know latilong 42 contains fewer than 4000 records? We can do better! YVAS is calling on you to contribute your bird observations for latilong 42. Let's 'fill in the gap' and improve our knowledge of the distribution and breeding status of birds found in south-central Montana. Submitted by Dr. Marco Restani

## **A DICTIONARY OF SCIENTIFIC BIRD NAMES** By James A. Jobling.

This book comes highly recommended by Dr. Marco Restani during the Ornithology classes in May. It gives the meaning of the scientific names, thus how they relate to the bird and may help you remember the scientific name more easily.

**MONTANA BIRD NEWS BY DATE** A link to the Montana Online Birding Group listserv. The link allows you to view what is posted without being on the listserv: [birding.aba.org/maillist/MT](http://birding.aba.org/maillist/MT) is a great way to follow the Spring migration.



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 June, July and August. 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. Contact Membership Secretary Joel M. Bowers at 534-3672 or [jmba@jmba.com](mailto:jmba@jmba.com), with any questions.

**JUNE**

Sandra Abraham  
Grant Barnard  
Debra Bonogofsky  
Jean Boone  
Rita Cetrone  
Richard Cornelius  
Mary Fitzpatrick  
James Forseth  
John & Carol Gibson  
Justin Harris  
Claudia Janecek

James King  
Thomas Korb  
Leslie McCormick  
Jacob Meisner  
George Mowat  
Marlene Pirtz  
Bonnie Preikszas  
Lynn Rector  
Jim & Jean Sells  
Duane Smith  
Gail Speck

**JULY**

Jim & Virginia Court  
Trenay Hart  
Robert Hill  
Donna Lance  
Burton Williams

**AUGUST**

Dorothy Bartlett  
Elizabeth Estee  
Rick & Starr Stevens

**YVAS would like to welcome new members:**

Brian Henderson, Karen Heil, Eric Halverson, Paulette Jackson, Nancy Ballou, Adrienne Baker,  
Shirley McDonald, Linda Wham, Barbara & Noel Minder, John Scheuering, Garry Bunke, Joan Eddy,  
Gwen Emmerson, Frank W. Cookson, Bryce Waage, Liz Foley & Kenneth Groves.

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 (electronically). 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  
PO 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  
PO Box 1075  
Billings, MT 59103-1075





# YELLOWSTONE VALLEY AUDUBON FLYER

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Stillwater River/Woodbine Field Trip  
Calliope Hummingbird. Photo: Lisa Bes-  
sasparis

## 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

June 2	Tues	MEET AT PICTOGRAPH CAVE 5:30 pm. Exit I-90 at Lockwood (Exit 452) and turn onto Coburn Road	Ruth Vanderhorst, leader.
June 5- June 7	Fri- Sun	MT AUDUBON BIRD FESTIVAL in Helena	Contact mtaudubon.org for more information.
June 10-14		WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE	Billings, MT Contact <a href="http://westernfieldornithologists.org">westernfieldornithologists.org</a>
June 16	Tues	RED LODGE AREA 7 a.m. at Rocky Mountain College for carpooling or Lion's Park restroom in Red Lodge at 8:30 a.m.	Sack Lunch, Stan Heath and Jerry Dalton, leaders.
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.

