

*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 46, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2016

## **GRAZING AND THE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE** **A DISCUSSION WITH DR. LORELLE BERKELEY, MONTANA FWP**

**April 18 Chapter Meeting Presentation 7PM**

Grazing is the largest land management practice in the world. Yet little is known about the direct impacts of grazing on wildlife. Several sage-grouse grazing studies have popped up recently in Montana, Idaho, and Utah to remedy this, among which FWP's project is one of the first.

The greater sage-grouse is a chicken-size bird whose range overlaps much of the ranchland in the West. Sage-grouse are probably best known for their booming displays on leks in the middle of the sagebrush during the spring breeding season, where males compete for the chance to mate with choosy females. The habitat for this iconic Western bird covers 165 million acres—about half of what it once was—with some of the best habitat still found in Montana. The birds number between 300,000 and 500,000 region wide according to federal agencies.

Greater sage-grouse were recently considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The species has declined over the last several decades due to habitat loss in various forms. In Montana, much of the current sage-grouse habitat occurs on privately owned ranches. How can we best manage grazing on the habitat that is left in order to maintain core populations of sage-grouse and their habitat? FWP undertook the greater sage-grouse grazing study in 2011 to help answer this question. Lorelle will provide background on greater sage-grouse and their habitat needs, their conservation status, and FWP's research into the impacts of grazing management on this species.

Dr. Lorelle Berkeley, is a Research Wildlife Biologist with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. Lorelle has 10 years of experience conducting applied research with birds. Most recently, Lorelle completed her PhD in Wildlife Ecology and Management at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and has been working on the sage-grouse project with FWP since 2011.



## **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 11, 6:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting**

**Monday, April 18, 7:00pm: Chapter Meeting**

**We will hold a YVAS fundraiser dinner at 5:30, before the Chapter meeting. Dinner donation: \$6. Sue Weinreis has generously volunteered to coordinate. Please contact her at 406-855-4181 before Friday, April 15 to make reservations and your dish contribution.**



**THIS FLYER IS PUBLISHED ON Sustainable Forestry Initiative SFI.org CERTIFIED PRODUCT**

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

**And Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/Yellowstone-Valley-Audubon-Society-504343829741848/>**

**Highlights of the March 14, Board of Directors meeting**

**2016 Birding Trips.** Donn Bartlett reported that the Bird Trip Committee has more than 25 birding trips planned for 2016, some to new places and some that will require significant hiking. However, Donn will help facilitate any additional spur-of-the-moment trips, so if you are going birding and want company, contact him. Facebook can also be used as a way to notify others of these impromptu trips.

**Swans at Freezeout Lake.** Sheila McKay reported that 18 of the trumpeter swans released last year from WJH Birds have been seen at Freeze Out. They can be distinguished by their red collars. Check out more information on Facebook.

**Bird Data Reporting.** The Bird Data committee met at the Billings Public Library to learn how to report bird sightings to the Montana Natural Heritage Program and eBird. More than 12 birders participated in the program.

**Clark Fork Waterfowl Production Area.** The trail into the Clark Fork Waterfowl Production Area is complete much earlier than planned. An October birding trip to the area has been planned, but watch Facebook for an impromptu birding trip this spring!

**Pryor Mountains.** Dick Walton met with the YVAS Board to provide information about a coalition to support a new Forest Management Plan for the Pryor's. The Board will consider appointing a representative to be the YVAS liaison to the group.

*Submitted by Sue Weinreis*

**Correction:** The photo of the Northern Saw-whet Owl in last month's Flyer captured by Amy Seaman, Associate Director of Conservation with Montana Audubon, was photographed near Missoula at the Kelly Island Trail not near Helena. Apologies for anyone searching around Helena for the bird! This could be good news as the Montana Audubon Wings Across Big Sky birding festival is in Missoula this year and maybe someone will be lucky and see it where Amy has spotted it for 2 years in a row.

*Submitted by Trenay Hart, Flyer Editor*

**Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Officers:****AREA CODE 406**

**President:** Steve Regele, 962-3115, sregele@juno.com

**Vice-President:** OPEN

**Secretary:** Doreen Hartman, 697-0277, rdzlh-man@bresnan.net

**Treasurer:** Pam Pipal, 245-4517, ppipal@charter.net

**Board of Directors:**

Donn Bartlett: 252-0757, donnbartlett@msn.com  
 Dorothy Bartlett, 252-0757, dpadanyi@live.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  
 Sue Weinreis: 855-4181, granpeak47@gmail.com  
 Nancy Wiggins: 651-0218, nwiggins83@gmail.com

**Montana's Congressional Delegation:**

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

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

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

Baling Twine Project: Lisa Bessasparis, ospreybtc@gmail.com

Bird Questions: George Mowat, 656-7467 gbmowat@gmail.com  
 or Helen Carlson Cummins, 248-8684

Birdathon: Ruth Vanderhorst, 245-5118, erv132@charter.net

Christmas Bird Count: Jim Court, 259-5099, C: 860-0450,  
 custertours@gmail.com

Conservation Advisor: Steve Regele, 962-3115, sregele@juno.com

Data Base Administrator: Joel M. Bowers, 534-3672,

C: 591-5635, jmba@jmba.com

Facebook: Nancy Wiggins, 651-0218, nwiggins83@gmail.com

Flyer Editor: Trenay Hart, 860-1175, yvasflyer@gmail.com

Field Trip Chair: Donn Bartlett, 252-0757, donnbartlett@msn.com

Hospitality: Audrey Jurovich, 656-2748

Injured Raptors: Montana Raptor Conservation Center, 406-

585-1211; Raptor Transport Jeanette Tasey 669-3169,

jtasey@gmail.com

Membership Committee Chair: Dorothy Bartlett, 252-0757,  
 dpadanyi@live.com

Osprey Project: Deb Regele, 962-3115, debregele@gmail.com

Publicity: Dorothy Bartlett, 252-0757, dpadanyi@live.com

Program Committee: Steve Regele, 962-3115, sregele@juno.com,

Nancy Wiggins, 651-0218, nwiggins83@gmail.com,

Sheila McKay, 652-7175, wjhbird@yahoo.com

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

918 AVE C, Billings

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 all members.

· General Chapter Meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm. All meetings are open to the public.

**Duck Day** On March 19, 30 guests and five YVAS Volunteers attended the Duck Day Field Trip at WJH Bird resources. The outdoor group saw several subspecies of wild Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Pintail, Northern Shoveler and recently returned Sandhill Cranes as well as touring the captive birds.

Peter Cummins won the book "Hawk" for the best identification of all pictured species. John and Bev Wornon, heads of Laurel Region Ducks Unlimited, correctly identified all of the native species including the one subspecies Peter missed and they also won an edition of "Hawk."

New birder Joan Bryson won an autographed copy of Frank Todd's "Waterfowl of the World" for her excellence in attempting all of the categories with great success- she missed Brewer's Duck with the clue that another bird is named for the Boston ornithologist that inspired Audubon and the extinct Labrador Duck.

Inside, the groups learned about critically endangered species including the Madagascar Porchard and the Laysan Teal that former YVAS member Bill Pryor is working to reintroduce. It was pointed out that although less than 1000 Laysan Teal exists -12 are at WJH including three youngsters raised last summer- and 126 are in captivity under the direct supervision of Pryor. The species listed "Vulnerable" include: Red-breasted Goose, Peregrine Falcon, and Mellow the friendly but not endangered Black Swan. All were assisted by 5 ducklings and 8 turtles in answering questions about their species. Special thanks to Bernie Mowat, Rita Harding, George Mowat, Don Bartlett, Mia Yegan, Mike Vermeulan /Nic Vermeulan (falcon owners) and the WJH staff for their leadership.

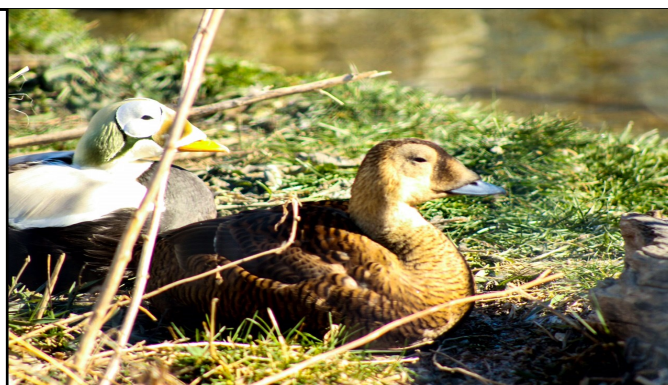
*Submitted by Sheila McKay*



*Photos submitted by Mia Yegan.*

At left, Sheila McKay with Nic Vermeulan's Peregrine Falcon.

At right, Fischer's Eider all captured during Duck Day.



## 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](mailto:donnbartlett@msn.com)

<b>April 9</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Exxon Ponds and Emerald Hills.</b>	<b>ONE MILE WALK.</b> Sack lunch. Ron Kuhler & George
<b>Mid-April</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Pryor Mountains</b>	LEK visit. Stan Heath leader.
<b>May 7</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Meet at Riverfront Park, S Billings Blvd, 1<sup>st</sup> parking area on the right.</b> 8 am to noon.	George and Bernie Mowat, leaders.
<b>May 8</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Pryor Mountains, Bear Canyon Birding/Hiking</b>	Meet at Rocky Mountain College at 6:00 am or at the Bridger Rest Area at 7:30 am, to hike into Bear Canyon at 8:30 am.
<b>May 12</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Meet at Riverfront Park, S Billings Blvd. 1<sup>st</sup> parking lot on the right.</b> 5:30 pm.	Mike Weber, leader
<b>May 14</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Lake Basin. 8:00 am.</b>	Sack lunch. Mike Weber, leader
<b>May 15</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Yellowstone River W.M.A. State Park 8:00 am.</b>	Sack lunch. Megan O'Reilly, leader







7026 South Billings Blvd, Billings, MT 59101

[www.mtaudubon.org/education\\_or\\_call\\_294-5099](http://www.mtaudubon.org/education_or_call_294-5099)April 2016 Events

4/5: Eco-Splorers After-School begins! 8-week program, 4-5:30 Tuesdays. \$72/child

4/9: NightHawk Adventures. Family program. \$5/person. April topic: Felines

4/11: Break Camp! 8:30-4:30. \$45/child.

4/15: Nature Nights for kids only. 6-9pm. \$22/child.

4/22: Break Camp! 8:30-4:30. \$45/child.

4/23: Earth Day Celebration. 9-12:30, families welcome. Early morning bird hike at 7am. Volunteer appreciation BBQ lunch. Free!

Ongoing programs:

Sundays at the Center--open house every Sunday 2-4pm.

Naturalist Knapsacks available for checkout anytime building is open.

Shepard Nature Play Space open 24/7.

Birthday parties and private programs--call to schedule.

**BIRDATHON, May 28 & 29, 2016.** The 2015 YVAS Birdathon broke the modern record for identifying the most bird species within 24 hours and, more importantly, broke the record for raising funds. We raised \$2200 to support YVAS programs! Some of these funds were used to rent and provide a free showing to the public of the film, *The Messenger*. This provocative film left an impression on many moviegoers, both YVAS members and nonmembers alike. Comments heard the week following the film included:

"I have been thinking about what I can do to prevent the loss of all those songbirds."

"I am not letting my cat outside any more."

"I am putting something on my windows to deter birds from flying into them."

"My eyes were opened." "Why didn't I know these things before?"

"That film was so wonderful! The couple we brought with us thought so too."

The 2016 Birdathon is just around the corner and I urge ALL to participated to pledge donations. The donation form is available on the YVAS website at [yvaudubon.org](http://yvaudubon.org). If you'd like to sponsor a team, please do so! Some people don't specify a team and others split their gifts between teams. Teams compete for most bird species identified in the 24 hour period and for the most money raised. Consider participating or pledging to the 2016 Birdathon so YVAS can continue its many great programs.

*Submitted by Ruth Vanderhorst*

**Osprey Fish Bits**

*Submitted by Deb Regele*

Reminder - The 2016 Osprey Orientation for Osprey Monitors is Monday, April 4 at 6:00 pm in the Community Conference Room on the first floor of Billings Public Library. The library's free parking lot is on the south side of the library. The library is located on the corner of N. 28<sup>th</sup> and 6 Ave. N. The program is free and open to the public but an RSVP is requested to [debregle@gmail.com](mailto:debregle@gmail.com). See the March 2016 Flyer for additional information. It can be found at [www.yvaudubon.org](http://www.yvaudubon.org) under Archives.

The Baling Twine Committee (Lisa Bessasparis, Jean Boone, Doreen Hartman, Mary Mullen and Deb Regele) would like to thank the following people who volunteered their time at the YVAS Baling Twine Awareness Booth during the MATE show: Dorothy Bartlett, Donn Bartlett, Trenay Hart, Peg Schottlaender, Bernie Mowat, Joel Bowers, Will Boone, Cena Anderson, Helen Cummins, Peter Cummins, Carolyn Jones, Sue Weinreis, Frank Cookson, Pam Pipal, Jerry Dalton, Carole Boerner, Robert Hill, Marilyn Lindell, Steve Regele, Mikaela Bessasparis, Timmy Kruckenberg and Landen Kruckenberg.

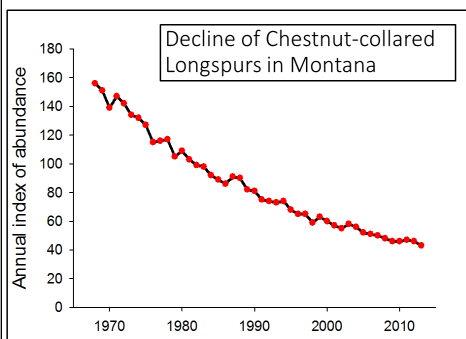
The BTC also sends a special thank you to ZooMT for bringing a few of their smaller residents to YVAS' Twine Awareness Booth on Friday. These included an uromastix lizard, three toed box turtle, Madagascar hissing cockroaches, and the giant African millipedes. MATE attendees enjoyed the viewing! See the March 2016 Flyer for more details.

## A Call for Breeding Bird Survey Participants

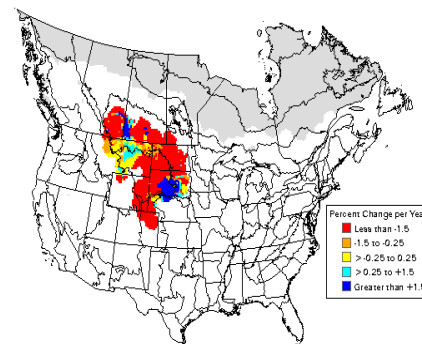
*Submitted by Marco Restani*

Does witnessing a June sunrise immersed in the deafening cacophony of singing insects, frogs, and birds appeal to you? How about knowing you have nearly 5 hours of focused birding to complete before having time to eat a mid-morning 'lunch'? If you said yes and care about birds, you might consider conducting a Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) route.

The BBS is a standardized effort to monitor the status and trends of bird populations across North America. Nearly 600 routes were surveyed in the inaugural year of 1966, and today over 3000 routes are surveyed annually by 2000 dedicated volunteers. Analyses of long-term BBS data reveal that many grassland birds are declining whereas many wetland birds are increasing. These national trends are also evident in Montana. For example, populations of Chestnut-collared Longspurs, Bobolinks, and Horned Lark have experienced precipitous declines whereas there are more Canada Geese now than ever before.



BBS routes are located throughout the state but routes in eastern Montana need survey volunteers. If you can identify birds by sight and song and would be willing to lend one morning of your time to survey birds, please attend an informational meeting at the Billings Public Library (Computer Room, second floor) on Thursday 14 April from 530-700PM or contact Marco Restani ([restani@mtaudubon.org](mailto:restani@mtaudubon.org)).



## PROJECTS IN NEED OF DONATIONS

*Submitted by YVAS Board of Directors*

When YVAS members support the organization with dues to the local chapter or donations, you have a need to know how your money is spent. At the last Board meeting, on March 14, 2016 we reviewed and approved the following list of current projects that are active and in need of funding.

### Conservation Projects – Examples:

- Habitat and trail work at public land sites – e.g. USFWS Clark's Fork Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) and other USFWS Wildlife Management Area and WPA's;
- YVAS and other bird data acquisition and archiving

### Special Program Presentations – Examples:

- Licensed showing of films like "The Messenger" about global songbird declines;
- Special monthly Chapter Meeting Program

### Osprey Projects – Example:

- Osprey twine entanglement rescue

### Bird and Conservation Informational Signs - Example:

- Public Parks and other locations in the Billings and Yellowstone Valley area (e.g. bird and habitat sign being installed at Billings Public Works Shiloh Conservation Area, more and similar signs planned)

### Operating Fund – Projects, programs, special opportunities selected by the YVAS Board of Directors

### Conservation Grant – awarded annually to worthy recipients in accordance with YVAS Mission and Board Decisions

### Endowment Fund – Long-term investment in YVAS and its Mission

To support these project that support the Mission Statement of YVAS, please:

#### **Keep your YVAS membership current**

#### **Join the local Audubon chapter: Yellowstone Valley Audubon**

#### **Make an additional TAX FREE donation and choose where you want your money to be used**

Each of the above can be done by going to [www.yvaudubon.org](http://www.yvaudubon.org) and click on membership, or by mailing a check to Yellowstone Valley Audubon at PO Box 1075, Billings, MT 59103-1075. If you have questions call any board member listed in the Flyer or on our website.

### Film Screening of The Messenger was Fascinating and Informative

An interested group gathered in Petro Theater at MSUB on March 6<sup>th</sup> for the YVAS presentation of the award winning film, The Messenger. The photography of songbirds migrating through the night skies in various parts of the world was breathtaking and the music powerful.

The theme of the film revolved around specific research studies being done in a number of different countries in order to understand the extent of the decline in the population of songbirds as well as the causes for the decline. Some of the studies involved the impact of tall buildings with night lighted windows, cats and pesticides. Songbirds were also banded, and in some studies equipped with tiny tracking devices, which then showed the routes as well as the extent of migrations in fascinating graphs.

After the showing, YVAS members distributed brochures that identified seven ways that the average person can have an impact on the preservation of songbird (and all bird's) populations and habitat.

Thanks to all who made donations toward YVAS programs and activities to further our mission statement: "to promote enjoyment and protection of the natural environment through education, activism and conservation of bird habitat". If you would like to make a contribution, please go to the YVAS website at [www.yvaidubon.org](http://www.yvaidubon.org) and click on Membership and Support Us. *Submitted by Dorothy Bartlett, photo below "YVAS goes to the movies" by Will Crain*

**Dick Walton** submitted this "humorous" filler below from a 1921 San Antonio evening newspaper. Dick got the page from Kevin Koistra at the Western Heritage Center. He notes that, "Apparently the concern with feral cats was known nearly a century ago." See the third bullet from the bottom.



BY EMILY DICKINSON (SUBMITTED BY JIM SELLS)

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -

That perches in the soul -

And sings the tune without the  
words -

And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard

-  
And sore must be the storm -

That could abash the little Bird

That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chilliest land -

And on the strangest Sea -

Yet - never - in Extremity,

It asked a crumb - of me.

### DON'T SHOOT

- Unless you have a hunter's license.
- On occupied land without the consent of the owner.
- Before the season opens nor after it closes.
- Earlier than one hour before sunrise nor later than one hour after sunset.
- Birds while sitting on the ground or water. It is unlawful and unsportsmanlike. Give the birds a chance.
- More than the legal limit in any one day nor that many if you cannot use them.
- The farmer's poultry or stock. He will not have to post his land against you.
- Yourself or your companion, nor until you know exactly what you are shooting at.
- At stray cats to frighten them. Shoot to kill. They destroy more birds than any other animal.
- Along a public road. It is unlawful and very dangerous.
- The game warden. He is only doing his duty.

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. 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 406-534-3672 or [jmba@jmba.com](mailto:jmba@jmba.com), with any questions.

**APRIL RENEWALS:** Jeff Dibenedetto, John Sample, Colleen Model, Judy Anderson, Jim Shesne, Angus & Margie Fulton, Nancy Traeger, and Samantha Painter.



**Email Flyer notices** will now come from a different email address: [membership.data@yvaudubon.org](mailto:membership.data@yvaudubon.org) instead of from Joel Bowers' personal email address. Replies to this new email address will go to him or any future holder of the Data Base Administrator. *Note:* you will not get the Flyer if you have not renewed your membership.

**Larry Handsaker** wants your ALUMINUM CANS. The donations to the recycling program that benefits Audubon Adventures is down. Please drop cans off at his house, 918 Ave C or call him and he will pick them up, 406-855-9832. Helen Carlson and Peter Cummins accept them at their house as well, see page 2 for their contact.

### 2016 YVAS Conservation Grant News

*Submitted by Steve Regele*

The Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Board of Directors awarded the annual YVAS Conservation Grant to Megan O'Reilly and Bob Gibson of Montana Fish, wildlife and Parks (MFWP). The grant will be used for "Educational Bird Trunks" put together to provide educational bird materials to teachers, MFWP staff, Audubon members and other educators to teach children about various aspects of bird identification, life history, flight, ecology, migration and habitat. The project will include a focus on providing these teaching aids and educational opportunities to some of the more rural areas outside of Billings. We are very pleased about this project and look forward to hearing from Megan and Bob about the success of their efforts and use of materials.

#### 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  
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  
P.O. 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**



Digiscope photograph of **American Robin** by member *Karen Heil* the first of Spring in her yard in Edgar, MT.

**YVAS Bird of the Month**  
**Common Raven**



This intriguing bird, *photographed at the Osprey nest that Edie Linneweber monitors near her home in Livingston, are among the smartest birds. They have a reputation for solving complicated problems invented by creative scientists. Accompanying people around the Northern Hemisphere for centuries they cannot be overlooked or under heard with their distinctive echoing croak.*

*Adapted from All About Birds website*



Plastic Pink Flamingo photo submitted by Dr. Marco Restani while birding out by the Afterbay... "Best bird of the day," were his exact comments.