

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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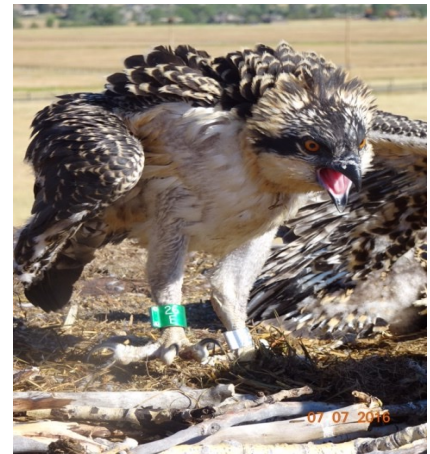
OCTOBER 2016

Osprey's: A Review of Population Ecology, Behavior, and Conservation by Dr. Marco Restani

Monday, October 17, 2016 at 7PM



Photo, at left: by Deb Regele of Osprey nestling with baling twine entangled on talon, Photo, at right: by Larry Sellers, Elbow Creek nestling banded.



John James Audubon wrote of Ospreys: *"The habits of this famed bird differ so materially from those of almost all others of its genus, that an accurate description of them cannot fail to be highly interesting to the student of nature."* His words still apply today. Watching an Osprey dive feet first into the water, sometimes submerging completely, before rising from the surface with a struggling fish leaves a lasting impression for birder and non-birder alike. Ospreys are one of Montana's most recognizable and charismatic raptors, nesting throughout the western third of the state and along large rivers in the prairies. The Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society in Billings has monitored Osprey nests along the Yellowstone River since 2009. YVAS focuses conservation efforts on Ospreys because the population is increasing, most pairs are building nests on power poles and thereby coming into conflict with utility companies, and nestling mortality from entanglement in baling twine is evident. In 2009 three volunteers located 22 nests while today 30 volunteers hustle along 300 miles of river during summer to monitor over 85 nests. Marco Restani, Director of Conservation for Montana Audubon, directs the research components of the YVAS Osprey project. His presentation will review population ecology, behavior, and conservation of this widespread, unique raptor.

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.

***Tuesday, October 11, 6:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting (Board now meets on Tuesday)**

Monday, October 17, 7:00pm: Chapter Meeting

We usually hold a YVAS fundraiser dinner at 5:30, before the Chapter meeting. However, this month there was no volunteer to coordinate, therefore NO dinner will be held. We are looking for a November volunteer. Contact Sue Weinreis, 855-4181 if you are interested.

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

☞We're on the web! yvaudubon.org

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

YVAS has two volunteer positions available for any interested Chapter Member to consider. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please contact any member of the YVAS Board of Directors for more information. Their contact information can be found in the Flyer or on the Website.

Data Base Administrator

The Data Base Administrator manages the YVAS Chapter membership data base. Some of the duties include adding/updating new and renewing YVAS Chapter members, their current addresses and expiration dates. The National Audubon membership list, for the YVAS Chapter area, is maintained by National Audubon and is available to the YVAS Data Base Administrator at the National Audubon website. The Data Base Administrator supplies current mailing addresses to PostNet for their mailing of the Flyer (YVAS Newsletter). The Administrator also emails "MailChimp" notices to those members receiving the electronic (emailed) Flyer. Joel Bowers, the current YVAS Data Base Administrator, will train and be available to assist the new Administrator as needed. Familiarity with Excel spreadsheets or data base software is helpful but not required. Joel will train. This work can be performed by computer from virtually anywhere.

Publicity

The Publicity Chairperson is responsible for contacting various media outlets to promote and publicize the monthly featured programs at YVAS' Chapter Meetings held at the Mayflower Church September through May. The Publicity Chairperson also contacts the appropriate media sources for any YVAS special program presentations, classes offered by YVAS and featured birding field trips. Dorothy Bartlett, the current Publicity Chairperson, will train and advise when needed.

Submitted by Nancy Wiggins

This edition of the Flyer is shortened by 2 pages as not enough articles were submitted to fill our usual 8 page Flyer. Please submit anything you wish to be included in the Flyer to yvasflyer@gmail.org in a word document, Times New Roman, font size 11. Please spell and grammar check your articles as well as your bird species. It would be encouraging to see some new people with submissions and ideas to include in the Flyer as well as our old faithful contributors!

Submitted by Trenay Hart

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Officers:

AREA CODE 406

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

Vice-President: Steve Linder, 3800-0073, beacon1@bresnan.net

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

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Board of Directors:

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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

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

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

Rep. Ryan Zinke:

website: zinke.house.gov

email: 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: Deb Regele, debregele@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,

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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

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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 Tuesday 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.

Tuesday, September 8, 2016 Riverfront Park*Submitted by Pam Pipal*

With cars parked on both sides of South Billings Boulevard to within the last ½ mile leading up to the Riverfront Park turnoff, and densely parked cars within the Park as viewed from the Boulevard, only the most determined birder dared venture into the Park itself, to find a parking spot. Three birders found parking and then found one another, one (a new YVAS member) by the binocular-around-the-neck field marking and the other (George Mowat) by habitat (near the usual field trip meeting place). Hundreds of two-legged specimens were spotted this day, in every size and color, of species (junior high school) Cross-Country Runner. The birders took to the woods to avoid the migration route of the Runners, and saw a few other species, such as one Hummingbird (unknown species), overhead Gulls and Double-crested Cormorants. In the water were Mallards and Canada Geese, and heard but not seen, were Chickadees and Northern Flickers. Getting out of the Park was not a problem, as most of the cars and Runners had left.

Here is what the field trip leader, Mike Weber had to say:

"I ended up parking on the NE corner of Lake Josephine. Since I was supposed to lead the trip I felt determined to look for other birders, so I searched the woods for birders and birds. Obviously I did not find the birders. The woods were pretty quiet, and only saw a total of 14 bird species. Notable birds were an Orange Crowned Warbler, a handful of Wilson Warblers and an American Redstart. An Osprey was seen and a Belted Kingfisher was heard rattling. Also saw a vireo-could not id the species. Downy Woodpeckers and one male Hairy Woodpecker. On the river was a Great Blue Heron and a couple Common Mergansers. I regret not finding the other birders. I really enjoyed seeing the Redstart, and lamented on knowing that I probably won't see another until next May."

Saturday, September 17, 2016 Pryor Mountains*Submitted by Carol Blades*

Ten people participated in the Sept. 17 field trip to the Pryor Mountains, 9 seasoned birders and one newcomer (who was recruited to write this piece for the newsletter!). The total species count for the day was 44. It is worth noting that the last two cars saw 40 Sandhill Cranes in a field before reaching the highway. The three courageous chauffeurs got us well past Sage Creek and I believe past the saddleback on Crooked Creek. As the newcomer to the group, what I found most significant was the degree of welcoming and kindness the group showed towards me. Many thanks to Ruth Vanderhorst and Stan Heath for leading the field trip. A species list sighted follows:

Northern Flicker	European Starling
Eurasian Collared Dove	Black-billed Magpie
American Kestrel	American Crow
Canada Goose	American Coot
Sandhill Crane	Red-winged Blackbird
House Finch	Barn Swallow
Northern Shoveler	Turkey Vulture
Wood Duck	Common Raven
Double-crested Cormorant	Ring-necked Pheasant
Brewer's Blackbird	Western Meadowlark
Vesper Sparrow	American Robin
Wilson's Warbler	Red-tailed Hawk
Chipping Sparrow	Townsend's Solitaire
White-crowned Sparrow	American Goldfinch
Horned Lark	American Pipit
Northern Harrier	Merlin
Mountain Bluebird	Clark's Nutcracker
Cooper's Hawk	Western Wood-Pewee
Dark-eyed Junco	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Mountain Chickadee	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Mourning Dove	Rock Pigeon
Great Blue Heron	American White Pelican

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

Nov 5	Sat	Yellowtail Dam Afterbay. 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.	Sack lunch. George Mowat, leader.
Dec 18	Sun	Annual Christmas Bird Count	Jim Court, leader. custertours@gmail.com 259-5099
Jan 1, 2017	Sun	New Year's Day Field Trip to Yellowtail Dam Afterbay 8:00 am to 6:00 pm	Sack lunch. George Mowat, leader.
Jan 7, 2017	Sat	Annual Eagle Midwinter Survey in lower 48 states. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm	Yellowstone River, Billings to Columbus. No host lunch. George Mowat, leader.



NEW 2016 and beyond FEATURE: In order to encourage additional but unscheduled outings, please call or email Donn Bartlett (see below) with the needed Information such as time, route, etc. and I will forward it to interested area birders. These birders have provided me with their contact information to be used in these situations.

donnbartlett@msn.com or 252-0757.

By popular demand, Carolyn Jones was asked to share her fabulous Flan recipe she made for the La Noche Cubana pre-Chapter meeting potluck last month. If you missed it we're sorry but with her generous sharing of the recipe you can try it out on your own.

INGREDIENTS:

2/3 cup white sugar
1 (14 oz.) can condensed milk
2 cups heavy cream
1 cup milk
5 eggs
2 tps. Vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. While oven is heating, put in to warm either a 1.5 quart glass casserole or a 8x8 Pyrex baking dish. 2. In a small non stick saucepan, heat the sugar over medium heat. Shake and swirl occasionally to distribute the sugar until it is melted and begins to brown. Lift the saucepan over the heat source (4-6 inches) and continue to brown to a dark golden brown. Remove the casserole from the oven, place on a towel. Pour the caramelized into it and swirl to coat the bottom. 3. In a mixer bowl, combine the sweetened condensed milk, cream, milk, eggs and vanilla. Mix on high about 1 minute until fluffy. Pour over the caramelized sugar. 4. Place the filled casserole into a larger pan and add 1 inch of HOT water to the outer pan. Bake in the preheated oven for 60-70 minutes, or until set. It may take longer. 5. Allow the flan to cool completely. Run a knife around the edge to loosen. Invert a plate with sides or a pan over flan and flip. The syrup will be on top of the flan.

Osprey Nest Monitor's Season Wrap Picnic (East)

September 10th the Osprey Nest Monitors gathered to celebrate another excellent monitoring season with a potluck picnic.

Photo courtesy of George Mowat.

14 monitors were in attendance with a few other stragglers along for the event. And, yes Deb Regele is in the photo just hidden behind Bernie Mowat.

Thanks for another great year. The Western Monitor's picnic is scheduled for October.



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 OCTOBER. 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 membership.data@yvaudubon.org, with any questions.



OCTOBER Renewals:

Jerry & Lois Dalton, Ruth Vanderhorst, Jenny Koffler, Candace & Chuck Allen, and Michael Griffin.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Joel Bowers, Database Administrator is planning to step down from his role at the end of this year. He is anxiously looking for a person to track memberships. Joel is willing to train and support the person to sending mailing lists for print and to upload and schedule the MailChimp announcements for those getting the Flyer electronically. This position involves a couple of hours per month on the computer. Joel seeks someone who is not too intimidated with spreadsheets and computers.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Sue Weinreis is looking for volunteers to coordinate the pre-Chapter meeting potluck dinners. This entails bringing a main dish for 20-25 person and accepting the RSVP's of the members who will be attending. The potluck coordinator usually asks the member to bring a salad/side/dessert for 8-10 persons, keeping a mental note of how much of what will be at the potluck and adjust contributions accordingly. Sue says it is fine for 2 persons to host the main dish to offset expenses if they wish. There is no need to worry beyond that portion of the potluck as there are always plenty of volunteers to set up and clean up. There is NO pre-Chapter meeting potluck in October due to lack of a volunteer coordinator. Volunteer needs are still available for November, January, April and May. Please contact Sue at 855-4181 or granpeak47@gmail.com if you are interested in helping perpetuate a great tradition at YVAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT: YVAS is looking for a hearty volunteer to help coordinate the Christmas Chapter Potluck. This doesn't consist of bring the main dish only coordinating. Please call Steve Regele if you are interested, 962-3115.

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
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Below, **American Goldfinch** using Robert Hill's sunflowers as a perch and presumed eating them as well. *Photo taken by Robert out his screened window this fall.*



Bird of the Month Buff-breasted Sandpiper



Photos by Will Crain

Delicate and dove-headed this shorebird, primary found in migration in areas of short grass. Migration occurs through the middle of the continent from its arctic breeding grounds to southern South America. *Adapted from All About Birds website.*

This very fortunate sighting by Will Crain was at Cooney Dam mudflats on Sept. 2, 2016. Photo at right is a Buff-breasted Sandpiper with a Killdeer in the background. For more see below link:

<http://www.arkive.org/buff-breasted-sandpiper/tryngites-subruficollis/>

