

## ***Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society 2016 in summary***

The YVAS Board of Directors is pleased to summarize some of the 2016 activities and work of our Society. We hope it reminds all of us that the membership and Board accomplish very good things in line with the YVAS Mission and have some real fun together. It would not happen without the YVAS membership, its individuals and groups. YVAS always benefits from donations and grants. While we do not routinely and aggressively advertise and solicit for such, we always appreciate and put to very good use every dollar we receive. Thank you for your membership and YVAS Mission efforts.

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**Monthly Presentations** YVAS organized and provided top notch presentations in 2016. Check out the YVAS web site and Flyer for a summary of the wonderful 2016 Christmas social evening presentation by Bob Landis! We also had other great presentations including those by Gary Swant (his birding “Big Year”), Sue Weinreis (Cuba and birds), Lorelle Berkley (greater Sage-grouse), John Marzluff (Ravens), Marco Restani (Osprey), YVAS Conservation Grant recipients, and a beautiful PBS bird film and one about the Pryor Mountains. We are looking forward to more great presentations in 2017!

**Birding Trips** YVAS hosted many scheduled birding trips in the 2016. All trips are open to the membership and public. Other annual birding events include a Birdathon event in June, Christmas Bird Count in December, and an Annual Eagle Survey in the winter.

**Bird Data:** More than thirty YVAS bird trip data summaries have been recorded and will be submitted in 2016. YVAS bird data is available through the Montana Natural Heritage Program, Cornell Labs eBird Program, various State and Federal agencies, and others. It is quite valuable to managers and investigators involved with wildlife, habitat and related projects and developments. It is also useful to birders planning their birding trips!

**Osprey Project:** YVAS members and others in the Yellowstone River basin organized and implemented an ongoing and outstanding Osprey nest monitoring project in 2009 and Osprey banding in 2012. The project involves nearly 50 volunteers, mostly YVAS members, and interaction with utility companies, tree surgeons, government agencies, private businesses, and the public. For more information go to <http://www.yvaudubon.org/conservation/osprey-monitor-project/>

**YVAS Conservation Grants:** YVAS solicits proposals and grants financial assistance to various projects each year in line with the YVAS Mission. We accept applications until February 1 of each year. <http://www.yvaudubon.org/conservation/yvas-conservation-grant/>

**Bird Information/Education Signs:** Bird and habitat information signs planned to be installed in 2017 include the following sites: Dover Park, Riverfront Park, Phipps Park. Thanks to volunteer work and financial gifts from YVAS members.

**Collaboration with numerous local and regional non-profit organizations:** Throughout 2016 YVAS has collaborated with numerous groups to accomplish the YVAS and similar organizations missions – e.g. Pryor’s Coalition, Our Montana, MT Wilderness Association, Montana Wildlife

Federation, Montana Audubon Center, National Audubon Society, and Montana Audubon, as well as with various State and Federal agencies. One example of our collaborations: The Custer Gallatin National Forest (CGNF) Management Plan is being revised and YVAS is working closely with various groups and the USFS to help make that effort a good one. Much of our focus is on the Pryor Mountain portion of the CGNF.

**Injured Bird Assists:** YVAS and its members provide information and assistance in dealing with injured birds. Various members also accept and deliver injured raptors to the Montana Raptor Center in cooperation with the Center and MT Fish Wildlife and Parks.

**Web Site:** The web site is updated routinely and provides an excellent door to YVAS news and information and many other offerings. Visit <http://www.yvaudubon.org/>

**Flyer:** YVAS publishes our newsletter throughout the year. Keep in touch about YVAS news and information and the work and offerings of the Society and members. Visit <http://www.yvaudubon.org/> and click on the Flyer Header.

**Facebook:** Visit with members and share news and offerings.  
<https://www.facebook.com/Yellowstone-Valley-Audubon-Society-504343829741848/> vb

**Publicity:** YVAS advertises its presentations, bird trips, projects and events in a wide variety of local and regional venues. We have all benefitted from the work Barbara Garret, YVAS Publicity Chairperson, has accomplished this year - thanks Barbara!

**Recycling:** The money earned from the YVAS aluminum can recycling helps with routine YVAS organizational costs and with special project expenses. See the Flyer or contact Larry Handsaker, 855-9832 for details - Thanks Larry, Helen Carlson and Peter Cummins!

**Information requests and assistance about "Birding Hot Spots" in Yellowstone Basin and eastern Montana:** Throughout the year YVAS receives requests for help in finding particular bird species or for good birding 'hot spots, largely from out-of-state visitors. We do our best to provide helpful information. We also publish local and regional birding maps and bird lists - <http://www.yvaudubon.org/birding/birding-hot-spots/>

**Membership Outreach:** YVAS has about 400 members. We are always reaching out to the local and regional community for new contributing members. See <http://www.yvaudubon.org/> or "The Flyer" for applications and related information. Please help in bringing in new YVAS members that want to take part in the YVAS Mission, and thanks to all that contribute time and talent to YVAS projects and activities.