

*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 48, NUMBER 3

MARCH 2018

### March 19, 2018 Chapter Meeting 7PM

#### *"Common Birds of The Brinton Museum and Bighorn Mountains Foothills", Presentation & Book Signing by Jackie Canterbury*

The Yellowstone Valley Audubon Chapter will host a multimedia presentation by Dr. Jackie Canterbury about her new book - *Common Birds of The Brinton Museum and Bighorn Mountains Foothills* that she co-authored with Dr. Paul A. Johnsgard, noted ornithologist and author of 85 scholarly books. This book is published by Zea Books of University of Nebraska – Lincoln. This is the first photo guide featuring birds of The Brinton's Quarter-Circle Ranch, a recently recognized 600-acre Important Bird Area (IBA) near Sheridan, Wyoming. This 65-page, highly detailed book profiles 48 of the most abundant, typical and interesting local birds, and includes species accounts, information on songs and calls, and a calendar of seasonal occurrence. Exquisite color photographs for easy bird identifications of common birds found in the region add to the overall beauty of this important publication.

**Dr. Jacqueline L. Canterbury** acquired a passion for birds and conservation in college, earning bachelor's degrees at the University of Washington and Evergreen State College plus MS and PhD degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her master's degree program involved developing a conservation strategy for nongame birds for the state of Nebraska, and her PhD focused on bird song. She is currently President of Bighorn Audubon Society in Sheridan, Wyoming, working on establishing regional IBAs. Jackie will bring copies of her book for purchase (\$20.00). Photo: Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, at left, by Jackie Canterbury.



#### **Common Birds of The Brinton Museum and Bighorn Mountains Foothills**

Jacqueline L. Canterbury & Paul A. Johnsgard



### 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.**

**Friday, March 9, 4:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting**

**Monday, March 19, 7:00pm: Chapter Meeting**

**YVAS fundraiser dinner at 5:30, before the Chapter meeting. Dinner donation: \$6.**

**Sue Weinreis has generously volunteered to coordinate and is planning an Irish-themed main dish. Contact her at 855-4181 before Friday, March 16 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/>**

The Board of Directors did not meet in February due to weather. All business was deferred to the March 9th meeting.

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 March. 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 the Data Base Administrator: Peter Cummins at [membership.data@yvaudubon.org](mailto:membership.data@yvaudubon.org) with any questions.

**MARCH Renewals:** Carole W Baumann, Judy Baxter, Garry Bunke, Joan Bunke, Patricia Crisp, Jim & Peggy Good, Lois Gorseth, Brian Henderson, Audrey & Robert Jurovich, Ernest McKenzie, Steve Regele, Claudia Reitz and Sandra M Teller.



There are only three chapter meetings left this spring for YOU to bring your aluminum cans to Larry Handsaker via a meeting. It's easy to collect your cans when you know they will be recycled and the cash goes to a good cause: YVAS!

Larry accepts donations to be left at his home: 918 Ave C, Billings. Or, Helen Carlson gladly accepts recycled aluminum cans at her home: 519 Highland Park Dr., Billings.

Larry is also willing to pick up cans from your home if you give him a call at 406-855-9832. Donate today!

### Who do you call when you find an INJURED bird?

Injured Birds: Details at [yvaudubon.org](http://yvaudubon.org) (select the "Projects" tab and then "Injured Birds") or call MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (M-F) 406-247-2940.

Injured Raptors: Montana Raptor Conservation Center, Becky Kean, 406-585-1211.

Injured Waterfowl: WJH Bird Resources, Sheila McKay, 406-652-7175.

Twine Entangled Osprey in Nest: Dr. Marco Restani, 406-425-2608 or Deb Regele, 406-962-3115

### Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Officers:

#### AREA CODE 406

**President:** Steve Regele, 962-3115, [smregele@gmail.com](mailto:smregele@gmail.com)  
**Vice-President:** Steve Linder, 380-0073, [becon1@bresnan.net](mailto:becon1@bresnan.net)  
**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: 628-5058, [donnbartlett@msn.com](mailto:donnbartlett@msn.com)  
 Dorothy Bartlett: 628-5058, [dpadanyi@live.com](mailto:dpadanyi@live.com)  
 Carolyn Jones: 670-4449, [carolyn648@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn648@gmail.com)  
 Sheila McKay: 652-7175, cell 694-7918, [wjhbird@yahoo.com](mailto:wjhbird@yahoo.com)  
 Marco Restani: 425-2608, [restani@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:restani@stcloudstate.edu)  
 Deb Regele: 962-3115, [debregele@gmail.com](mailto:debregele@gmail.com)  
 Sue Weinreis: 855-4181, [granpeak47@gmail.com](mailto:granpeak47@gmail.com)  
 Nancy Wiggins: 839-4461, [nwiggins83@gmail.com](mailto:nwiggins83@gmail.com)

#### Montana's Congressional Delegation:

Sen. Steve Daines: U.S. Senate, Wash. D.C. 20510  
 email Sen. Daines via his website: [daines.senate.gov](http://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. Greg Gianforte:  
 email Rep. Gianforte via his website:  
<https://gianforte.house.gov/contact/email>  
 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)  
 Baling Twine Project: Deb Regele, [debregele@gmail.com](mailto:debregele@gmail.com)  
 Bird Questions: George Mowat, 656-7467 [gbmowat@gmail.com](mailto:gbmowat@gmail.com)  
 or Helen Carlson Cummins, 248-8684  
 Birdathon: Ruth Vanderhorst, 245-5118, [erv132@charter.net](mailto:erv132@charter.net)  
 Christmas Bird Count: Jim Court, 259-5099, C: 860-0450,  
[custertours@gmail.com](mailto:custertours@gmail.com)  
 Conservation Advisor: Steve Regele, 962-3115,  
[smregele@gmail.com](mailto:smregele@gmail.com)  
 Data Base Administrator: Peter Cummins,  
[membership.data@yvaudubon.org](mailto:membership.data@yvaudubon.org)  
 Facebook: Nancy Wiggins, 839-4461, [nwiggins83@gmail.com](mailto:nwiggins83@gmail.com)  
 Flyer Editor: Trenay Hart, 860-1175, [yvasflyer@gmail.com](mailto:yvasflyer@gmail.com)  
 Field Trip Chair: Donn Bartlett, 628-5058, [donnbartlett@msn.com](mailto:donnbartlett@msn.com)  
 Membership Committee Chair: Dorothy Bartlett, 628-5058,  
[dpadanyi@live.com](mailto:dpadanyi@live.com)  
 Osprey Project: Deb Regele, 962-3115, [debregele@gmail.com](mailto:debregele@gmail.com)  
 Publicity: Barbara Garrett 652-3180, [garrettimprisonart@gmail.com](mailto:garrettimprisonart@gmail.com)  
 Program Committee: Steve Regele, 962-3115, [smregele@gmail.com](mailto:smregele@gmail.com)  
 Nancy Wiggins, 839-4461, [nwiggins83@gmail.com](mailto:nwiggins83@gmail.com),  
 Sheila McKay, 652-7175, [wjhbird@yahoo.com](mailto:wjhbird@yahoo.com)  
 Recycling (aluminum): Larry Handsaker, 855-9832,  
 918 AVE C, Billings  
 Website: Deb Regele, 962-3115, [debregele@gmail.com](mailto: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 Friday of each month at 4:00pm. 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.





No official field trips occurred in February but Robert Hill submitted this photo of **Snow Geese** wintering in the Skagit Valley north of Everett, Washington on Feb. 17, 2018 from his car window. Nice trip, Bob!

A flock of **Whimbrels** (formerly known as Hudsonian Whimbrel) bustle about a beach in the Chilean coastal city of LaSerena. Whimbrels, as you know, breed on the Arctic tundra, nesting on the ground. When the chicks hatch, they are ready to leave the nest almost immediately. During the migration some Whimbrels may fly around 2500 miles non-stop to spend our winter feeding on small crabs on the beaches of the southern hemisphere. This photograph was taken in February, 2018. Perhaps we will be fortunate enough to see these same birds as they make the trek back up north in a few months!

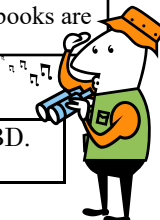
*Photo at right by Robin Manfredi*



## 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

4/7/2018	Sat	Exxon Ponds and Emerald Hills	Leader TBD. ONE MILE WALK. Sack lunch.
Mid-Late April		Pryor Mountains	LEK Viewing plus additional birding. Leader TBD.





**Osprey Platform***Submitted by Deb Regele*

Are you ready for another great year of birding? Want to try something new? YVAS had forty volunteer Osprey Nest Monitors in 2017 and all are returning to monitor nests again in 2018. However, we are always looking for a few more volunteers willing to observe and record data this spring and summer. Some nests may be located outside of the Billings area.

The annual YVAS Osprey Orientations are scheduled for the following three locations: Billings, Livingston and Miles City. Dr. Marco Restani will be presenting valuable and important information for nest monitors. It is recommended that all nest monitors attend especially if you are new to the project.

These programs are free and open to anyone interested in learning more about Ospreys. However, an RSVP is requested. The programs may not go as late as the time shown.

Miles Community College (Room 106), Friday March 23 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

2715 Dickinson

Miles City, MT

Billings Public Library (Community Room on the first floor), Monday April 2 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

510 N. Broadway

Billings, MT

Livingston Public Library, Saturday April 7 at 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

228 W Calendar St

Livingston, MT



If you are interested in monitoring a nest or attending the Osprey Orientation, please RSVP with me at [debregle@gmail.com](mailto:debregle@gmail.com) or 406-962-3115. *Photo of Osprey and nestlings by Edie Linneweber*

**On February 17, 2018 Karen Heil**, YVAS member and Montana Raptor Center volunteer found this **Prairie Falcon** (photo at right) on her porch outside of Edgar, MT. The bird was docile and not behaving “normally.” With her experience in transporting injured raptors to Bozeman for recovery she decided to take the bird in and keep it quiet in an animal kennel covered with a blanket. She quickly scanned the bird for any injuries and promptly called the Montana Raptor Center in Bozeman for advice. They agreed this **Prairie Falcon** needed to be watched and she was instructed to keep it quiet overnight and if it didn’t fly away in the morning she was to call them again and bring the bird in. Thankfully, the bird flew away without incident in the morning after her astute care. Here is a photo by Karen of her husband, Bob, with the bird right after they recovered it from the porch and sent the photo to the Raptor Center.



**YVAS Conservation and Related News***Submitted by Steve Regele*

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society (YVAS) Board of Directors and many members are very active in YVAS Mission-related work. In addition to regularly scheduled YVAS meetings, special presentation and birding outings following is a summary of a few current YVAS projects.

The Pryor's Coalition is submitting comments on the **Proposed Action for revision of the Management Plan for the (US Forest Service) Custer Gallatin National Forest**. The YVAS Board of Directors reviewed and contributed to that and is a signatory to the letter. The final letter will be posted on the YVAS web site in the near future.

YVAS has written a letter of support for **Custer Gallatin National Forest (CGNF)** advancing some 2018 road and trail maintenance in the **Pryor Mountains**. For a number of years YVAS has lent support to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and CGNF efforts in stewardship of the Pryors and the Beartooths, both on the ground and in writing. We look forward to more productive and successful efforts in 2018.

YVAS, Sacajawea Audubon Society, and Montana Audubon are represented on the **Berkeley Pit Superfund Site Waterfowl Mitigation Advisory Board**. This Audubon group is working together with State and Federal agency representatives, Montana Resources, Montana Tech and a variety of experts. The Board is devising and implementing some very good and productive efforts and results in dealing with impacts from the toxic water at the Berkeley Pit. Watch for updates on this work at the YVAS web site.

YVAS is a member of the **Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Citizen Advisory Council** (FWP and CAC). FWP has a lot going on with invasive aquatic species, chronic wasting disease and other infestations problems as well as overall management of the States wildlife and many parks. Visit the FWP for details and insights and YVAS website for some links and information.

YVAS submitted a letter to the **US Fish & Wildlife Service Charles M. Russell Wetland Management District and Associated Refuges (District) Planning Process** (letter of March 28, 2017). Efforts are underway to work through some of the details of that YVAS submittal and the USFWS Planning Process.

YVAS is pleased to be working with the **Montana Audubon Center** and their Advisory Council. Many great things happen at the Center and we encourage YVAS members to share in those things and help others - especially youth - do that too. See <http://mtaudubon.org/center/> and the YVAS Flyer in these regards and for 2018 news and opportunities.

The **YVAS Osprey Project team** continues to work routinely and effectively with many Montana electric utility cooperatives to manage problems and life styles of Osprey. The Project team and the cooperatives have established a very good working rapport. Thanks too to Yellowstone Valley Tree Surgeons (Tom Yelvington) for exceptional contributions to the Osprey-related work. The Project is fully engaged for 2018 efforts - again, check the YVAS web site and Flyer for details about this Project and for other 2018 YVAS "Mission" news.

As with any organization, there is persuasive strength in the size, opinion, and efforts of YVAS. Thank you for your decision to be a supporting member of YVAS. Please keep your membership active and encourage friends and other folks with interests consistent with the YVAS Mission to join with you in being supporting members of YVAS.

**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





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This charming "Tom" is ready for spring.  
Captured by member Carol Pierson, Feb. 23  
in a Billings neighborhood.

**YVAS Birds of the Month**

**Merlin**



This Merlin was captured on Locust street by Jenni Aleksich on Valentine's day, a neighbor of member, Robin Manfredi. Robin's other neighborhood friend and husband have seen the bird around the 'hood.

This small but fierce falcon attacks other birds with powerful flight and rapid wingbeats. Teams of Merlin's team up to hunt large flocks of waxwings and other songbirds.

Like Great Horned Owls, the Merlin, take over the old nests of other raptors. Listen to your bird calls as the Merlin is more familiar than most of us think!

*Submitted by Trenay Hart & Robin Manfredi as well as adapted from All About Birds*