



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 49, NUMBER 3

MARCH 2019

March 18, Chapter Meeting 7PM Wildflowers, Birds, and Nature Kids with Carolyn Sevier

There is growing recognition among bird enthusiasts of the importance of native plants to bird habitat, but how many of us are able to identify the native plants that share our spaces? In this presentation, Carolyn Sevier will outline the basics of field identification of native plants as well as provide examples of common native plants and the variety of habitat types in Yellowstone County. She will also discuss how the education programs at the Montana Audubon Center use connection to these plants and habitats in their efforts to connect more than 8,000 kids each year with nature -- an increasingly critical task in our screens-and-schedules driven world.

Carolyn Sevier is Director of the Montana Audubon Center, an education program of Montana Audubon based in Billings. She has been in outdoor education and non-profit work for more than 20 years, having spent time roaming and teaching in the lodgepole forests and sagebrush deserts of Idaho, the Continental Divide country near Helena, and for the last ten years the grasslands and riparian areas of Billings. She is an instructor in the Montana Master Naturalist program and lives in Billings with her husband, three small children, and whatever birds will come to their backyard feeders.



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, March 11, 4:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, March 18, 7:00pm: Chapter Meeting

The Board invites everyone for cookies and coffee at 6:30pm prior to the Chapter meeting. Please contact Sue Weinreis [the Friday prior to the Chapter meeting](#) if you like to contribute cookies or bars.



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☞ We're on the web! yvaudubon.org

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

The February Board meeting was cancelled due to weather. Therefore, there is no Board report this month.

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 with any questions.



MARCH Renewals: Carole W. Baumann, Garry Bunke, Joan Bunke, Barbara Garrett, Jim & Peggy Good, Lois Gorseth, Brian Henderson, Audrey & Robert Jurovich, Deb Regele, Steve Regele, David & Ruth Vandell, Steven D. Evans.

FEBRUARY (outstanding) Renewals: Kari Longshor. (Remember this years dues have been raised by \$5.00)

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 \$25. If applying for a new or renewing student membership, make check for \$15 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 Society Officers:

AREA CODE 406

President: Steve Regele, 962-3115, smregele@gmail.com
Vice-President: Steve Linder, 380-0073, becon1@bresnan.net
Secretary: Doreen Hartman, 697-0277, rdzlhman@bresnan.net
Treasurer: Pam Pival, 245-4517, ppival@charter.net

Board of Directors:

Donn Bartlett: 628-5058, donnbartlett@msn.com
Dorothy Bartlett: 628-5058, dpadanyi@live.com
Carolyn Jones: 670-4449, carolyn684@gmail.com
Sheila McKay: 652-7175, cell 694-7918, wjhbird@yahoo.com
Marco Restani: 425-2608, restani@stcloudstate.edu
Deb Regele: 962-3115, debregele@gmail.com
Sue Weinreis: 855-4181, granpeak47@gmail.com
Nancy Wiggins: 839-4461, 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
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. 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

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, 860-0450,
custertours@gmail.com
Conservation Advisor: Steve Regele, 962-3115,
smregele@gmail.com
Data Base Administrator: Peter Cummins,
membership.data@yvaudubon.org
Facebook: Nancy Wiggins, 839-4461, nwiggins83@gmail.com
Flyer Editor: Trenay Hart, 860-1175, yvasflyer@gmail.com
Field Trip Chair: Donn Bartlett, 628-5058, donnbartlett@msn.com
Membership Committee Chair: Dorothy Bartlett, 628-5058,
dpadanyi@live.com
Osprey Project: Deb Regele, 962-3115, debregele@gmail.com
Publicity: contact any Board Member
Program Committee: Steve Regele, 962-3115, smregele@gmail.com
Nancy Wiggins, 839-4461, 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 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.

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 628-5058, donnbartlett@msn.com

Apr. 20, 2019	Sat	Exxon Ponds and Emerald Hills	ONE MILE WALK. Brian Henderson, Leader. Bring a Sack Lunch.
May 4, 2019	Sat	Riverfront Park. S Billings Blvd, 1st parking area on the right.	8:00 AM to Noon. FAMILY ORIENTED OUTGOING. Sue Weinreis leader.
May 12, 2019	Sun	Pryor Mountains, Bear Canyon Birding/Hiking	Meet at Rocky at 6:00 a.m. or at Lions Park in Bridger at 7:30 a.m. to hike into Bear Canyon. Trenay Hart, leader. Bring a Sack Lunch.
May 16, 2018	Thurs s	Riverfront Park. S Billings Blvd, parking area on the right near the covered picnic facility.	Mike Weber, leader



CONSERVATION NEWS/NESTING MATERIALS

Osprey Platform

Submitted by Deb Regele

2019 marks Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society's 10th year of monitoring Osprey nests and recording data along the Yellowstone, Stillwater and Big Horn Rivers. From Gardiner to Miles City, over 40 monitors faithfully observe nests with a focus on recording data and identifying banded Ospreys. Some of our members have been involved in the project since it first took root in 2009. **Without our volunteers, this project would not be possible!**

The annual YVAS Osprey Orientations are scheduled for the following three locations: Billings, Livingston and Miles City. Dr. Marco Restani will be discussing Osprey history, biology and ecology and reviewing recording procedures for the data. 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.

Billings Public Library, Community Room (first floor)
Tuesday, March 26 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm.
510 N. Broadway, Billings MT

Miles Community College, Room 106
Thursday, March 28 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.
2715 Dickinson, Miles City MT

Livingston Public Library, Basement
Saturday, March 30 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm.
228 W Calendar, Livingston MT

If you would like more information or would like to attend the Osprey Orientation, please RSVP at debregale@gmail.com or phone 406-962-3115. Leave a message if I do not answer.

Are you a gardener in addition to being a bird lover? If so, please consider certifying your garden as a wildlife habitat with the National Wildlife Federation. If Billings gets a certain number of wildlife certified gardens we can become only the second city in the state to be certified wildlife friendly. It's an easy process. Go to nwf.org on your computer, click on the menu, go to "get involved", then "certify a wildlife habitat". Follow the instructions to find what you might need to do in your garden this year. When you meet the requirements, send in your application and you will get a certificate. Our wildlife thanks you.

Submitted by Carolyn Jones



**YELLOWSTONE VALLEY
AUDUBON FLYER**

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

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Ring-billed Gull, America's most common gull according to photographer Will Crain, who sent us this shot from a recent family reunion trip to California.

Will Crain got this lovely photo of a Snowy Plover on the coast of California in a protected area that during nesting season no visitors are allowed. Thanks for sharing this vulnerable bird! (BELOW)



Jim Sells shares this great comic related to birds with the Flyer, thanks, we loved it.