



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 4

APRIL 2019

April 15, Chapter Meeting 7PM

Woody Plant Care, and Why

Good habitat stewardship is a benefit to birds and other wildlife, as well as to people. Trees and shrubs are valuable assets to birds and our world.

Tom Yelvington owns and operates Yellowstone Valley Tree Surgeons. He will be presenting valuable and insightful information about tree and shrub conservation and interactions with birds, Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, and the Billings region on April 15, 2019. The Yellowstone Valley Tree Surgeons web site reflects the scope and importance of good tree and shrub management: Tom's business and interests include *"a platform to help the Earth and our community"* *"guidance and education to help you learn the 'root' of issues with your trees and shrubs"*, ways *"to help educate and guide you to having a healthy and attractive landscape"* and an opportunity for *"learning more about trees and our environment."*

Tom has been in the tree care industry for over 42 years and a member of the International Society of Arboriculture since 1981 and an ISA Certified Arborist since 1999. He is a past President of the Association of Montana Turf and Ornamental Professionals and is a Certified Tree Worker/Climber Evaluator. He participates in charitable arboricultural projects in the community and has been the owner and operator of Yellowstone Valley Tree Surgeons for the past 35 years.



Greeting, YVAS Bird and Food Lovers!

We invite you to join us for a No-Host Potluck dinner at 5:45 pm prior to our regular YVAS meeting on Monday, May 20. Please bring a main dish, salad, side, bread, or dessert sufficient to serve 6-12 people. Water and decaf coffee are provided. There will be no charge for the dinner.

Please contact Sue Weinreis at 406-855-4181 or email granpeak47@gmail.com if you plan to attend the potluck dinner.

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 8, 4:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, April 15, 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.



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 Board of Director Highlights

March 11, 2019

Submitted by Sue Weinreis

- Publicity for YVAS activities and programs is shared by several individuals: Steve Regele notifies the Billings Gazette of the monthly YVAS meetings and presentations. In addition, Nancy Wiggins keeps our Facebook page current; Deb Regele updates the YVAS Website; and Trenay Hart, of course, includes information about all our activities in the monthly Flyer.
- Sheila McKay has volunteered to prepare and submit a grant to the Billings Community Foundation to cover future speaker expenses for our YVAS Chapter Meetings.
- Got a good idea for a “birdy” program? Know a good speaker? The Program Committee welcomes ideas for programs and presenters for next year. Please contact any member of the Program Committee (listed in the Flyer under ABOUT US) if you have thoughts, suggestions, or ideas for programs or activities you would enjoy at future meetings.
- Want to get more involved in YVAS??? The Baling Twine Recycling project should be ready to start accepting twine in June! Deb Regele will schedule a meeting regarding the project for individuals interested in volunteering to help with the project or just learn more about it.
- Want to learn more about birds? YVAS will consider offering a birding class if we can get at least 30 participants. Tentatively, it will include a couple of evening classes with a Saturday field trip, probably sometime in June. Contact Marco Restani, Deb Regele, Doreen Hartman, or any board member if you are interested.

Who do you call when you find an INJURED bird?

Injured Birds: Details at 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

Vice-President: Steve Linder, 380-0073, becon1@bresnan.net

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

Treasurer: Pam Pipal, 245-4517, ppipal@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, nwiggin83@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, nwiggin83@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, nwiggin83@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.

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

Field Trip Calendar:

Apr. 27, 2019 **Date Change**	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	Riverfront Park. S Billings Blvd, parking area on the right near the covered picnic facility.	Mike Weber, leader
May 18, 2019	Sat	Lake Basin	Mike Weber, leader. Bring a Sack Lunch.
May 21, 2019	Tues	Pompey's Pillar, Fishing Access Sites	7:00 a.m. Robert Hill, leader. Bring a Sack Lunch.
May 25, 2019	Sat	Bridger Creek	Meet at Itch-Kep-Pe Park in Columbus at 8:00 a.m. Stan Heath, leader.
May 28, 2019	Tues	Stillwater River and Woodbine Area	7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ruth Vanderhorst, leader. Bring a Sack Lunch.



Dear friends,

Nearly one year in from the dedication of the Helen Carlson Cummins Bird Garden and Thoughtful Bird Feeding Station, I wanted to give you an update on how important the garden has become at the Audubon Center. At the time of its creation, we anticipated use of the garden by visitors and programs through the year. In the last ten months, however, we have seen almost daily interaction. It has become a keystone in our work to provide front-country experiences to connect people to nature. A few highlights:

- Fledglings Nature Preschool students walk through the garden each day, and have become deeply familiar with the woodpeckers and chickadees who visit year-round
- Nearly 2,000 participants in our elementary school program, who come to the Center for three field trips each year, learned binocular use and bird identification primarily at the bird garden during their winter field trip in January and February. Observations were recorded by the students onto eBird, with each data submission being greeted by a cheer from the kids.
- The task of filling the bird feeders has been enthusiastically taken on by our volunteer groups from COR Enterprises and West High special education. These individuals, all with physical and/or developmental disabilities, have taken real ownership of the garden and its maintenance.

We have also seen an uptick in visitorship specifically for our bird garden, with folks stopping by from all over the country looking to check in on what can be seen in Billings.

Our next step in the project is to develop a "bird garden indoor viewing area"-- a space inside the building with glass doors facing the garden for year-round observation. We envision a regularly scheduled "open house" opportunity for viewing, likely accompanied by tea and cookies! We will also shortly be launching a campaign to "adopt a feeder" to make sure the garden is sustained into the future -- let me know if you want to be involved!

We are all so deeply appreciative of your part in this project, and of the community that came together to make it happen.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Sevier, Montana Audubon Center Director



Osprey Platform: Twine Collection & Recycling Site Update*Submitted by Deb Regele*

Slowly but surely, like the spring of 2019, the Twine Collection & Recycling Site is happening! The Land Use License Agreement with the MT Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation for leasing two acres of public land was signed in March. In late April when the ground dries out, S Bar S will be installing a 20 ft. x 40 ft. x 14 ft. shed for storing unwanted clean twine. There are improvements to be made at the site including placement of signs, installing a gate, laying of gravel, and acquisition of needed equipment. If all goes as planned, the Twine Collection & Recycling Site will be ready to start accepting clean twine in June 2019.

Most users of twine in Montana do not have access to an environmentally safe method for disposing of unwanted twine. Like most plastics, the twine will need to be 95% clean - same as milk jugs, pop bottles and pesticide containers. Mesh and dirty twine will not be accepted since we do not have a way to dispose or recycle them.

There will be a **meeting** in Billings on Monday, April 15, 4:00 p.m., at the Mayflower Church located at 2940 Poly Drive to discuss details including volunteers, protocols, twine management, public awareness, marketing, and other elements of the project. Anyone interested in learning more, offering ideas, or volunteering with the project in one of these areas is welcome to attend.

For more information on the Twine Collection & Recycling Project, see the archived November/December 2018 Flyer and the February 2019. Archived Flyers can be found on the YVAS website (yvaudubon.org) under Publications. Additional Osprey news can also be found on the YVAS website under Projects and Photos.

For questions, contact Deb Regele at debregele@gmail.com / 406-962-3115 or Doreen Hartman at rdzlhman@bresnan.net / 406-697-0277 and leave a message if there is no answer.

As a reminder, following the Twine Collection & Recycling meeting on April 15, is the YVAS Chapter Program which begins at 6:30 p.m. with coffee and cookies.

Tom Yelvington is the speaker at 7:00 p.m. Tom provides the bucket truck to assist Marco Restani when he is rescuing entangled Ospreys and when banding Osprey nestlings. Details are on the front of this Flyer.

**BIRDATHON 2019***Submitted by Ruth Vanderhorst*

It has been suggested that this year, when again we will forego fundraising, that we should call this endeavor a Fun-raising BIRDATHON. So, all you competitive teams, get together and plan your strategy for the 24 hour competition to see how many species can be identified between 5pm on Saturday, June 1 until 5pm on Sunday, June 2. Again, we will celebrate our finds at a report gathering which will include a barbeque potluck. Last year's Birdathon broke all records with 165 species identified. Can that fabulous number be surpassed? What do you say we give it a try!

Teams must be formed and a registration form listing members completed and a \$5.00 fee for each team member submitted no later than May 20. Registration forms are available on the YVAS website. Rules are also on the website. Further details will be provided in the May Flyer. Please direct questions to Ruth Vanderhorst at 245-5118 or erv132@charter.net. Let's get excited and plan for fun!!



Cedar Waxwings, this month in Will Crain's backyard. Thanks for sharing!



Some Conservation-related Information & Contacts*Submitted by Steve Regele*

There are many dedicated and capable agencies, organizations and individuals working on conservation projects, issues and problems. Below is a list of some of those that YVAS is routinely involved with. This information will also be included on the YVAS web site <http://yvaudubon.org/conservation/> and will be updated periodically.

Montana Legislature tracking 2019 - some quick references:

Montana State Legislature: <https://www.leg.mt.gov/> then Bill Lookup at <https://www.leg.mt.gov/bill-info/>, and 2019 Session Info and Legislator Messaging <https://leg.mt.gov/session/>. To contact your Legislators <https://www.leg.mt.gov/legislator-lookup/>

NPRC - Northern Plains Resource Council web site <https://northernplains.org/issues/legislature/> and https://northernplains.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019_LegBulletin_04_2019-02-28.pdf,

Montana Audubon <https://mtaudubon.org/news/>

Montana Wildlife Federation <http://montanawildlife.org/get-involved/capitol-report-2019-bills-and-budgets/>

Montana Dept. of Fish Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) <http://fwp.mt.gov/>

MFWP Region 5 (Billings) visit <http://fwp.mt.gov/regions/r5/>

YVAS and MFWP Region 5 have a number of shared activities scheduled for 2019. Keep an eye on the Flyer, web site <http://yvaudubon.org/> and monthly meetings for further details.

US Forest Service, Custer Gallatin National Forest <https://www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin>

Forest Plan Revision updates: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/custergallatin/home>.

Also, some US Forest Service news close to home:

Red Lodge Creek Road #2141 is now closed for spring break up.

West Rosebud Road #2072 is now open to the Mystic lake Trailhead. It is single lane through big drifts from Emerald lake on up and the trailhead is still snowed in so no parking there for a while. Recommend 4WD for this road until it dries out. It will be pretty soft and sloppy in places, especially in the afternoons.

April 15th is the next date for opening and closing roads on the Beartooth Ranger District - e.g. Open the low roads and close the high ones in the Pryors for spring breakup.

In addition to continuing visits to USFS-managed lands YVAS and the Custer Gallatin National Forest plan to carry out some activities of mutual interest and benefit in 2019.

US Bureau of Land Management - For Montana/Dakota regional updates and information see

<https://www.blm.gov/montana-dakotas>

Also, some US BLM news close to home:

The Billings Field Office and Pompey's Pillar National Monument are excited to continue their partnership with the MT Audubon Conservation Education Center's Audubon Naturalists in the Schools (ANTS) program. This year, students from 5 different schools will be visiting local recreation sites, including Sundance Lodge, Four Dances Natural Area, and Pompey's Pillar, as part of the field trip component of this popular program.

In addition to YVAS continuing visits to BLM managed lands YVAS and BLM plan to carry out some activities of mutual interest and benefit in 2019.

US Fish and Wildlife Service <https://www.fws.gov/>

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society submitted comments on the USFWS Refuge Planning Process Mountain-Prairie Region in March of 2107. For current status of that Process please refer to:

<https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/cmrwmd.php>

Current status of Final Comprehensive Conservation Process: https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/mt_Plan.php - The Plans for Montana refuges and Waterfowl Protection Areas near Billings have not yet been completed. For an example of what those plans may look like see the Bowdoin Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CPP) document: <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/refugesUpdate/bwd.php>

Berkeley Pit Waterfowl impact mitigation.

See <http://yvaudubon.org/conservation/> "Projects" tab for some up to date information:

Berkeley Pit Waterfowl Report for 20 March 2019;

November 15, 2018: BUTTE MINE FLOODING SITE CD, CV 02-35 Bu-RFC, 2018 Third Quarter Report

<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/08/1902950.pdf>

Phase 1 Programmable Laser Unit Demonstration Work Plan

Montana Wildlife Federation <http://montanawildlife.org/>

Garden for Wildlife: Certified Wildlife Habitats <http://montanawildlife.org/garden-for-wildlife-certified-wildlife-habitats/> transform backyards, school grounds, places of worship, businesses, and community spaces in Billings into Certified Wildlife Habitats.

YVAS and MWF ally on common issues and efforts.

(Continued next page)

Montana Wilderness Association <http://wildmontana.org/> and <http://wildmontana.org/about-us/local-chapters/eastern-wildlands-chapter>

YVAS and MWA ally on common issues and efforts.

Pryors Coalition <http://www.pryormountains.org/>

YVAS and PC work on common issues, e.g. <http://www.pryormountains.org/management-issues/cnf-travel-plan/>.

Arbor Day

Billings City Parks is hosting an Arbor Day educational program open to area 4th grade classes at Central Park Thurs May 2, 2019. YVAS will be participating again this year.

Other Arbor Day events are scheduled in the area - keep an eye on the Billings Gazette and other new outlets for details.

YVAS 2019 field project work includes:

- Bluebird nesting boxes monitoring and maintenance
- Osprey nest monitoring, Osprey rescue, baling twine recycling
- Public lands trail and habitat projects and weed control work
- Bird information signs installed at some parks and public places

Bird data and conservation

Some great sources for bird data that everyone can readily use and that YVAS contributes to:

Cornell Lab of Ornithology (Cornell Lab of Ornithology <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/> and eBird <https://ebird.org/home>),

MT Natural Heritage Program <http://mtnhp.org/> and <http://fieldguide.mt.gov/>;

iNaturalist <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

Patuxent USGS <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/pwrc>

Yellowstone Audubon Society <http://yvaudubon.org/birding-hot-spots/>

Earth Day 2019 - April 22, 2019 - <https://www.earthday.org/earthday/> "Earth Day is now a global event each year, and we believe that more than 1 billion people in 192 countries now take part in what is the largest civic-focused day of action in the world."

Global Big Day - May 4, 2019 - <https://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-4-may-2019> On **4 May**, join more than 30,000 others and become a part of Global Big Day. You don't have to commit to birding for 24 hours—an hour or even 10 minutes of watching birds makes you part of the team. Visit your favorite spot or search out someplace new; enjoy a solo walk or get some friends to join in the Global Big Day fun.

New Birding Trunk Available

Submitted by Barbara Garrett

The Chief Plenty Coups State Park is among nine other state parks and the Fish, Wildlife and Parks WILD education center in Helena to recently receive new bird watching trunks. The trunks have been made available to budding birders by a donation to FWP from the Jean Smith Estate. Each trunk contains 20 quality binoculars, *Sibley Birds West guide-books*, and *lesson plans to help educators organize outings*.

Birding Game Hot On Market

Submitted by Barbara Garrett

Elizabeth Hargrave, a health policy consultant in Silver Springs, Maryland and avid birder, in her spare time crossbred her analytic skills and birding hobby to create Wingspan. Wingspan is a board game that requires players to assign birds with various powers to wetland, grassland and forest habitats. Aiming to design a game with scientific integrity, Hargrave pulled data from eBird, the Cornell Lab on Ornithology's website, and Audubon's online guide. While there was some doubt whether birds would resonate with gamers, during the pre-order period in January more than 5,000 games sold in the first week. On the official release day demand so exceeded supply the publisher issued a public apology, and Wingspan is now in its third print run. Wingspan is published by Stonemaier Games and their website is <https://stonemaiergames.com/games/wingspan/>

Peter and Helen Cummings saw a **Gyr Falcon** between St. Xavier and Fort Smith on March 20, 2019. Ruth Vanderhorst saw her first Swainson's Hawk (driving from Bozeman, near Big Timber) of the season. The hawk was sitting on an irrigation apparatus near the highway. She commented that it wasn't a Gyr Falcon but a sure sign of Spring!

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 the Data Base Administrator: Peter Cummins at membership.data@yvaudubon.org with any questions.



APRIL Renewals: Judi Knapp, Morgan & Kris Decker.

MARCH (outstanding) Renewals: Garry Bunke, Joan Bunke, Barbara Garrett, Jim & Peggy Good, Brian Hender-son, David & Ruth Torrence, Pat & Scott Vandell, Carole W. Baumann.

HELP WANTED

MPG Ranch is looking to place a portable recording unit in your backyard. They are looking for an area on top of the Rimrocks (such as Indian Cliffs Subdivision), or high up on the Emerald Hills plateau. This would set in your backyard with no wires, investment on your part is a power source.

I am recording Night Flight Calls from the valley on the West end of Billings. MPG ranch wants recording stations this mid spring from a much higher altitude. If you are interested in participating in this this with no strings attached please contact Mike Weber at 839-8279 (cell). Text or call.

Make an Owl from Recycled CDs (reprinted from NWF's "Ranger Rick")
Submitted by Pam Pipal

Are birds munching up your garden? Are they flying into your glass windows by mistake? Bright light reflects off this owl's CD-eyes to help scare away approaching birds.



What You Need

2 CDs, Sheet of light brown craft foam and scraps of dark brown and black craft foam, Craft glue, 2 extra-large googly eyes, hole punch, pencil, scissors, 1 ft string

What You Do

See YVAudubon.org for the details of making the owl.

THERE WILL BE A SUPPLY OF CD's, TO TAKE FOR FREE FOR THIS PROJECT, AT THE NEXT YVAS CHAPTER MEETING!

Resourcefulness

Submitted with photo by David Omen.

I made 4 bird feeders using Burger King plastic pancake holders. I hope people learn to make things from recycled materials to feed birds. At the downtown Burger King!



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 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



Bald Eagle. *Courtesy of Jim Sells.*

YVAS Birds of the Month Blue Jay



Elegant Trogon in Madera Canyon, AZ on March 3, 219 the lucky lady Judy Weddel saw this and a fellow birder shared the photo.



Black-billed Magpie. *Photo by Jim Sells.*



This noisy mimicking bird is a year round highlight to many of us in South Central and Eastern Montana. Adrienne Baker took this photo of a Blue Jay on her backyard feeders in Feb. Wonderful!

The black bridle across the face, nape, and throat of these birds varies extensively. It is thought that this may help Blue Jays recognize one another.

Submitted by Trenay Hart and adapted from All About Birds