



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.

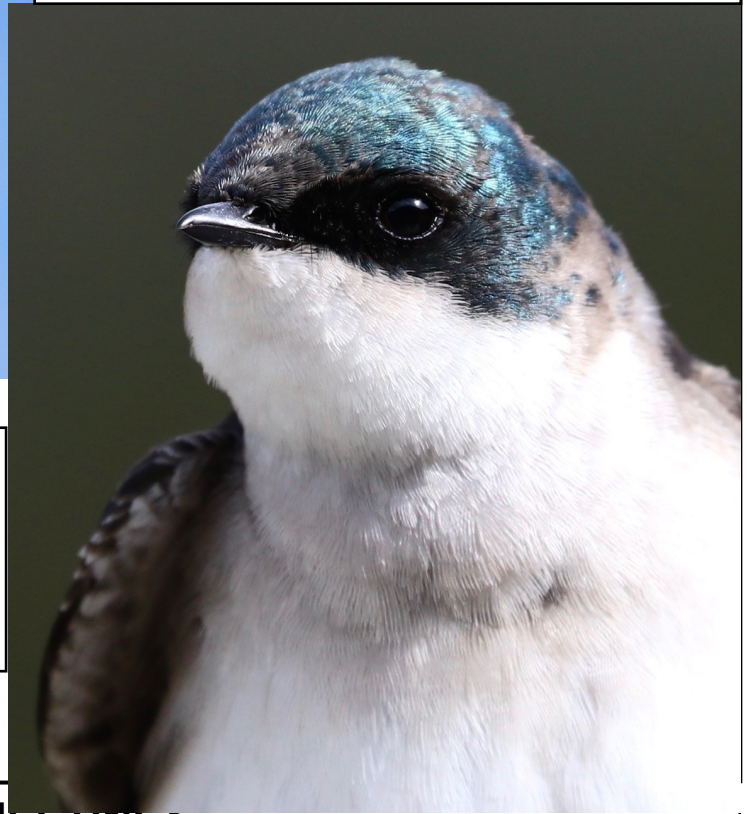
VOLUME 49, NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2019

There were numerous photo submissions to the Flyer. I have tried include as many as possible. At left, **Bobolink** during RL field trip by *Dorothy Bartlett*. Below, close up **Tree Swallow** during Birdaton by *Jeff Dunham*.



At left, just fledged **Black-headed Grosbeak** photographed in her own backyard near Edgar, MT by *Karen Heil*.



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, August 12, 4:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, September 16, 7:00pm: Chapter Meeting (no Aug. Chapt Meeting)

See information regarding September 16 Chapter Meeting potluck on page 2 of this Flyer.



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/>

Greetings, YVAS Bird and Food Lovers!

We invite you to join us for No-Host Potluck dinner at our regular YVAS Chapter meeting on Monday, September 16. Please bring a main dish, salad, side, bread, or dessert enough to serve 8-12 people. Water and coffee are provided. Dinner is served promptly at 5:45 pm.

Please contact Sue Weinreis (406-855-4181, email granpeak47@gmail.com), if you plan to attend the potluck.

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 AUGUST. 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.

AUGUST Renewals: Donn & Dorothy Bartlett, Darlene Ellis, Cindy Meccage, Jeanne Olson, Sherlene Robinson-O'Dea, Bruce Waage, and Kathy Williams.



JULY (outstanding) Renewals: Donna M. Lance and Liz Yorgason

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, 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.

Saturday, May 25th Bridger Creek*Submitted by Jeanne Olson*

This late May day was a brief respite in between rain, snow, and thunderstorms and promised to be a nice day for birding out along Bridger Creek. Fourteen of us met at Itch-Kep-Pe Park in Columbus to begin our trip with leader Stan Heath. Travelling along the lower portion of the Bridger Creek road, we saw sparrows—Vesper, Lark, Chipping. Yellow Warblers and House Wrens were active, and we were continuously serenaded by the squeaks, mewls, and warbles of the Gray Catbird. Our target bird for the day was the Lewis's Woodpecker, and we searched high and low for this bird all along the main Bridger Creek road with no luck. But we did see a Hairy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch and many other birds. We heard a Rough Grouse drumming in the brush. We all had nice looks at the colorful Lazuli Bunting and Bullock's Oriole.

We drove further up Bridger Creek—no Lewis's Woodpeckers. We took a side road—no Lewis's Woodpecker. Towards the end of our birding day, we drove down the road that eventually goes out to the Stillwater River and Absarokee, and, finally, there was our bird. The woodpecker flitted around a bit but not far, and several people were able to put their scopes on it. We all had great views. Further on, we saw more birds for a total of 4 Lewis's Woodpeckers. The day was a success. On our way out to the Stillwater River, we saw a Long-billed Curlew and some members of the group spotted a Peregrine Falcon. We ended up with a total of 59 species for the day.

Tuesday, May 28 Stillwater River and Woodbine Area*Submitted by Jerry Dalton*

A dozen birders set off on a cloudy morning hoping to see birds and not rain. Itch-Kep-Pe Campground at Columbus produced a Tennessee Warbler and a Fox Sparrow for Stan Heath's group right away, and American Redstarts were heard but not seen. The prize at Fireman's Point FAS on the Stillwater River was a Warbling Vireo and a Wilson's Snipe. At Cliff Swallow FAS, in front of us before we dismounted, we saw a show off Red-eyed Vireo in a riverbank shrub, White-crowned, Chipping, and Lark sparrows feeding on the ground and in the SUNSHINE! Flying to and from a nesting hole in the rock face across the Stillwater River was a Say's Phoebe. At Castle Rock FAS for the twenty something year at the same campsite, a Calliope Hummingbird was perched on bare sticks at the top of a shrub patch and doing his high dive display. We also had a preview look at a Western Tanager (see below). At Woodbine campground the prize for those with acute hearing was a Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were heard and seen chasing at knee level. At the end of the Fiddler Creek route a mile before Fishtail we saw the best display of the day. A male Western Tanager started fly catching off the top fence wire beside the road behind the last car. He moved forward one insect sortie at a time, to the front of the line of cars and beyond, even with birders standing outside their cars! More than 60 species were listed for the trip. Thanks to Ruth Vanderhorst for leading this annual trip.

Sat/Sun, June 1&2 BIRDATHON 2019 Final Report*Submitted by Ruth Vanderhorst*

June 1 at 5 pm five teams of YVAS birders began their searches for as many species as they could find and identify in the next 24 hours. The element of competition was in the air as the teams went far and wide to find species. These 5 teams were all experienced at Birdathon and all five were repeats from last year when a record 160 species were found by the collective groups. The desire to best that record was a motivating force for the teams. The Avian Rangers, with Mike Weber, Will Crain, Brian Henderson and Robert Hill, has a long record of winning the team competition and again this year led all teams with 136 species. They also should be recognized for finding a rare species, Yellow-throated Vireo. As the experienced birders they are, they notified Dan Casey so the record of their find can go forward. The team bearing the name, this year, of Back Again came in second with 128 species. One team member, Tony Cummins, came all the way from England to participate again. This is his third YVAS Birdathon. His brother, Peter Cummins leads the team which includes his wife Helen Carlson. Senior Moments came in third with 103. This team has lost members and this year included Jeanne Olson, Sue Weinreis and Ruth Vanderhorst. The team won the first in this series of Birdathons in 2011 with 97 species. Coming in fourth was Steve and Deb Regele with 99 species. This year they had multiple events that could have made them unsuccessful, but they did overcome the flat tire and multiple other conditions. They should get the adversity award this year! Though they are in fifth place this year, Rosebud, a team with Brenda and Jeff Dunham bird, as they did last year in their first Birdathon, from East Rosebud Lake to Billings. This year they contributed several species that added mountain birds to the collective list and allowed us to beat last year's collective total of 160 with an additional 5 species...grand total 165!! With that good news fresh in our minds, the birders celebrated with sharing of experiences and a relaxed potluck feast. We all look forward to next year. Let's beat the new record of 165, if even by one. A complete list of species found during the 2019 Birdathon is posted on the internet, yvaudubon.org

Tuesday, June 15 Pryor Mountains-Sage Creek*Submitted by Peter Cummins*

Five people met at the Bridger rest area for the trip into the Pryor Mountains, unfortunately due to the weather we were unable to go to Sage Creek, but went instead along Railway Rd. This did not stop an excellent day of birding. First stop was at the sewage ponds in Bridger, which produced 3 male Wood Ducks, Rudy Duck, Cassin's Finch and a Violet-green Swallow. A Sora was also heard. There was neither sight nor sound of the Blue Grosbeak today, but further along Pryor Mountain Rd a Brown Thrasher showed well and was in full song. A Sage Thrasher was not going to be out done. Some Pinyon Jays showed themselves and Yellow-breasted Chats were in full song.

The highlight for me was seeing my first Sagebrush Sparrow, in Montana. Thank you Stan and Jeanne for your efforts in locating this bird. A very enjoyable trip was had by everyone with over 60 species seen. Thank you Stan Heath for leading the field trip.

Saturday, June 15 Red Lodge Area*Submitted by Lois Dalton*

Gentle spring weather and great bird views made a rewarding bird watcher's field trip under the leadership of Stan Heath and Jerry Dalton. The first stop was Nichol's Creek south of Red Lodge where there were sounds and views of hummingbirds (Broad-tailed, Calliope), flycatchers (Western Wood-Pewee, Eastern Kingbird, Least Flycatcher), woodpeckers (Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Red-naped Sapsucker), Warbling Vireo, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Bluebird, Cassin's Finch, McGillivray's Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow and more. After a quiet stop at Palisades campground, we 13 birders traveled to Meeteetse Trail's first riparian area and were rewarded with sites and/or sounds of House Wrens, American Dipper, Tree Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Goldfinches, American Redstart, Ovenbird as well as other species. During our lunch stop at Stan's home Black-headed Grosbeak, Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins were added to our lists as well as songs of Ruby-crowned Kinglets which were also heard at previous stops. Some of the birds that were along Willow Creek Road northwest of Red Lodge were Savannah Sparrow, Western Meadowlark and Bobolink. At Wagon Wheel Estates the highlight for some birders was a brief siting of a Northern Waterthrush which ended a great day of bird watching.

Sunday , June 30 East Rosebud Lake*Submitted with photos by Will Crain*

Our YVAS adventure to East Rosebud was every bit the adventure we always have, organized chaos, enjoyed the birding to the max. Some features: spectacular views, birds from Golden-crowned Kinglets to Common Mergansers, to hiking and being in a totally new place to bird. For someone, like me, I was able to hike the "Beaten Path" at least for the first 1/2 mile! Special thanks to Brenda and Jeff Dunham for hosting our visit. The Western Tanager below was found dead along the lake by Trenay Hart and left there to rest in peace.

**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

Aug. 3, 2019	Sat	Shorebirds, Hawks and Prairie Birds	Mike Weber leader. Bring a Sack lunch.
*Aug 16-18, 2019	*Fri-Sun	Bowdoin NWR	*Call Ruth Vanderhorst at 406-245-5118 for information as some sch changes have occurred regarding meeting and accommodations.



Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Birding On

Over the 2019 summer 'break' (June and July) YVAS-ers and friends joined up for some good birding and genuinely fun times...

Bluewater Fish Hatchery and Bridger, MT area. Some good birding, great scenery, and a fine gaggle of people... about 50 bird species seen or heard (including some good ones at feeders at the MT Fish Wildlife & Park (MT FWP) Bluewater Fish Hatchery compound. Special thanks to the two ranches that allowed us to visit their beautiful places.



Break Time at Bluewater Fish Hatchery - Thanks MT FWP! (Steve Regele photos)

Yellowstone River Wildlife Management Area (YR WMA) near Pompey's Pillar. A very fun fine day for all us kids-at-heart that did this walk -about trip -32 bird species (and some other critters) recorded. Thanks again to MT FWP's Megan O'Reilly and Sarah Bean!

Three Billings City Parks walkabout trips took place in July with YVAS-ers, Steve McConnell City Forester with Billings Parks and Recreation and Tom Yelvington and Maggie Joy of Yellowstone Valley Tree Surgeons. Trees, shrubs and birds were the multi focus of these site visits...

Riverfront Park south central Billings. Always a highlight Park with variations of habitats and opportunities - not a lot of bird species were found on our morning there but no disappointment either.

Meadowlark Park Billing Hts. (S Regele photo) Cameron Park West Billings (Dorothy Bartlett Photo)



Two not-to-be forgotten 4-season hidden-in-plain sight natural areas Parks for birding and enjoyment!

Arbor Day May 2019 at Central Park, Billings - Many, many 4th graders and volunteers had a fun day of learning and adventuring thanks to the City of Billings community.



Megan O'Reilly MT FWP, Deb Regele YVAS, and School District Two 4th Grade Class (S Regele photo)

East Rosebud Creek - birding, hiking, scenic and social good time, and over 40 species of birds. (S Regele photos)



Thanks to all the YVAS trip hosts, all the good people that got together to enjoy and share some high quality outdoor time, and to Donn Bartlett (YVAS Bird Trip Chairman) and other YVASers for getting the "acts together"!

Submitted by Steve Regele

At right is a fantastic *photo by Will Crain* during the East Rosebud field trip of his birding pal Brian Henderson behind his scope! Also, below is a photo of a **Warbling Vireo** that Will took during the Birdathon where the Avian Rangers saw 136 species, Brian is on that team with Will, story on pg. 3. Thanks to both of these members for all the input and photos from our trips!



Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society

Annual Report of YVAS Funds

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

	Operating Fund	Aud. Adv. Fund 2/	Osprey Fund	Yellowstone R. Fund	Gen. Proj. Fund*	Twine Re-cyc. Proj.	Endow. Fund	BCF Endow. 1/
Bal. 7-1-18	21,281	2,007	5,848	1,744	11,971	250	0	69,148
Revenue	4,493	64	11,348	0	2,445	35,347	1,000	2,000
Expenses	(3,678)	(2,071)	(6,501)	0	(2,970)	(22,575)	(1,098)	(1,121)
Bal. 6-30-18	22,096	0	10,695	1,744	11,446	13,022	(98)	70,027

TOTAL YVAS FUNDS: 128,932.00

***General Projects Fund includes:**

OSPREY PROJECTS	
Osprey Rescue Fund	\$ 2,695.30
CONSERVATION PROJECTS	
Conservation Grant	475.00
Unspecified Conservation Projects	282.00
Clark's Fork WMA	295.07
SPECIAL PROGRAMS	
Holiday Fundraiser/Other	605.95
Birdathon 2018/2019 - YVAS "party" fund	110.00
EDUCATION	
Rose Sylling Trust	3,139.68
Birdathon 2016 - for Dover Park signs	259.25
Birdathon 2017 - for Dover Park signs	1,085.07
Audubon Adventures Repurposed 2/	1,640.61
M and K Fried Community Education	500.00
Chapter Dinner 1-16-17,1-15&5-21-18	358.00
Nocturnal Bird Call Recording Project	-
TOTAL	\$11,445.93

1/ Revenue represents deposits made by YVAS to the Fund and Expenses represent net changes to the Fund.

2/ Repurposed under General Projects Fund - EDUCATION.

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**

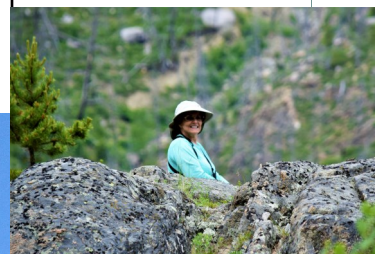
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Killdeer in distraction display to protect her eggs or young. *Photo by Robert Hill* while on the Bluewater Creek trip in June.



At left, **Golden-crowned Kinglet** photo by *Jeff Dunham* during Birdathon. Above, **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** photo by *Dorothy Bartlett* during the Red Lodge field trip. Top right, member Lynda Zirpoli relaxing during lunch on the East Rosebud field trip photo by *Will Crain*. At right, **Orchard Oriole** photo by *Will Crain* during his BBS near Colstrip, MT early in June.

