

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.

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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Programs, 7PM: October, November, and December, 2019

October 21, 2019: Bird Migrations and the Yellowstone River Basin: Join in on a presentation about birds that migrate to and through our region and what that means to the birds, their world and ours. The presentation will include fascinating and educational portraits and insights from a variety of sources. Fall migration in Montana will be well underway and the program will provide these highlights and heighten your anticipation for what is coming our way in the spring!



November 18, 2019: Montana Raptor Center: The Montana Raptor Conservation Center's goal is to educate the public about the importance of raptors in our environment and ways that the public can help raptors survive in today's ever changing ecosystem. Teresa Aldrich, the education specialist at the center, will be bringing some education raptors that live permanently at the center and will be talking about each species in great detail. Teresa has been with the center for about two years but has been working with raptors for 10 years at other raptor centers. <https://montanaraptor.org/>

December 16, 2019: Bob Landis: A Christmas season gift from famed photographer, videographer and story teller Bob Landis! Bob will be showing incomparable scenes and sharing great stories of wildlife, their surroundings and habits. A veteran wildlife filmmaker, he captures outstanding scenes and wild images from Yellowstone National Park, Alaska and elsewhere. His extraordinary work and films are highly valued by such eminent institutions as PBS and National Geographic and viewers like us. You will surely enjoy this special evening with Bob Landis and fellow wildlife admirers.



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, October 14, November 11, December 9, 4:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, October 21, November 18, December 16, 7:00pm: Chapter Meeting



The Board invites everyone for cookies and coffee at 6:30pm prior to the Chapter meetings in Oct. and Nov. **No refreshments for Dec. 16 will be offered.** Please contact Sue Weinreis the Friday prior to the Chapter meeting if you would 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 Directors Highlights September 9, 2019*Submitted by Sue Weinreis*

The Board welcomed Steve McConnell, City Forester from Billings Parks and Recreation, as an observer to the Board meeting.

Deb Regele led the Board in a review of the purpose and function of all current committees and assignments. The Bird Questions assignment has been revised so that any board member may be contacted with questions, and the Membership Committee and the Nomination Committee have been dropped.

Barbara Garrett has very generously donated to YVAS a Bushnell Legend Ultra HD (20 x 60) Spotting Scope and tripod for use on YVAS' birding trips and other projects. Along with the scope, she has donated a pop-up canopy and three stands for displaying posters or photos at YVAS events.

Carolyn Jones is presenting information about osprey for the First and Second graders in the Quest Program for SD2. She will talk about the importance of osprey in our ecosystem, the damage from baling twine and the twine recycling project.

Please note that this October Flyer is combined with the November/December Flyer. Our Editor, Trenay Hart, will be vacationing out of the country and unable to publish YVAS newsletter. The January 2020 Flyer will be published and mailed as usual.

If you have questions about your membership status or the Flyer, contact Peter Cummins at: membership.data@yvaudubon.org. There have been changes to the delivery system of the emailed Flyer for those of you that elected to receive the electronic Flyer. Hopefully the bumps have been worked out but feel free to email if you are experiencing any problems.

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, beconl@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

Deb Regele: 962-3115, debregele@gmail.com

Sue Weinreis: 855-4181, granpeak47@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

Birdathon: Ruth Vanderhorst, erv132@charter.net, 245-5118

Christmas Bird Count: James Court, custertours@gmail.com, 860-0450

Conservation Advisor: Steve Regele, smregele@gmail.com, 962-3115

Facebook: Nancy Wiggins, nwiggins83@gmail.com, 839-4461

Field Trip Chair: Donn Bartlett, donnbartlett@msn.com, 628-5058

Flyer Editor: Trenay Hart, yvasflyer@gmail.com, 860-1175

Injured Raptors: Montana Raptor Conservation Center, 1-406-585-1211

Injured Waterfowl: WJH Bird Resources, wjhbird@yahoo.com, 652-7175

Membership Data Admin: Peter Cummins, membership@yvaudubon.org, 248-8684

Mt Bluebird Habitat Project: Carolyn Jones, carolyn684@gmail.com, 670-4449 & Sue Weinreis, granpeak47@gmail.com, 855-4182

Osprey Nest Monitor Coord: Deb Regele, debregele@gmail.com, 962-3115

Osprey Research Coord: Marco Restani, restani@stcloudstate.edu, 425-2608

Program Committee: Carolyn Jones, carolyn684@gmail.com, 670-4449
Shelia McKay, wjhbird@yahoo.com, 652-7175

Steve Regele, smregele@gmail.com, 962-3115

Marco Restani, restani@stcloudstate.edu, 425-2608

Sue Weinreis, granpeak47@gmail.com, 855-4182

Publicity: Steve Regele, smregele@gmail.com, 962-3115

Recycling (aluminum): Larry Handsaker, 918 Avenue C, Billings, 855-9832

Recycling (baling twine): Deb Regele, debregele@gmail.com, 962-3115

& Doreen Hartman, rdzlhman@bresnan.net, 697-0277

Website: Deb Regele, debregele@gmail.com, 962-3115

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.

Wednesday, September 11 Riverfront Park*Submitted by Mike Weber*

I waited alone in the rain. I was sure was going solo, when a minute past 5 a VW bug pulled up and the occupant identified stated he was here for the bird trip. He told me he was surprised that I even showed and I was equally surprised that anyone showed up. He forgot his raincoat and binoculars but was still eager to go.

We started our walk on the asphalt the first couple hundred yards were quiet with only a Northern Flicker and an Osprey spotted. We turned toward the river and took a winding course to get there while we adhered to the fall birding mantra of "follow the Chickadee." You would think with the rain the birds would be invisible. But the chattering Black-capped Chickadees attracted other migrants. Each flock of Chickadees had a few migrants warblers with them. We observed Wilson Warblers and Orange-crowned Warblers in the willows and cottonwoods near the river. A Russian olive thicket held a mewling Grey Catbird.

Near the river we heard a Killdeer, a Spotted Sandpiper and a mature Bald Eagle winged by. A flock of Ring-billed Gulls loafed at the end of a gravel bar. Here my sodden companion returned, headed home and I trekked on in search of more birds. The walk paid off as I encountered a Yellow-rumped Warbler and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet hanging out with the Chickadees. A handful of American Goldfinches were seen along with a solo Belted Kingfisher. 17 species observed.

Saturday, Sept. 14 Red Lodge Area Hawk Watch*Submitted (with photo) by Marco Restani*

In mid-September six YVAS members settled into their comfy lawn chairs for a taxing day of hawk watching. The sky was mostly clear with temperatures in the 70s and light winds. It was tough duty but the group rose to the occasion and between entertaining stories they stayed focused and counted 84 raptors of 11 species. Not a bad day below the palisades of Meeteetse Trail! The top three species counted were Turkey Vulture (23), Sharp-shinned Hawk (21), and Red-tailed Hawk (17). A Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon regaled us with undulating flight displays as they passed over the cliffs. Other raptors observed included Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, and Merlin. Small groups of White-throated Swifts, Clark's Nutcrackers, and Yellow-rumped Warblers also kept us company throughout the day. We recorded a total of 27 species.



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

Nov. 9, 2019	Sat	Yellowtail Dam Afterbay	Brian Henderson, leader. Bring a Sack lunch.
Dec. 14, 2019	Sat	Christmas Bird Count	Jim Court, leader.
Jan. 1, 2020	Wed	New Year's Day Annual Trip to Yellowtail Dam Afterbay	Yellowtail Dam Afterbay. Brian Henderson, leader. Bring a Sack lunch.

TO ENCOURAGE ADDITIONAL OUTINGS, PLEASE CONTACT DONN BARTLETT AT DONNBARTLETT@MSN.COM OR 406-628-5058. DONN WILL THEN FORWARD THE INFORMATION TO ALL AREA BIRDERS HE HAS ON EMAIL.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT YVAUDUBON.ORG FOR ADDITIONAL SITES IN AND AROUND THE BILLINGS AREA AND CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR INFORMATION.



Osprey Platform*Submitted by Deb Regele*

Osprey Nest Monitors celebrated the migration of adult and fledgling Ospreys with the annual Osprey Migration Picnic. This year the picnic was hosted by Jeanne and Stu Coleman in the beautiful Paradise Valley. As one of my favorite events, it gives us a chance to meet new monitors and reacquaint friendships with others.

Over the last eight years, Marco Restani has banded over 475 nestlings plus one adult. Osprey nest monitors have adjusted, with a little prodding, to be on the watch for banded adults that return each year as well as the success of their assigned nest and its fledglings. YVAS began the project of locating, monitoring and recording data on Osprey nests along the Yellowstone, Stillwater and Big Horn Rivers in 2009. The nest data is shared with the MT Natural Heritage Program and the banding data is recorded with USGS Patuxent.

This was an interesting year for Ospreys and many of the 37 nest monitors as they observed Osprey nests along these rivers. Due to weather, predation, human disturbance and/or other unknown causes, all of the known Osprey nests downstream from Billings failed for the first time since YVAS began monitoring. However, the overall Osprey numbers along the Yellowstone are still good.

If you are interested in becoming an Osprey Nest Monitor, watch for YVAS' March 2020 Flyer with information on the 2020 Osprey Nest Monitoring Program. You do not need to be an expert! This year our monitors ranged in age from 11 to 94. *Photo by Steve Regele*

**Twine Collection & Recycling Site***Submitted by Deb Regele*

The Twine Collection & Recycling Site (TCRS) is winding up its first summer season. It will continue to be open to the public through October as scheduled from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. the second and fourth "Friday/Saturday" of each month until the end of October. (i.e. Sept. 27-28, Oct. 11-12 and Oct. 25-26). Beginning in November, appointments can be made for dropping off twine by calling and leaving a message at 406-591-8606 or emailing yvas.twine.recycle@gmail.com.

Even though the amount of twine collected is modest, it grows a little larger each month. People stopping by, with and without twine, have been interested in learning more about the TCRS and the baling twine recycling project. It was anticipated that it will take roughly a year not only for word to spread about the twine recycling, but for people to adapt to recycling twine.

Currently, arrangements are being made for a large delivery of unwanted twine by the end of October.

Thank you to these volunteer workers who have put in hours at the TCRS this summer: Peter and Helen Cummins, Fran Garnett, Doreen Hartman, Robert Hill, Bob Jones, Scott Montgomery, Pam Pipal, Jim Snyder, Deb and Steve Regele, and Ruth Vanderhorst. Couldn't have done this without you!

Helping to promote the TCRS and public awareness, several volunteers set up tables at various events in our area. Doreen Hartman, Jean Boone and Ruth Vanderhorst worked a table at Tractor Supply Company in the Billings Heights in August. TSC sponsored an equine health informational event and was pleased to have a table on twine recycling.

Jean Boone hosted a table at the Gardeners Market' in South Park once a month this summer. Over the last four summers, Jean and Lisa Bessasparis promoted public awareness to the dangers of twine at the Gardeners Market most every Thursday.

On Sunday, September 29, Pompey's Pillar National Monument will be holding its second Annual Fall Festival. Doreen has reserved a table for this event. The event runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you are interested in helping for even a couple of hours, contact her by email or at 406-697-0277.

Wednesday, October 1, Carolyn Jones will be presenting a table at School District 2's Quest Program. Among the topics, she will be introducing first and second graders to the dangers baling twine presents to Ospreys. **See photo of twine recycled on back page of this Flyer.

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 OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER. 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.



OCTOBER Renewals: Helen & Peter Cummins, Mary Davis, Georgia Frazier, Robert Hill, Robin Manfredi, and Ruth Vanderhorst.

NOVEMBER Renewals: Arleen Boyd, Gordon Cox, Catharine Glennon, Robert & Carolyn Jones, Carl & Virginia Kimmel, and Susan Weinreis.

DECEMBER Renewals: Charles & Candace Allen, Sheila McKay, Nic Vermeulen, Patricia Clayton, Will Crain, Marlene & Robert Cushing, Catherine Frazer, Cecil Gubser, Rita Harding, David & Sandy Kennedy, Carol Mick, Larry Newell, Susan Newell & Dick Walton, Roger Otstot, Barb Pitman, Hoyle & JoAnne Setzer, Claire & Jack Snyder, Fran Garnett & Jim Snyder, Gail Speck, Jack & Carol Sterling, and Michael Szczutkowski.

SEPTEMBER (outstanding) Renewals: Shari & Robert Dayton.

Gyr Falcon Carved Feather

Submitted by Pam Pipal

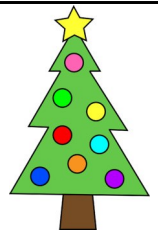
A carved Gyr Falcon Feather enclosed in a glass-covered 8" by 16" frame, donated by Ann Shesne, will be presented at the December Chapter meeting for either silent auction or raffle. This feather is carved from Basswood (wood from a Linden Tree, a popular Billings Parks' tree). The artist, William Rogers.



Jennings, states, "The texture and color are applied with a reostat controlled wood burning tool. There is no paint or stain used in finishing." Ann acquired the Feather after sighting a Gyr Falcon on a tour of the Northwest Territories in 1996. The recipient of the Feather will receive information on this tour.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This years CBC is set for Saturday, December 14. Jim Court, the usual organizer of the event, will be out of town. He has recruited Jerry Dalton to assist him with organizing the count before and during the event. You can still (and should) contact Jim for any questions and sign ups between now and then. Jim Court, custertours@gmail.com, 860-0450 or Jerry Dalton, daltonlj@centurylink.net.



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

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Hooded Crow, photographed in Moscow, Russia by Will Crain on a recent trip he took to there with his daughter.



The photo is of twine beads mailed to YVAS by I-90 Reprocessing. Baling twine is cleaned and melted down. Then it is cooled through a method that results in beads the size of small coffee beans. The beads are shipped to factories that recycle them into outdoor buckets, pots and other containers. Twine is Type 5 plastic or polypropylene (PP). **See the submission on Twine Collection & Recycling Site by Deb Regele on page 4 of this Flyer.