



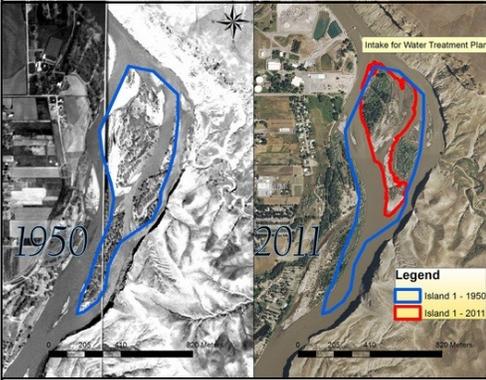
YELLOWSTONE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

- 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 43, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2013



Membership Meeting Monday, October 21, 7:15 YELLOWSTONE RIVER RESEARCH CENTER

The recently established Yellowstone River Research Center (YRRC) is a multidisciplinary research institute composed of geologists, ecologists, wildlife biologists, geographers, and social scientists at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, MT.

The Center is positioned in an area that is a microcosm of the northern Rocky Mountain region, where some of the nation's most pristine environments coincide with ongoing processes of resource extraction, agriculture, industrial activity and increasing human settlement. YRRC's

research programs are designed to deepen understandings of the natural, physical and social processes that shape our region.

Kayhan Ostovar, Past President of YVAS and Professor of Environmental Science at Rocky Mountain College, is the director of YRRC for the 2012-2013 academic year. He will speak about projects undertaken by the Center, many of which include participation with the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society.



Inside this issue:

- Annual Yellowstone River Cleanup
- Using Osprey as Biological Indicators of Ecosystem Integrity
- Yellowstone River Island Mapping Project
- Bioblitz—Pryor Mountains
- Long-term Ecological Monitoring Along the Yellowstone River

For more information visit the YRCC website www.yellowstoneriver.weebly.com.

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, 6:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, October 21, 7:00pm: General Membership Meeting

We will hold a YVAS fundraiser dinner at 5:45, before the membership meeting. Dinner donation: \$6. Jeannette Davis has generously volunteered to host. Please contact her at 656-7618 between October 14 and October 20 to make reservations and tell her what you will bring.



☞ We're on the web! yvaudubon.org

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Cameron Sapp Photo by Paul Ruther/Gazette Staff

WELCOME NEW YVAS BOARD MEMBER

YVAS is pleased to announce that Cameron Sapp has accepted a position on the Board of Directors. As a 2012 graduate of Rocky Mountain College, with degrees in environmental science and environmental management and policy, he was recently named the new Field Director of the Montana Wilderness Association's (MWA) new Billings field office. Cameron is familiar to YVAS members as the Rocky Mountain College YVAS intern in 2012.

A lifelong Billings-area resident, with MWA he will be advocating for the protection of more than 700,000 acres of wildlands in Eastern Montana. He will also be working to engage students in MWA's Prairie Wildlands Campaign, which works to identify and protect thousands of acres of public lands in Eastern Montana with outstanding wilderness values.



YVAS is selling Binocular Straps that feature the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society logo engraved on a genuine leather back patch. These straps can also be used for cameras. They are offered at a very competitive price. The "Made in USA" quality and workmanship is excellent. They are \$20 each and will be available at our Chapter Meetings and Birding Field Trips.

As a reminder, Christmas is just around the corner. Buy 5 Binocular Straps for a special price of \$90. The supply is limited! If you have any questions, call Deb Regele at 962-3115.

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Officers:

President: Steve Regele, 962-3115, sregele@juno.com

Vice-President: open

Secretary: Dorothy Bartlett, 252-0757, dpadanyi@live.com

Treasurer: Deb Regele, 962-3115, dregele@juno.com

Board of Directors:

Donn Bartlett: 252-0757, donnbartlett@msn.com

Shelia McKay: 652-7175, cell 694-7918, wjhbird@yahoo.com

Cameron Sapp: 406-702-1138, csapp@wildmontana.org.

Jeanette Tasey: 669-3169, jtasey@gmail.com

Nancy Wiggins: 651-0218, nwiggin83@gmail.com

Montana's Congressional Delegation:

Sen. Max Baucus: U.S. Senate, Wash. D.C. 20510

website: <http://baucus.senate.gov>

email: max@baucus.senate.gov

Billings: 657-6790 Wash. D.C.: 1-800-332-6160

Sen. Jon Tester: U.S. Senate, Wash. D.C. 20510

website: <http://tester.senate.gov>

email: senator@tester.senate.gov

Billings: 252-0550 Wash. D.C.: 1-866-554-4403

Rep. Steve Daines: U.S. House of Rep. Wash. D.C. 20515

website: www.rdianes.house.gov

email: steve.daines@mail.house.gov

Wash, DC: 202-225-3211

Committees and Special Assignments:

Audubon Adventures.....Jeannette Davis, 656-7618

Bird Questions..... George Mowat, 656-7467 or

Helen Carlson, 248-8684

Christmas Bird Count....., open

Conservation Chair...Steve Regele, 962-3115, sre-

gele@juno.com

Editor.....Nancy Wiggins, 651-0218, nwiggin83@gmail.com

Field Trip Chairs... George and Bernie Mowat, 656-7467,

gmowat@bresnan.net

Hospitality....Phyllis Holt 252-7373, Audrey Jurovich 656-2748

Injured Raptors...Jeanette Tasey 669-3169,jtasey@gmail.com

Membership Secretary.....Joel M. Bowers, 534-3672,

cell: 591-5635, jmba@jmba.com

Program Chair...Shelia McKay, 652-7175, wjhbird@yahoo.com

Recycling (aluminum)...Larry Handsaker, 406-855-9832

Website.... Tom Lyman, Tomglyman@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 6:00pm. Board Meetings are open to the entire membership.
- General Chapter Meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm. All meetings are open to the public.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2



It's hard to believe that **THE CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER** is just two months away! Dorothy Bartlett has been asked to chair the Christmas Dinner Committee again and she will need a lot of help to make it happen. Sheila McKay will chair the auction portion of the program as she did last year.

We will have it in the same location as last year: The Harvest Church in the Heights.

This event is a fundraiser for YVAS. As our primary fundraiser, YVAS would like your help in making this a successful and fun event. We need your donations for the auctions. Because of the logistics and the hard work of collecting and setting up large num-

bers of items, we ask:

- That donations should be new or collectibles and have a minimum value of \$50. Home made food or craft items have a minimum value of \$25. If an item is not sold, it will be returned to the donor.
- Donations could be services of the above minimum value. We all have a lot of "stuff" and maybe a service of some kind would be attractive to purchase.
- Donations must be in hand no later than Saturday November 30. This is the Saturday before the event on Monday December 2nd. Earlier is better, so please call a member of the Board or Sheila or Dorothy to make arrangements for drop off or pick up.

It is important that the auction items be displayed in an attractive way. **We need help from some people who are skilled at this and are willing to help set up. If you have an eye for decorating and presentation, please contact Sheila at wjhbird@yahoo.com or call her at 694-7918.**

The November issue of the flyer will list the projects for which we are raising money. We hope this will generate additional enthusiasm to support YVAS with your dollars.

Most Important of all: Film maker Bob Landis will again narrate his most current videos from Yellowstone National Park. He has been hard at work since we last saw him, shooting exceptional and captivating footage that is not to be missed.

Please contact Sheila or Dorothy to donate an item for the sale or if you are able to help on the committee or on the night of the Fundraiser.

Dorothy Bartlett 252-0757 dpadanyi@live.com Sheila McKay 694-7918 wjhbird@yahoo.com



EVENTS AT THE AUDUBON CONSERVATION EDUCATION CENTER

7026 South Billings Blvd, Billings, MT, 59101

406-294-5099 www.mtacec.org

Fall 2013



October 7 Hands-on Homeschool Science Class 12:30 – 2 PM. Lessons geared to 6 – 12 year olds, \$10/child. Theme this week: Pond Investigations. Call 294 – 5099 to register.

October 11 Nature Night from 6 – 8 PM for 5 – 10 year olds. Cost is \$15/child or \$12/Friends of the Center. Drop your child off for an evening of outdoor adventures with our Teacher Naturalists. Visit www.mtacec.org to register.

October 14 Hands-on Homeschool Science Class 12:30 – 2 PM. Lessons geared to 6 – 12 year olds, \$10/child. Theme this week: Bug Lab. Call 294 – 5099 to register.

October 17 Project WILD Teacher Workshop 8:30 – 4:30 for K – 12th grade teachers, \$10/person. Call 294 – 5099 to register.

October 18 School Break Camp 8:30 – 4:30. For 5 – 10 year olds, \$45/child. Theme is Life on the Frontier: learn about life in Montana in the 1800s, including cultural history and survival skills. Visit www.mtacec.org to register.

October 20 Weekend Wonders Family Program, 1:30 – 3 PM. Open to all ages! Fee is \$2/person or Free for Friends of the Center. Theme this month is Fishing Frenzy. Learn about Montana fish and practice your casting skills in our ponds. Call 294 – 5099 to register.

October 21 Hands-on Homeschool Science Class 12:30 – 2 PM. Lessons geared to 6 – 12 year olds, \$10/child. Theme this week: Cloudy with a Chance of... Call 294 – 5099 to register.

October 28 Hands-on Homeschool Science Class 12:30 – 2 PM. Lessons geared to 6 – 12 year olds, \$10/child. Theme this week: Rotting Logs and Other Unexpected Habitats. Call 294 – 5099 to register.

MONTANA MASTER NATURALIST CLASS

Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2013

Time: 6:30 PM

Venue: Montana Audubon Conservation Education Center, Billings, MT

Montana Master Naturalist class 6:30 - 8:30 PM. A workshop for adults who want to deepen their knowledge of the natural world. Cost is \$250/person for 40 hours of instruction (8 weekly meetings and 3 Saturday field trips). Visit www.mtacec.org or call 294 - 5099 to register.

CONSERVATION CORNER



- LOGGING INDUSTRY LOSES LATEST ATTACK ON THREATENED SEABIRD

September 5, 2013 Washington, D.C.

Marbled murrelets, a unique coastal bird, and their old-growth forest habitat will remain protected. A federal district court today maintained conservation protections for marbled murrelets, a unique coastal bird in the Pacific Northwest. The court rejected the remaining claims in a timber industry lawsuit that sought to expand logging of the seabird's old-growth forest nesting habitat. The lawsuit was the timber industry's fourth attempt in the past decade to eliminate protections for the old-growth forests that marbled murrelets call home, despite undisputed scientific evidence that murrelets are continuing to disappear from the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California.

"It is time for logging interests to move on," said Kristen Boyles, staff attorney with Earthjustice. "Science, law, and public opinion do not support their demand to log the old-growth forests that marbled murrelets call home."

- CONDORS IN TROUBLE Only three years old, the young California Condor's wingspan already stretched more than nine feet. Too young and too imposing to be sprawled dead below a towering pine. It was 1984, and that condor was the first identified avian victim of lead poisoning. It was far from the last.

We've known about lead's toxic nature for decades. We've been fighting to get the lead out for years. And we're still experiencing its insidious effects on wildlife and people. Let's finish this job once and for all! For condors and other raptors, the main source of lead is ammunition from hunters' bullets and shells. When an animal is shot, a pervasive spray of lead particles permeates its tissues. For carrion eaters, a carcass becomes a toxic buffet capable of poisoning scores of scavengers.

Since that heartbreaking day 30 years ago, dozens of other condors have died of lead poisoning—a punishing toll for a bird whose global population stands around 400. Other raptors, like Golden and Bald Eagles, are turning up sick and dead as well. From National Audubon <http://www.audubonaction.org>

NESTING MATERIALS



From the Cornell Lab of Ornithology www.birds.cornell.edu:

⇒ **"New Warbler Guide Practically Sings with Useful Info"**

The Warbler Guide, new this summer from Princeton University Press, raises the bar for what a specialty bird guide can do. It's packed full of information and innovation, including multitudes of photographs, drawings, downloadable Quick Finder guides, and an unprecedented emphasis on understanding songs, calls, and chip notes. Its digital features, including an optional audio guide from our Macaulay Library [featuring all 1,000+ vocalizations used in the text](#), mean that this guide combines the best aspects of the paper and digital formats. We highly recommend it.

⇒ ***It's Late Summer... Where Did All the Birds Go?***

The corn is sweet, the peaches are ripe—there's a lot to like about late summer. But bird walks are a different story. They can go dead quiet this time of year. Most of the birds are still here, they're just not making noise. Explore why, and get an appreciation for the magic of molt, in our recent article.

⇒ ***Learn the Basics of "Seagullese" in Four Minutes***

Even common birds live lives full of mystery. Take gulls: a gull colony is a maelstrom of birds—big, assertive, hungry. How do they keep the peace and raise their young? Like most animals, they communicate with each other via ritualized postures and vocalizations. This video takes you to Appledore Island, Maine, where you can learn to recognize several of the most common calls and poses of Great Black-

(Continued on page 6)

backed Gulls and Herring Gulls. [Watch it!](#)

From the National Audubon Society: Raptor Resources

⇒ As fall migration begins, National Audubon is celebrating raptors across the flyways and highlighting the terrific work happening across the network to protect these majestic birds. As part of that celebration, a collection of great photos has been created for you to use and share. Visit <http://www.audubon.org/raptorslideshow> and choose from a selection of birds of prey photos pre-sized for use on social media including Facebook cover photos, Facebook profile photos and twitter cover photos. There is also downloadable desktop wallpaper and an amazing raptor slide show. Soar with us through September on the wings of raptors!

YVAS FIELD TRIPS IN PHOTOS by George Mowat



A YOUNG AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN
AT BOWDOIN NWR



BALTIMORE ORIOLE AT CHUCK
AND JEAN CARLSON'S HOUSE IN
FT. PECK



TURKEY VULTURES IN MALTA



WOOD DUCK AT LAKE JOSEPHINE IN RIVERFRONT
PARK.

National Audubon Society
 Recruitment Code: C0ZN500Z
 Application for New Membership

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society. I understand that I will receive the Audubon Magazine and Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Flyer. Make check payable to **National Audubon Society**. *Renewals will be sent to you through National Audubon.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

One Year Membership

\$20 One year new membership

Send this application and your check made out to **National Audubon Society** to:

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society
 Attention: Membership Secretary
 P.O. Box 1075
 Billings, MT 59103-1075

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society
 Recruitment Code: C0ZN500Z
 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 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
 Attention: Membership Secretary
 P.O. Box 1075
 Billings, MT 59103-1075



WHOOPS!!

Is it time for you to become a YVAS member or renew your chapter membership?

PLEASE CHECK THE MAILING LABEL ON YOUR FLYER. IF IT SHOWS "YVAS JAN 12" BELOW YOUR NAME, THEN YOU ARE A SUPPORTING CHAPTER MEMBER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED IN JANUARY 2012. IF YOU ARE NOT A SUPPORTING MEMBER OR YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED, HELP US OUT BY JOINING OR RENEWING NOW WITH YOUR CHECK FOR \$20, USING THE FORM ON THE RIGHT. YOUR MEMBERSHIP HELPS FUND THE PUBLICATION OF THE FLYER ALONG WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR CHAPTER.

Membership Information

Although the National Audubon Society gives complimentary membership in our chapter as a benefit, no dues come to us. We strongly encourage you to join YVAS as a Supporting Chapter Member, which is offered for \$20 a year. Use the application form above to join as a Supporting Chapter Member or to renew your Chapter Membership.

1. **Moving???** Let us know as early as possible when you plan to move. The Post Office does charge us a fee for returned flyers. Include your old address as well as your new address so we can track you. You may write, call, or email the information to the Membership Secretary.
2. Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society offers Supporting Chapter student memberships for a reduced rate of \$10 a year. If you applying for a new student membership or are renewing a student membership, make sure you indicate your academic affiliation in your application . Joel Bowers, Membership Secretary



**YELLOWSTONE VALLEY
AUDUBON FLYER**

**Non-Profit Organization
PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BILLINGS, MT
PERMIT NO. 27**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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. FIELD TRIP CHAIRS: George and Bernie Mowat 656-7467

Oct 5	Sat	STILLWATER AND COONEY DAM 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Sack lunch. Deb and Steve Regele, leaders.
Nov 9	Sat	YELLOWTAIL DAM AFTERBAY 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Sack lunch. George Mowat, leader.
Dec 14	Sat	ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	More details will be in the Nov. FLYER.
Jan 1	Wed	NEW YEAR'S FIELD TRIP 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Sack lunch. Yellowtail Dam Afterbay. George Mowat, leader.
Jan 4	Sat	ANNUAL EAGLE MIDWINTER SURVEY in Lower 48 States. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Yellowstone River: Billings to Columbus	Brad Hall or George Mowat, leader. No Host Lunch.

