



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 45, NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2015

YVAS Bird of the Month: Blue Grosbeak



Photo: Brian E. Kushner, All About Birds

A large, vibrantly blue bunting with an enormous silver bill and chestnut wingbars, the male Blue Grosbeak sings a rich, warbling song from trees and roadside wires. *Adapted from All About Birds website.*

This bird is fairly new to the Montana bird list thanks to Stan Heath, an avid birding friend in Red Lodge who discovered breeding pairs south of Bridger a few years ago.

This summer it was first spotted June 29 early in the morning singing high in the top of a Russian Olive tree in the location south of Bridger where Stan had first spotted it.

The Blue Grosbeak habitat is planned for a visit again next year during a YVAS field trip.

We can all look forward to Chapter meetings beginning again in September. Peter Murray, Paradise Valley photographer and Osprey Nest Monitor Extraordinaire will be entertaining us as a guest speaker. More on this in the September Flyer.

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 10, 6:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, September 14, 6:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, September 21, 7:00pm: Chapter Meeting

We will hold a YVAS fundraiser dinner at 5:30, before the Chapter meeting. Dinner donation: \$6. Judy Anderson has generously volunteered to coordinate. Please contact her at 406-248-8927 [before September 14](#) to make reservations and tell her what you will bring.



THIS FLYER IS PUBLISHED ON SFI CERTIFIED PRODUCT

☞ We're on the web! yvaudubon.org

Editor's request: Submissions to the flyer should now be sent to yvasflyer@gmail.com. Any and all submissions to the monthly flyer are encouraged, and will be considered for use in printing. I only request that documents be submitted as a **Word document in Times New Roman font, size 11**, if at all possible. Otherwise a lot of time is spent transcribing your submission into a format I can use in the flyer. Of note, 200 words is about half a page in the flyer, 100 words about a quarter page in the flyer. Keeping things concise is appreciated so we can get as much into the flyer as possible. Lastly, remember to spell and grammar check your documents and your bird species names.

Submitted by Trenay Hart, Editor



Lisa Bessasparis working the Baling Twine Booth at the Gardener's Market, see the article in the Conservation News section of this flyer. *Photo by Jean Boone*

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Officers:

AREA CODE 406

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

Vice-President: open

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

Treasurer: Pam Pipal, 245-4517, ppipal@charter.net

Board of Directors:

Donn Bartlett: 252-0757, donnbartlett@msn.com
 Dorothy Bartlett, 252-0757, dpadanyi@live.com
 Steve Linder: 380-0073, becon1@bresnan.net
 Sheila McKay: 652-7175, cell 694-7918, wjhbird@yahoo.com
 Deb Regele: 962-3115, debregele@gmail.com
 Marco Restani: 425-2608, restani@stcloudstate.edu
 Sue Weinreis: 855-4181, granpeak47@gmail.com
 Nancy Wiggins: 651-0218, nwiggins83@gmail.com

Sen. Steve Daines: U.S. Senate, Wash. D.C. 20510
 website: daines.senate.gov

email: senator@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. Ryan Zinke:

website: zinke.house.gov

email: representative@zinke.house.gov

Billings: 406-702-1182 Wash. D.C.: 202-225-3211

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society

Annual Report of YVAS Funds

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

	Operating Fund	Aud. Adv. Fund	Osprey Fund	Yellowstn River Fund	Gen. Proj. Fund*	Endow. Fund	BCF Endow. Fund
Balance on 7-1-14	14,857	1,167	5,233	1,744	3,811	40,840	0
Revenue	7,223	1,322	430	0	13,103	1,459	41,057
Expenses	(7,205)	(246)	(50)	0	(3,728)	(41,100)	(56)
Balance on 6-30-15	14,875	2,243	5,613	1,744	13,186	1,199	41,001

TOTAL OF ALL YVAS FUNDS: \$79,861.00

*General Projects Fund includes:

Birdathon	\$ 1,940.70
Osprey Rescue Fund	1,427.00
Conservation Grant	1,310.00
Holiday Fundraiser	1,398.18
Program Fund	170.00
Clark's Fork WMA	984.06
Lenox Bird Figurine Sales	956.00
Rose Sylling Trust	5,000.00
TOTAL	13,185.94

NOTE:

A minimum of \$5,000 must remain in the YVAS Savings Account in order to maintain the YVAS Checking Account.

Committees and Special Assignments: AREA CODE 406

Audubon Adventures: Jerry Dalton, daltonlj@centurylink.net

Bird Questions: George Mowat, 656-7467

gmowat@bresnan.net, or Helen Carlson Cummins, 248-8684

Birdathon: Ruth Vanderhorst, 245-5118, acrv@bresnan.net

Christmas Bird Count: Jim Court, 259-5099, C: 860-0450,
custertours@gmail.com

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

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

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

Hospitality: Audrey Jurovich, 656-2748

Injured Raptors: Montana Raptor Conservation Center, 406-585-1211; Raptor Transport Jeanette Tasey 669-3169,
jtasey@gmail.com

Membership Secretary: Joel M. Bowers, 534-3672,
 cell: 591-5635, jmba@jmba.com

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

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

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

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

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.

POMPEY'S PILLAR

YVAS field trip May 23, was a great success, with 12 people and 4 cars. The day was supposed to be cloudy, but turned out to be sunny and nice. Our first stop was at a State Fishing Access on Road 14 out of Worden. We walked around the area for over an hour and had some great birding. Our list included, but was not limited to, Chimney Swift, American Redstart, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Common Yellowthroat. On the way to Pompey's Pillar, in an irrigated field we saw two Wilson's Phalaropes. We had a great walk through Pompey's (with no bugs) and saw Bullock's Oriole, White-throated Swift, Say's Phoebe, Bald Eagles, nesting Osprey, and then enjoyed viewing American Goldfinches during our lunch on the lawn. It was a great morning and great fellowship.

Submitted by Robert Hill

PICTOGRAPH CAVE FIELD TRIP

As birders gathered at the Caves on Tuesday evening, our eyes were directed to a thrilling Prairie Falcon which stood on the high rocks to the south and then soared, eventually quite close to where we stood.

It was warm and sunny as eight birders pursued the few birds who made their presence known at Pictograph Caves on June 2, 2015. Eighteen species were seen by trips end. Some saw as many as three other species on the drive to the caves along Coburn Road. Rock Wrens, a target species at the park, were seen in several spots as were Spotted Towhees, Yellow Warblers, House Wrens, White-throated Swifts and Violet-green Swallows.

Missing from our view were the many Yellow-breasted Chats, Canyon Wrens, Bullock's Orioles and other species typically seen at the park. While numbers have been diminishing over several years, one wonders if this is a trend. The park is open from 9am to 7pm this year. Perhaps if we could have stayed longer more species would have become active.

Submitted by Ruth Vanderhorst

BIRDATHON 2015

The Avian Rangers, led by Mike Weber, won the 2015 Birdathon for the third consecutive year. They counted 120 species of the total 143 seen by all teams. Mike called in such birds as the Sprague's Pipit, not often identified in this area. Other Avian Ranger team members were Will Crain, Robert Hill and Brian Henderson. Congratulations to each of them. Birdseed gifts are being presented to the team members.

This year six teams competed: In addition to the Avian Rangers were the Senior Moments with Ruth Vanderhorst, Jerry Dalton and Pam Pipal; Featherheads with George and Bernie Mowat and Ron Kuhler and his visiting birder parents Loretta and Ron Kuhler, Sr.; Golden Eyes with Carolyn Jones, Sue Weinreis and Sheila McKay; Grousaolics with Jim and Virginia Court, Gail Speck and Doreen Hartman; and Team Borges with Kathy and Elena Borges. Thanks to each for their contributions to YVAS.

Most teams who traveled out beyond Molt were treated to multiple views of Short-eared Owls. One team saw as many as 16 of these thrilling birds. A listing of the species identified will be published on the website. Each team was full of stories of their 24 hours of birding when they gathered for the wrap-up sharing of bird lists and declaration of the winning team. Though very tired each participant seemed full of the day and felt success. Trenay Hart hosted the gathering and offered pizza and soft drinks to the hungry birders. Her good work was very much appreciated by all.

The major purpose in holding a Birdathon is raising funds for Board designated projects and this years projects are to bring to Billings a nationally known bird and birding expert to present a public education program, and to begin a fund to rescue Osprey which become entangled by baling twine which has been incorporated in their nests. A complete report of funds raised is not yet available, pending the arrival of all donations. Preliminary receipts are in the \$2000 range.

Persons who pledged and donated to support the YVAS projects through the Birdathon are much appreciated and we thank you here. You will receive a receipt suitable for tax purposes. Thanks to everyone for all your good work.

Submitted by Ruth Vanderhorst

MONTANA AUDUBON WINGS ACROSS THE BIG SKY

June 5-7. Close to a dozen YVAS members contributed to the 302 attendees to the annual bird festival hosted this year by Last Chance Audubon Society in Helena.. The annual festival is perfect for birding and networking. The banquet and award ceremony was inspirational. Jane Beasley, a 90+ year old won Special Achievement Award for her contributions to the local chapter through the years and she had painted all the center pieces of bird figures for the banquet. The vicinity was excellent for birds not as common in our neck of the woods. Notably: Lewis's Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Northern Waterthrush. The Helena chapter raised \$16,476.86 for MT Audubon. Next year the festival is slated to be in Missoula. Anyone else thinking that Dr. Marco Restani should be nominated for Educator of the Year, finally?

Submitted by Trenay Hart

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CONFERENCE

I was very fortunate to co-lead 3 of the 44 birding tours presented by WFO. My first tour was Norm's Island, Friday 5am. All of the birders were ferried in motor pool vans that fit 12 birders snugly. In spite of the K-9 presence in the park we saw new birds about every minute or less. My co-leaders were the birding experts, and even they didn't need to do much as birds were all around. For the finale I took them to Riverfront Park to catch Ovenbirds, and sure enough the birders were on to them and the American Redstarts.

My second tour was at Two Moon Park, with co-leader none other than Jon Dunn, who turned a rather mediocre birding adventure into a rewarding insight into bird nomenclature between bird sightings by telling us how and why the particular birds we saw are set in the field guides. I must say Jon Dunn, Chief Consultant/Editor for all six editions of the National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, is a pro's pro and a delight to bird alongside.

My Sunday tour was to the Pryor Mountains with Tom Forewood of Bozeman, who put us right on top of the hard to see Mountain Plover. The 12 of us were pretty elated, a life bird for all. Next we drove to Bear Canyon and proceeded to hike to the 'table' with lots of birds and a lizard or two to keep the hike very exciting. As I spoke about the mating of the White-throated Swift as we started up the canyon we were treated to that stunning mid-air copulation.

The final bird count was 188 species from all tours and everyone was very happy. *Submitted by Will Crain*

PRYOR MOUNTAINS

The pretty large flock of 17 birders (a unique subspecies of *Homo sapiens*) that flutter in may have appeared to outnumber the birds! But only to the untrained eye, of course, because the Pryor Mountains and surrounding areas have some unique and varying habitats including some that are critical for sustaining healthy populations of several bird species. We found 72 species (of birds) that day. The first stop was Catbird Heaven, seeming to be scampering everywhere as were Western Wood-Pewee's and House Wren's while Northern Rough-winged Swallows zigzagged overhead. Further on Cottonwoods" housed nesting Bullock's Orioles, Lazuli Bunting, American Goldfinch, Cedar Waxwing and more.

We searched in vain for the Blue Grosbeak. A highlight was a Red-tailed Hawk on a ridge above calling, insisting we look at her nest on the cliff below her perch. (Interesting how she sounded so much like the Eagles and Turkey Vultures you hear on TV.)

Loggerhead Shrikes were active with nestlings further down the road. With all this activity will we ever get to Bear Canyon? We discovered a "crop circle" (pivot irrigation) with Long-billed Curlew's and their smaller and fuzzier young. Next at a pond oasis we had Sage Thrasher, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Pied-billed Grebe, female Hooded Merganser and the highlight a BAT flying around catching insects at high noon.

Mountain Plover! 2 pair. Finally, on to Bear Canyon different habitat, different birds: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, Townsends Solitaire, Rock and House Wrens, Spotted and Green-tailed Towhee, Cassin's Finch, Chipping Sparrow (with a nest of tiny blue eggs), White-throated Swift, Violet-green Swallow, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Warbling Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat and the list goes on...And if you decide to just sit and rest at the beginning of the trail, like Helen and Bernie, some Common Ravens may stop by to keep you company. And, YES, bears do poop in Bear Canyon! We saw the scat.

Henderson

Submitted by Brian

MONTANA AUDUBON CENTER 7026 South Billings Blvd, Billings, MT

education@mtaudubon.org

Calendar of Events

www.mtacec.org

- Every Sunday, 2 – 4 pm - **Weekend Wonders**. Open to all ages, explore and discover! Stop in at the Center to get your supplies or challenge for the day. No registration required. \$2 fee to cover equipment use or free for *Friends of the Center*.
- August 8 and 22 – **Restoration Volunteer Saturdays**. Drop in anytime between 9 am and 12 pm. There will be a variety of physical and nonphysical activities, focusing on planting seedlings, mulching, and monitoring and pulling weeds. Please bring a pair of work gloves and wear sturdy shoes. Questions? Contact restoration@mtaudubon.org
- August 8, 6 – 8 pm – **Nighthawk Adventure**. Join us at the Center for a nature-filled evening and then an amazing snack. Fee is \$5/person or free for *Friends of the Center*.
- August 21, 6 – 9 pm – **Nature Night**. Drop your child off (ages 4 – 12) for an evening of outdoor adventures with our Naturalists, while you enjoy a child-free evening. Cost is \$22/child or \$20 for *Friends of the Center*.
- September 18, 5:30 pm -- **Evening Under the Big Sky**. Our annual fundraising event to be held at the Yellowstone Country Club. Live music from the Peach Pickers, fine dining, silent and live auctions. More information www.mtacec.org or call to buy tickets starting August 1 at 249-5099.

Osprey Update Twenty-five Osprey nest monitors watched and recorded data at just over one hundred Osprey nesting sites this year. Fifty-seven sites had an incubating pair of Ospreys this spring, however, not all incubating pairs were successful at producing fledglings. As of July 16, as I am writing this article, forty-two nests are still considered active. This summer brought large hail, heavy rains and strong winds that caused some nests to fail. Other causes for failure were entanglement in baling twine, predation by owls, the mysterious disappearance of adult birds, human activity that got too close to a nest and young adults not having the experience to care for their eggs and nestlings. Despite the loss of some eggs and nestlings, Osprey numbers are still healthy along the Yellowstone River.

The first part of August, most of the young Ospreys along the Yellowstone River and its drainages will be on the verge of fledging. If you haven't had a chance to watch these nestlings walking around their nest flapping and exercising their wings as they prepare for their first flight, you are missing a very entertaining event! *Submitted by Deb Regele*

Osprey Baling Twine Committee Update The Baling Twine Committee has been busy this summer. Jean Boone and I set up the booth every Thursday at the Gardener's Market in South Park from 4:40pm -6:30 pm. We spend the evening enjoying our time talking to the public about the dangers of baling twine in Osprey nests, our monitoring activities, and trying to get folks interested in YVAS. Kids enjoy getting a "birdie" coloring page and stickers. We've also raised little over \$100 to date for the Osprey Rescue Fund from sales of donations of hand-crafted, knitted toys. Jean would love to host this educational booth at other markets in our area and would greatly appreciate volunteers. We would also appreciate any donated crafts that we can sell. All proceeds will go to the Osprey Rescue Fund. Feel free to stop by the market and visit with us.

One of the committee's main goals for this summer is to start baling twine collection around Billings. Eventually the twine will be hauled off to Minnesota for recycling. As of now, PAYS (Public Auction Yards) has agreed to host a large construction dumpster, or something of the sort, for holding twine. Western Ranch Supply downtown has also offered to help us. They'll be the first baling twine collection site in Billings! People can throw their twine into the barrel and we will collect it. For this, we have 55 gallon poly drums, donated by Pacific Recycling, with an YVAS logo and "Baling Twine Recycling" sticker. Hanser's has graciously donated an old semi-trailer to us for housing our collected twine and for storing other donated barrels or wheeled garbage bins. We're still working on getting donations of wheeled garbage bins and a large dumpster. Hopefully, by next summer we'll have a good network of collection points around town and a few surrounding communities.

If you would like to volunteer time at the markets, please contact Jean at jeanlboone@gmail.com. If you would like to donate crafts or anything else, please contact Lisa at OspreyBTC@gmail.com. Thanks to everyone's kind words and support for the work we've been doing.

Submitted by Lisa Bessasparis, Osprey BTC Chairperson

Standardized 4- and 6-letter Bird Species Codes

With a fascination for codes I carry from childhood, I was delighted to learn of the standardized alphabetic (alpha) bird species codes. Even better, I thought I might already be using a few with my own field trip shorthand for a bird species seen, e.g., RWBB for Red-winged Blackbird. That is not the right code for Red-winged Blackbird, it's RWBL. It turns out that there are rules for forming the alpha codes.

Here's a little background: Standardized alpha codes are used by ornithologists as a form of shorthand of English or scientific bird names. The U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) has long used the alpha codes in banding data. In 2003 the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) began developing a new set of 4-letter (for English common names) and 6-letter (for scientific names) species alpha codes to reflect current American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) taxonomy and nomenclature in their AOU species check-list and annual supplements. The IBP now updates their list of codes annually using the AOU annual supplements.

For information about these codes: If you know the general rules for forming the alpha codes you can often figure out which bird is being referenced in a document without looking at the alpha code list. For rules for forming BBL codes go to: infohost.nmt.edu/~shipman/z/nom/bblrules.

To get a list of the codes themselves, go to: birdpop.org/pages/birdSpeciesCodes.php and click on the type of list you want from a selection in the upper right-hand corner of the site page, e.g. 'Alphabetically by English Name', or 'In Taxonomic Order.'

Submitted by Pam Pipal

CLOSE LISTENING ON NPR*Submitted from All About Birds, website*

For seven weeks, beginning July 30, [NPR's Morning Edition](#) will be running a series of reports produced in collaboration with the Cornell Lab. Called "Close Listening: Decoding Nature Through Sound", presentations introduce us to a small group of scientists who have pioneered ways to tune in to the chatter going on all around us. These researchers had the imagination to listen where others heard nothing, and to invent technology to hear the unheard. We join them in the field and in the lab. We hear what they hear. And learn how sound sustains the very existence of life on this planet.

THE SAGEBRUSH SEA~FULL EPISODE PBS NATURE SPECIAL

It's been called The Big Empty – an immense sea of sagebrush that once stretched 500,000 square miles across North America, exasperating thousands of westward-bound travelers as an endless place through which they had to pass to reach their destinations. Yet it's far from empty, as those who look closely will discover. In this ecosystem anchored by the sage, eagles and antelope, badgers and lizards, rabbits, wrens, owls, prairie dogs, songbirds, hawks and migrating birds of all description make their homes. pbs.org/wnet/nature/sagebrush-sea-full-episode/12341/

COMING IN SEPTEMBER Jerry Dalton will have new information and the schedule for the **JOURNAL CLUB**. If you have questions sooner than that announcement, please email Jerry at: daltonlj@centurylink.net

The Creative Corner

At the request and submissions by YVAS members we are encouraging a little creativity and art to be submitted to the Flyer. When space allows we will try and include some interesting pieces. See the website for full color photos.

Wild Geese

Poem by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.
 You do not have to walk on your knees
 for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
 You only have to let the soft animal of your body
 love what it loves.
 Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
 Meanwhile the world goes on.
 Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
 are moving across the landscapes,
 over the prairies and the deep trees,
 the mountains and the rivers.
 Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
 are heading home again.
 Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
 the world offers itself to your imagination,
 calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting-
 over and over announcing your place
 in the family of things.

Submitted by Jim Sells

Canada Geese

Photos by Peter Murray



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 July and 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 Membership Secretary Joel M. Bowers at 534-3672 or jmba@jmba.com, with any questions.

JULY

Jim & Virginia Court
Donna Lance
Robert Hill
Burton Williams

AUGUST

Donn & Dorothy Bartlett
Rick & Starr Stevens
Elizabeth Estee

YVAS WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO THE SOCIETY:

Susan Brandt and John Wright

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 (electronically). 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
P.O. Box 1075
Billings, MT 59103-1075

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





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AUDUBON FLYER**

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Billings, MT 59103-1075

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Lake Basin Field Trip. Short-eared Owl.

Photo by Will Crain

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

Aug 8	Sat	SHOREBIRDS, HAWKS & PRAIRIE BIRDS. 8am.	Our destination is Lake Mason, 8 miles NW of Roundup, MT. For those who live West of Billings and typically meet us in Molt or the Lake Basin Area, note we will be departing for Lake Mason from the Rocky Mountain College Parking Lot at 8am and will not be traveling West. Lake Mason has good water and ample shorebird and prairie habitat this year. Sack lunch, Mike Weber, leader.
Aug 21-23	Fri-Sun	BOWDOIN NWR	Observe migrating birds including warblers and shorebirds in Northwestern MT. Ruth Vanderhorst, leader. Call Ruth at 406-245-5118 for information. Make your own reservations for two nights at Malta Motel in Malta (406-654-2610).
Sept 3	Thur	FALL MIGRANTS. Meet at Riverfront Park, S Billings Blvd. 1 st parking area on the right. 5pm.	Mike Weber, leader.
Sept 19	Sat	PRYOR MOUNTAINS. 7am.	Meet at 7am at Rocky Mountain College for carpooling, or Bridger Rest Stop at 8am. Sack lunch, Ruth Vanderhorst & Stan Heath, leaders.
Oct 3	Sat	STILLWATER RIVER AND COONEY DAM. 8am to 6pm.	Sack lunch, Deb & Steve Regele, leaders
Nov 7	Sat	YELLOWTAIL DAM AFTERBAY. 8am to 6pm.	Sack lunch, George Mowat, leader

