

*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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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

### **November Chapter Meeting Featured Speaker: Gary Swant, THE Montana Big Year Record Holder**

As of 2007, no one in Montana had seen over 300 species of birds in a single year. No one until Gary Swant, that is...

Previously, 296 species in one year had been reached and Gary observed 281 in 2006. He thought that he could break the 300 bird barrier with an organized and well planned approach. He admits he could not have achieved his goal without the help of many folks on MOB, and the many emails and phone calls he received about birds not already on his list. July 6, 2007 he reached his goal of 300 species with the addition of the Black Swift. He went on and completed his Big Montana Year with the final tally of 329 species. No one has yet to break his record while several other birders have reached 300 species in a single year.



His goal was accomplished by birding more than 150 days and driving 24,000 miles.

Gary taught biology and field ecology at Powell County High School in Deer Lodge, MT for 25 years. His education includes a MS in Field Ecology and Education from the University of Montana.

Upon retirement, Gary and his wife Laura Lee founded GoBirdMontana LLC. Through this company Gary leads field trips, guides clients, and has done research on birds for Montana FWP, DEQ, Morrison/Maierle Engineering and ARCO/BP through Pioneer Technical Services.

Gary and his wife have birded in 18 countries and he is nearing his goal of seeing 25% of the world's birds or 2,575 species.

*Photo courtesy of Gary Swant*

## **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, November 9, 6:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting**

**Monday, November 16, 7:00pm: Chapter Meeting**

**We will hold a YVAS fundraiser dinner at 5:30, before the Chapter meeting. Dinner donation: \$6. Ruth Vanderhorst has generously volunteered to coordinate. Please contact her at 406-245-5118 [before Friday, Nov. 13](#) to make reservations and your dish contribution.**



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**☞ We're on the web! [yvaudubon.org](http://yvaudubon.org)**

**YVAS Website Updates and Reminders**

For those that would like to use PayPal for YVAS memberships, YVAS renewals or YVAS donations, that option is now available on the YVAS website ([www.yvaudubon.org](http://www.yvaudubon.org)). The PayPal button can be found on the **YVAS Membership** page and the **Support Us** page. Both of these can be found under the **Membership** menu on the Home Page.

While it is very seldom that changes are made to YVAS field trips, meetings or other functions, events beyond our control do occur. Please be sure to visit the YVAS website for updates and last minute changes to field trips and programs.

Did you know that past issues of The Flyer are also available on the YVAS website? These issues go back to 2012.

The website is always in need of bird photos from members or friends of members. Email any you would like to share to Deb Regele at [debregele@gmail.com](mailto:debregele@gmail.com).

Fall Can Drive

**REMINDER:** Larry Handsaker will be at the November Chapter meeting again to pick up any aluminum cans that you would like to Recycle. Proceeds from the YVAS Recycling go to Audubon Adventures. Cans otherwise can be dropped off at Helen Carlson or Larry's house. Questions: call Larry at 406-855-9832

**YVAS CONSERVATION GRANT** YVAS offers an annual Conservation Grant of up to \$1000 to fund a Montana educational institution, group, individual or individuals, engaged in some project which supports the YVAS mission "To promote enjoyment and protection of the natural environment through education, activism and conservation of bird habitat." Applications will be accepted year-round until February 1 of each year. The Grant Committee will review the grant applications and present the top candidates to the YVAS Board of Directors at its March Board meeting for voting and approval. Any applications received after February 1 will be eligible for the award pool the following year. For more information and to obtain an application form, visit YVAS website [yvaudubon.org](http://yvaudubon.org) or contact Steve Regele 406-962-3115, [sregele@juno.com](mailto:sregele@juno.com) or Marco Restani 406-425-2608, [restani@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:restani@stcloudstate.edu).

**Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Officers:****AREA CODE 406**

**President:** Steve Regele, 962-3115, [sregele@juno.com](mailto:sregele@juno.com)

**Vice-President:** open

**Secretary:** Doreen Hartman, 697-0277, [rdzlhman@bresnan.net](mailto:rdzlhman@bresnan.net)

**Treasurer:** Pam Pipal, 245-4517, [ppipal@charter.net](mailto:ppipal@charter.net)

**Board of Directors:**

Donn Bartlett: 252-0757, [donnbartlett@msn.com](mailto:donnbartlett@msn.com)  
 Dorothy Bartlett, 252-0757, [dpadanyi@live.com](mailto:dpadanyi@live.com)  
 Steve Linder: 380-0073, [becon1@bresnan.net](mailto:becon1@bresnan.net)  
 Sheila McKay: 652-7175, cell 694-7918, [wjhbird@yahoo.com](mailto:wjhbird@yahoo.com)  
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 Nancy Wiggins: 651-0218, [nwiggins83@gmail.com](mailto:nwiggins83@gmail.com)

**Montana's Congressional Delegation:**

**Sen. Steve Daines:** U.S. Senate, Wash. D.C. 20510  
 website: [daines.senate.gov](http://daines.senate.gov)

email: [senator@daines.senate.gov](mailto: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](http://tester.senate.gov)

email: [senator@tester.senate.gov](mailto:senator@tester.senate.gov)

Billings: 406-252-0550 Wash. D.C.: 202-224-2644

**Rep. Ryan Zinke:**

website: [zinke.house.gov](http://zinke.house.gov)

email [representative@zinke.house.gov](mailto:representative@zinke.house.gov)

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

**Committees and Special Assignments:: AREA CODE 406**

Audubon Adventures: Jerry Dalton, [daltonlj@centurylink.net](mailto:daltonlj@centurylink.net)  
 Bird Questions: George Mowat, 656-7467 [gmowat@bresnan.net](mailto:gmowat@bresnan.net)  
 or Helen Carlson Cummins, 248-8684

Birdathon: Ruth Vanderhorst, 245-5118, [acr@bresnan.net](mailto:acr@bresnan.net)

Christmas Bird Count: Jim Court, 259-5099, C: 860-0450,  
[custertours@gmail.com](mailto:custertours@gmail.com)

Conservation Advisor: Steve Regele, 962-3115,  
[sregele@juno.com](mailto:sregele@juno.com)

Discussion Group: [daltonlj@centurylink.net](mailto:daltonlj@centurylink.net)

Editor: Trenay Hart, 860-1175, [yvasflyer@gmail.com](mailto:yvasflyer@gmail.com)

Field Trip Chair: Donn Bartlett, 252-0757, [donnbartlett@msn.com](mailto: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](mailto:jtasey@gmail.com)

Membership Secretary: Joel M. Bowers, 534-3672,  
 cell: 591-5635, [jmba@jmmba.com](mailto:jmba@jmmba.com)

Osprey Project: Deb Regele, 962-3115, [debregele@gmail.com](mailto:debregele@gmail.com)

Baling Twine Project: Lisa Bessasparis,  
[ospreybtc@gmail.com](mailto:ospreybtc@gmail.com)

Publicity: Dorothy Bartlett, 252-0757, [dpadanyi@live.com](mailto:dpadanyi@live.com)

Program Chair: Sheila McKay, 652-7175,  
[wjhbird@yahoo.com](mailto:wjhbird@yahoo.com)

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

Website: Deb Regele, 962-3115, [debregele@gmail.com](mailto: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 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.



**BIRDING BOWDOIN, NELSON RESERVOIR AND ZORTMAN AUGUST 21 – 23** *Submitted by Lois Gorseth*

Nine enthusiastic birders left for Bowdoin Friday Morning and enjoyed Red-tailed Hawks, Swainson’s Hawks, Ferruginous Hawks, and American Kestrels all along the highway to Malta.

Upon arriving Bowdoin, we found the ponds full of water and full of Waterfowl. It was a warm and pleasant day as we spent the afternoon touring at the Refuge. We saw the usual Ducks and Geese along with lots of Black-necked Stilts, White-faced Ibis, Double-crested Cormorants, and the beautiful White Pelicans.

Saturday we woke up to a cool front with a couple hours of rain and a wind that continued for the day. However, we were able to travel to Nelson’s Reservoir and observe the shorebirds eating insects along the shore in the rain! Some of the shorebirds included Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Baird’s Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, and Long-billed Dowitchers. We went back to Bowdoin for the afternoon to tour the Refuge again.

Sunday we were at Zortman Camp Ground by 8:30 a.m. to enjoy a beautiful morning scoping out the birds. Cedar Waxwings were plentiful. We also identified a Spotted Towhee, American Redstart, Western Tanager, Ruby- and Golden-crowned Kinglets, to name a few. Don was looking for the American Redstart, and a Great Horned Owl flew right in front of him!

Many thanks to Ruth and Brian for their great leadership, which led us to about 115 species over the weekend!!!!!!

**STILLWATER RIVER AND COONEY DAM** October 3

*Trip leader, Steve Regele*

Five birders in two cars braved relentless rain for this field trip. The rain prevented the trip to go past Cooney Dam as well as rumors of George Mowat getting his car stuck in the mud! However, they did see some waterfowl on the Dam. And proved the tenacity of the YVAS birders.

**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 252-0757, donnbartlett@msn.com

Nov 7	Sat	<b>YELLOWTAIL DAM AFTERBAY.</b> 8am to 6pm.	Sack lunch, George Mowat, leader
Dec 19	Sat	<b>ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT</b>	Contact Jim Court, leader, at <a href="mailto:custertours@gmail.com">custertours@gmail.com</a>
Jan 1, 2016	Fri	<b>NEW YEAR’S DAY YELLOWTAIL DAM AFTERBAY.</b> 8am to 6pm.	Sack lunch, George Mowat, leader
Jan 9	Sat	<b>ANNUAL EAGLE MID-WINTER SURVEY IN LOWER 48 STATES.</b> 8am to 5pm.	Yellowstone River, Billings to Columbus. No host lunch, George Mowat, leader



CFWMA work day: Steve Linder and Steve Regele hard at work. See the full article in the Conservation News, photos by Deb Regele.

**Christmas Potluck December 14 at the Mayflower Church, doors open 5:30PM, dinner at 6:00PM**

Please join YVAS for our annual Christmas Potluck. It is a fun time to get to know new members and visit with friends.

If you are willing to bring a turkey, ham or other meat or vegetarian main dish, please contact Dorothy at [dpadanyi@live.com](mailto:dpadanyi@live.com) or 252-0757 **before Thanksgiving**.

Otherwise, please bring a side dish, **enough for 8**, as follows:

**A – I** dessert

**J– R** salad, cranberries, or other cold fruit or relish, rolls or bread

**S – Z** side dish of potatoes, dressing, pasta, vegetable or other hot side dish

We will have the tables set, a festive environment and program ready to welcome you! We need to know how many to prepare for, so please email **reservations** by December 10<sup>th</sup> to [dpadanyi@live.com](mailto:dpadanyi@live.com) or call 406-252-0757. This is a fundraiser for YVAS with a \$6 donation to participate.

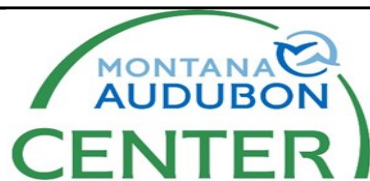
*Submitted by Dorothy Bartlett*

**YVAS study group looks at “Drone effects on wildlife”**

*Submitted by Jerry Dalton*

The YVAS study group topic for November will be “Drone effects on wildlife.” We will meet Thursday, November 19, 7:00-9:00pm, at Dalton’s home, 2255 Darcy Lane. For reading material, a selection of articles will be emailed to those interested.

We need more people to join us. If you have a conservation related topic you would like to know more about, please suggest the topic and join us for reading and discussion. We’re likely to take it up. Also, we have really good cookies! Contact Jerry Dalton, 656-3656, [daltonlj@centurylink.net](mailto:daltonlj@centurylink.net) with your email address or topic if you would like to join in.

**December 19, 2014 Christmas Bird Count** Please contact James Court at 406-259-5099 or [custertours@gmail.com](mailto:custertours@gmail.com)

7026 South Billings Blvd, Billings, MT 59101

[www.mtaudubon.org](http://www.mtaudubon.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*.
- Nov 14, 6-8 pm—**Nighthawks Family Program**. Join us at the Center for a nature-filled evening and a tasty snack on the theme of nocturnal eye adaptations. Fee is \$5/person or free for *Friends of the Center*.
- Nov 20, 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*.
- Nov 25 & 27, 8:30am-4:30pm—**Break Camp**. A day off from school is a day to explore the great outdoors! Ages 4 – 13. Cost is \$45/day or \$40 for *Friends of the Center*. Registration required.
- School year—**Fledglings Nature Preschool**. Limited space available. Monday – Wednesday – Friday, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm. Ages 3 – 5. Cost \$260/month (some scholarships available).
- Dec 12, 6-8 pm—**Nighthawks Family Program**. Details above; the theme is dinosaurs of Montana.
- Dec 18, 6-9 pm—**Nature Night**.
- Dec 19, 9am-12noon—**Holiday Ornament Family Program**.

For more information: [www.mtaudubon.org/education](http://www.mtaudubon.org/education) or call 294-5099.

### **Work has Begun at the Clark's Fork Waterfowl Production Area**

The first phase to improve the footpath leading into the Clark's Fork Waterfowl Production Area has been completed. On September 30, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) laid the foundation of large rock and gravel through this swampy area. Two culverts were installed under the rock foundation to allow for the flow of water. After the base layer has a chance to settle for a few months, the USFWS will return and fine tune the footpath with the gravel mix YVAS and USFWS were able to purchase and stockpile with their donations and those from Bank of Bridger and Town and Country Supply Association.

Though it was very short notice, YVAS members Steve Linder and June Bailey, Steve and Deb Regele were able to help out along with Shane Wiegand and Paul Santavy of the USFWS out of the Jordan area office. A special acknowledgement goes out to Will Crain who forgot his rubber boots.

Be sure to check out the article in the 2015 October Flyer for additional information on this important waterfowl and bird use area under the management of USFWS. If you would like further information, contact Steve Regele at [sregele@juno.com](mailto:sregele@juno.com) or 406-962-3115. (See photos on page 3)

*Submitted by Steve Regele*

The YVAS Chapter Program Presentation by Dr. Jeff Morisette at the October 19, 2015 Monthly Meeting was excellent. Dr. Morisette is currently the Director of the Department Of Interior US Geological Survey's (USGS) North Central Climate Science Center, Denver Colorado.

His presentation included an overview of the *North Central Climate Science Center and his Department's work on effects of climate and climate change on living things and ecosystems.*

Some of the documents and other sources of information mentioned or summarized by Dr. Morisette in his presentation can be viewed and further studied at the following web sites and on the YVAS website (Publications Menu):

USGS North Central Climate Science Center (e.g. "News" Tab, "Search" Icon): <https://www.doi.gov/csc/northcentral>  
National Climate Assessment ("Summarizes the impacts of climate change on the United States, now and in the future"): <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>

The National Audubon Birds and Climate Change Report ("314 Species on the Brink"): <http://climate.audubon.org/SnapshotWisconsin> (A.K.A. Wildlife Watch— "an effort to monitor forest wildlife year-around across a network of trail cameras"): <http://www.snapshotwisconsin.org/>

National Aeronautics and Space Administration NOAA Climate Science Web Site ("Science and information for a climate-smart nation"): <https://www.climate.gov/>

National Aeronautics and Space Administration NOAA list of various links to great NOAA climate change informational web sites): <https://search.yahoo.com/search?fr=mcafee&type=C211US0D20131204&p=NOAA+Climate+Change>

US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Climate Hubs ("Click on the region to learn more about the USDA Climate Hub in your area" ... factsheets, resources, etc.): <http://climatehubs.ocs.usda.gov/>

*Submitted by Steve Regele*

**The LWCF Needs Your Help** A few weeks ago, Congress allowed the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to expire, following 50 years of success in Montana and nationwide. YVAS consider this among the more vital programs and issues. The LWCF, which takes a portion of federal royalties from offshore oil drilling and uses them for matching grants for acquisition of wildlife habitat, recreation and access, expired at the end of September. The LWCF has funded more than \$400 million in projects in Montana and \$15 billion in projects nationwide.

Critically what the LWCF does is preserve our public access to our public lands and adds intrinsic meaning to that overworked line "Montana, the Last Best Place!". No other state benefits from the LWCF fund like Montana. Over the years, the fund has accrued about \$36 billion and under the law is supposed to provide \$900 million each year in funding to purchase land, water and public access. However the money accrued has never stayed in the Fund itself. Congress continually raids it for other government spending. Simply said LWCF means a lot to Montana and to their credit, our Senators support the Fund. Senator Tester to his continuing credit has introduced Senate Bill 338 that would permanently authorize the fund.

What needs done? YVAS always has been concerned about critical environmental issues: The LWCF is the most critical funding mechanism to our way of life and keeps our public lands public. Let both Senator Tester and Senator Daines know that you appreciate their unity on this issue. This Congress certainly needs our attention and our undivided attention should focus on keeping the LWCF solvent now and forever. Don't even think that there is an alternative. Call Sen. Tester at 202-224-2644; Sen. Daines at 202-224-2652 and Rep. Zinke at 202-225-3211 and ask for their continued support of the LWCF and Senator Tester's Bill 338.

*Submitted by Robert Lubbers*



**Calling All Artists***Submitted by Doreen Hartman*

Baling twine is great for baling hay, but not so great for anything else. Ospreys pick up carelessly discarded twine and incorporate it into their nests, where it becomes a hazard. Once an Osprey is entangled in baling twine, it will die without human intervention. They suffer slow, painful deaths from infection, starvation, and hanging. Baling twine also entangles other birds, wildlife, and livestock.

The Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society (YVAS) is working to decrease the mortality rate of Ospreys trapped in baling twine. You can help get the word out by creating something / anything out of baling twine which makes a statement about the negative effects baling twine has on Ospreys and other wildlife. Think out of the box – knit, crochet, stiffen, flatten, macramé, sculpture, photography, papier-mâché, etc. – do something creative with it! Selected creations will be featured at the Sandstone Gallery, 2d Avenue North and 30<sup>th</sup> Street – Downtown Billings, during the upcoming Holiday Artwalk – Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, courtesy of Gallery Artist William Crain.

Need baling twine? Contact Lisa Bessasparis (email: [OspreyBTC@gmail.com](mailto:OspreyBTC@gmail.com), phone: (406) 698- 9405). Lisa needs the artwork no later than Monday, November 23, 2015.

The next **Bailing Twine Committee Meeting** is planned for Sunday, November 8, 6:00PM at Jean Boone's house. Email Jean at [jeanboone@gmail.com](mailto:jeanboone@gmail.com) for directions.

**Colors to Wear While Bird Watching**

In deciding what to wear while birding, first consider that birds are believed to see more colors than we do and to see them in greater intensity. While the human eyes' photoreceptors consist of short, middle and long cones, birds have all of those plus an ultra-violet (UV) cone. With the UV cone they see colors more vividly, especially when hit by UV rays from the sun (think here of the gorget of the hummingbird). With that in mind, bright or neon colors should be avoided. **White especially** should be avoided, the color many birds are accustomed to seeing as a danger alert (think of the Northern Flicker's white rump as the bird flies away).

Second consider the habitat you'll be birding in. The best advice is to wear colors that blend in with your habitat. This will usually be camouflage or subdued shades of green, brown, and gray. One exception has been noted in some literature in regard to wearing a small patch of red. A bit of red can attract some species. Another exception would be if you are birding in a garden environment, e.g. especially for hummingbirds, where bright colors such as orange, red and yellow would be in order. And an exception to avoiding white would be in a snowy landscape, where white could be appropriate.

*Submitted by Pam Pipal***THOUGHTS ON FALL MIGRATION***Submitted by Robert Hill*

I read, with interest, in the October 2015 Flyer Deb Regele's article on experiencing fall migrations. Trenay Hart asked for contributions to the Flyer so I put some of my experiences with this year's fall migration together. Labor Day weekend I attended a festival in Ennis, MT and had an afternoon to partake in some birding. My time was spent along the east side and south end of Ennis Lake. I observed over 250 Sandhill Cranes, 1000 American Coots bunched together on the lake avoiding the likes of being dinner for the two mature and one immature Bald Eagles in the vicinity. Osprey, Trumpeter Swans, and American White Pelicans were also seen.

I returned to Ennis the last week of September retracing the same path I had earlier in the month. I saw only 50 Sandhill Cranes, large numbers of American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Greater Scaup, and Ruddy Ducks. Western and Eared Grebes and Common Loons were among the varied waterfowl. What lacked were perching birds around the area.

To end my reflections, arriving back home in Billings, I saw 100+ gulls fly over my backyard. Recognizing it's not too late to get in on the fall migration.

**Montana Audubon Wildlife Grants Available-Apply Today!** Are you working on a project benefiting nongame wildlife? Montana Audubon is offering small grants (\$500 max/\$1,600 total) for wildlife research and education projects through our Audubon Wildlife Fund of Montana endowment. Funds can be used for mileage, equipment, printing, and communications. Visit [mtaudubon.org/about/wildlife-grants/](http://mtaudubon.org/about/wildlife-grants/) by December 11, grants announced February 1, 2016.

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 November and 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 Membership Secretary Joel M. Bowers at 534-3672 or [jmba@jmba.com](mailto:jmba@jmba.com), with any questions.



**NOVEMBER renewal:** Mr. &Ms. Charles Carlson, Ms. Arleen Boyd, Mary Davis McLane, Karen Honkomp, Charlotte Doney, Susan Weinreis, Arthur Lamey, Retha Merritt, and Linda Lee Hickey.

**DECEMBER renewal:** Nancy Coleman, Marlene & Robert Cushing, Ken Groves, Georgia Frazier, Mrs. Jean Gubser, Mrs. Phyllis Holt, Ronald J. Kuhler Jr., Bob Landis, Stephen Linder, Gail McGlothlin, Jean McKeown, Cindy Meccage, Kristin Neva, Roger Otstot, Norm Schoenthal, Jack & Carol Sterling, and Juliana Hicks Thigpen.

**YVAS would like to Welcome new and renewing Members to the Society:** Michael Griffin



A long time member of YVAS passed away October 4, 2015, **Roger Wayne Clawson**, he was 73. Roger was an educated and well traveled man. His life's work was in journalism. Many knew him for his controversial coverage of environmental issues during his career at the Billings Gazette. He won the prestigious Alicia Patterson award in Journalism for coverage of coal development in eastern Montana with a friend. He formed his own publishing company, The Prose Works, where he wrote and published a textbook of Montana history as well as other books on local natural history. Roger was also an adopted member of the Crow tribe who helped care for him to the end. Thank you to Shari Pyke for submitting this memorial and recognizing his family asks that any donations be given to the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society.

**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



**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**

Trumpeter Swan giving cygnet the message to leave...*Submitted by Peter Murray* photo taken in Yellowstone National Park this year.



**YEAR END DONATIONS**

YVAS depends on the generosity of our members to keep our totally volunteer organization functioning. There is a list of Board Members and Committee Chairs on the inside cover of our Flyer, any of whom are happy to talk to you about some of the projects we are involved with. Two examples are the Osprey Monitoring Project and the Trail Improvement at the Clarks Fork Waterfowl Production Area.

Please consider donating to YVAS. Send a donation to YVAS before December 31<sup>st</sup> and take advantage of our not for profit status for tax purposes. On [yvaudubon.org](http://yvaudubon.org), go to the Membership Tab, then to Support Us to use PayPal for your donation. Or you can mail a check to PO Box 1075, Billings, Mt., 59103-1075. If you like, you can specify which project you would like to support.

Investigate the benefits of donating to the YVAS Endowment Fund, managed by the Billings Community Foundation, which allows Montana donors to take advantage of the Montana Endowment Tax Credit. This credit offers Montana taxpayers a dollar-for-dollar reduction in taxes owed in the year the gift was given. Contact board member Steve Linder ([becon1@bresnan.net](mailto:becon1@bresnan.net) or 380-0073) or Donn Bartlett ([donnbartlett@msn.com](mailto:donnbartlett@msn.com) or 252-0757) for more information.

Your generous donation will go directly toward supporting the YVAS 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”***



**YVAS Bird of the Month:**

**American Golden-Plover**

A large shorebird of pastures, open ground, and mudflats, this bird makes one of the longest migratory journeys of any shorebird. Breeding on the Arctic tundra of AK and Canada, wintering in the grasslands of central and southern South America. *Adapted from All About Birds, photo AAB website*

This fall four birds were spotted on their way south at Halfbreed Lake NWR on the south western lake by Mike Weber and fellow birders October 11. Mike graciously guided folks to the site where he had seen the birds 20 years previously. *Submitted by Trenay Hart*