



# 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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## September 17, 2018 Chapter Meeting 7PM Nocturnal Flight Calls

Many of us have had the experience of stepping into the dark of night during migration and hearing the calls of birds as they pass overhead. Some of these calls are easy, like a flock of honking geese. But the vast majority of calls, especially those of songbirds are very difficult to determine to species by ear.

I first learned of people recording the calls of birds a number of years ago while reading the book, *Migration Journeys*. Two years ago while viewing the film *The Messenger*, the film demonstrated birders recording NFC's. That piqued my interest once again and with the support of YVAS, William Crain, Jacob Meisner and I developed a proposal and went before the board and we were awarded a grant to purchase equipment to start the recording project.

During the development of the proposal, board member Marco Restani introduced us to MPG Ranch. MPG Ranch is a private conservation organization in the Bitterroot Valley of Montana.

When I reached out to MPG ranch they eagerly partnered with YVAS to help us get the project off the ground and have supported us ever since. MPG Ranch has already completed several years of test research projects of recording and analyzing NFC's and continues to do research with over 50 recording stations. Currently YVAS has one recording station at my home in Billings.

On September 17th YVAS Chapter Meeting: MPG Ranch biologists, and William Crain and Mike Weber will give a presentation on NFC's research findings from the Bitterroot Valley and Billings Montana. We will discuss its merits scientifically and to bird conservation in general as well as how birders and citizen scientists may find interest in NFCs in their own backyard.

*Submitted with photos by Mike Weber. Left: bucket microphone mounted on Mike's rooftop in Billings. Right: Mike Weber, nice shirt!*



## 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.**

**Friday, September 14, 4:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting**

**Monday, September 17, 7:00pm: Chapter Meeting**



**We will hold a YVAS fundraiser dinner at 5:30, before the Chapter meeting. Dinner donation: \$6. Sue Weinreis has generously volunteered to coordinate a NO host potluck. Please contact her at 855-4181 [before Friday, Sept. 14](https://www.facebook.com/Yellowstone-Valley-Audubon-Society-504343829741848/) to make reservations and your dish contribution.**

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

**And Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/Yellowstone-Valley-Audubon-Society-504343829741848/>**

The updates from the August Board meeting will be included with the highlights from the September Board meeting.

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 SEPTEMBER. 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](mailto:membership.data@yvaudubon.org) with any questions.



**AUGUST Remaining renewals:** Donn & Dorothy Bartlett, Darlene Ellis, Rick & Starr Stevens, Micah Umphry.

**SEPTEMBER Renewals:** Jan & Tom Shandera, Ann V. Shesne, Nic Vermeulen, Ross & Ginny Wapples, Lisa & Mikaela Bessaspris.

Please don't forget to bring your aluminum cans in for recycling. The first Chapter meeting is a fine place to bring that bag of cans out of the garage. Larry Handsaker, 855-9832 would be glad to collect them from you at that meeting. Give him a call ahead of time and he will be sure to get them from you at the meeting.

Also, Sue Weinreis will be looking for Potluck volunteers for the year. Please consider hosting a YVAS fundraiser dinner or call her at 855-4181.

### Who do you call when you find an INJURED bird?

**Injured Birds:** Details at [yvaudubon.org](http://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](mailto:smregele@gmail.com)  
**Vice-President:** Steve Linder, 380-0073, [becon1@bresnan.net](mailto:becon1@bresnan.net)  
**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: 628-5058, [donnbartlett@msn.com](mailto:donnbartlett@msn.com)  
 Dorothy Bartlett: 628-5058, [dpadanyi@live.com](mailto:dpadanyi@live.com)  
 Carolyn Jones: 670-4449, [carolyn684@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn684@gmail.com)  
 Sheila McKay: 652-7175, cell 694-7918, [wjhbird@yahoo.com](mailto:wjhbird@yahoo.com)  
 Marco Restani: 425-2608, [restani@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:restani@stcloudstate.edu)  
 Deb Regele: 962-3115, [debregele@gmail.com](mailto:debregele@gmail.com)  
 Sue Weinreis: 855-4181, [granpeak47@gmail.com](mailto:granpeak47@gmail.com)  
 Nancy Wiggins: 839-4461, [nwiggins83@gmail.com](mailto:nwiggins83@gmail.com)

#### Montana's Congressional Delegation:

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

Audubon Adventures: Jerry Dalton, [daltonlj@centurylink.net](mailto:daltonlj@centurylink.net)  
 Baling Twine Project: Deb Regele, [debregele@gmail.com](mailto:debregele@gmail.com)  
 Bird Questions: George Mowat, 656-7467 [gbmowat@gmail.com](mailto:gbmowat@gmail.com)  
 or Helen Carlson Cummins, 248-8684  
 Birdathon: Ruth Vanderhorst, 245-5118, [erv132@charter.net](mailto:erv132@charter.net)  
 Christmas Bird Count: Jim Court, 259-5099, C: 860-0450,  
[custertours@gmail.com](mailto:custertours@gmail.com)  
 Conservation Advisor: Steve Regele, 962-3115,  
[smregele@gmail.com](mailto:smregele@gmail.com)  
 Data Base Administrator: Peter Cummins,  
[membership.data@yvaudubon.org](mailto:membership.data@yvaudubon.org)  
 Facebook: Nancy Wiggins, 839-4461, [nwiggins83@gmail.com](mailto:nwiggins83@gmail.com)  
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 Field Trip Chair: Donn Bartlett, 628-5058, [donnbartlett@msn.com](mailto:donnbartlett@msn.com)  
 Membership Committee Chair: Dorothy Bartlett, 628-5058,  
[dpadanyi@live.com](mailto:dpadanyi@live.com)  
 Osprey Project: Deb Regele, 962-3115, [debregele@gmail.com](mailto:debregele@gmail.com)  
 Publicity: contact any Board Member  
 Program Committee: Steve Regele, 962-3115, [smregele@gmail.com](mailto:smregele@gmail.com)  
 Nancy Wiggins, 839-4461, [nwiggins83@gmail.com](mailto:nwiggins83@gmail.com),  
 Sheila McKay, 652-7175, [wjhbird@yahoo.com](mailto:wjhbird@yahoo.com)  
 Recycling (aluminum): Larry Handsaker, 855-9832,  
 918 AVE C, Billings  
 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 Friday of each month at 4:00pm. Board Meetings are open to all members.  
 • General Chapter Meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm. All meetings are open to the public.

**Saturday, August 4, Shorebirds, Hawks and Prairie Birds***Submitted by Trenay Hart*

Sixty-six species were observed by 15 birders on this outing to Molt, Wheat Basin, Big Lake and the Eastlick Road. (Note to the Eastlick Rd. A Prairie Toad migration was occurring exactly as we were driving the road. From above the erratic driving must have been quite amusing as everyone was trying to avoid running over a toad.)

Mike Weber lead a fantastic birding field trip with his shorebird expertise. It was a day for shorebirds. Big Lake remains full of water this summer and the shores are gleaming with bird life and we hit it at a good time for some migrant birds! Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Marbled Godwit, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper and Baird's Sandpiper were amazing highlights for most of us along. Life birds were dingy! We had the pleasure of scoping these birds from 20-25 feet off the road in the western mudflats of Big Lake's inlet. We had among these rarities, Killdeer, American Avocet, Wilson's Snipe, Red-necked and Wilson's Phalarope. And that was just the shorebirds.

Sora and American Coots were seen. Waterfowl galore: Canada Goose, Gadwall, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, and Ruddy Ducks. Many had broods of young. Many of us had not seen the adorable American Avocet young prior to this trip.

Raptors were observed. Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk at its nest with fledglings about, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon and American Kestrel. Burrowing Owl with 5 young lined up out of its burrow. And a few Turkey Vultures soared high in the sky.

Dan Casey was along and helped with the sparrow ID. We saw Chestnut-collared Longspur, Chipping Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Lark Bunting and Savannah Sparrow. Horned Lark's were ever present. Many of these birds were flocked together and 1st year plumage seen in the young. Some challenging to determine. Oh yeah, a House Sparrow or 200 were seen.

Common Raven's rolled out to fulfill the Corvids, Cliff and Barn made up the swallow end. Eastern and Western Bluebirds delighted. Lazuli Buntings and American Goldfinches charmed the crowd.

Pied-billed Grebe and Eared Grebe (with young on their backs) awed viewers, Double-crested Cormorant and American White Pelican displayed flight that strike envy in all of us. Blackbirds and Flycatchers were seen, too. I suggest you don't miss this trip next year, especially if there is as much water as this year! Thanks, Mike for leading us. *Photo at right: Prairie Toad by Kathy Williams.*



## 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

**9/5/2018 Wed Fall Migrants** Mike Weber, leader. Meet at Riverfront Park, S. Billings Blvd. 1st parking lot on the right at 5:00 p.m.

**9/8/2018 Sat Bridger Creek** Stan Heath, leader. Sack Lunch.

**9/15/2018 Sat Pryor Mountains** Ruth Vanderhorst and Stan Heath leaders. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Rocky for car-pooling or at 8:00 a.m. at the Bridger Rest Area. Sack lunch. 1

**1/10/2018 Sat Yellowtail Dam Afterbay** Brian Henderson, leader. Sack lunch.

**December TBD Christmas Bird Count** Jim Court, leader

YVAS Vice-President Steve Linder reported in mid-August some information regarding Sharp-shinned Hawks residing in a friend of his backyard here in Billings. The friend got this photograph of one of the birds that was unafraid of people as the person got within 2 feet of the bird to get this picture at right. They report, no "tweedy" birds on their feeds this summer as a result of the hawks breeding in their yard.



**Your Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society**

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society (YVAS) began in April of 1953 and then as now, we are a membership-driven organization and our accomplishments are the result of volunteers. YVAS has no paid staff and no ‘overhead’ business expenses. We do however finance some important and valuable projects. Every dollar YVAS takes in goes directly to such work. The Board of Directors continues to be a good steward of the YVAS Mission and fiduciary responsibility.

Successful and ongoing projects include:

- Presentations by exceptionally qualified and talented speakers about birds and conservation
- Birding trips free to the public to great areas and with great birders
- Bird data contributions to Cornell Lab of Ornithology, MT Fish Wildlife & Parks, MT Natural Heritage Program, etc.
- Osprey monitoring and rescue
- Assistance to aspiring birders and conservationists
- Injured raptor assistance
- Publication of the our newsletter (The Flyer), web site and Facebook page
- Recycling
- Creation and placing of bird and habitat information signs at parks and other public places
- Blue Bird nesting box maintenance and installations
- YVAS members and officers routinely contribute productively to Mission-related work including collaborative efforts with other NGO’s, government agencies, academia, private land owners and companies, and citizens
- Public lands trail and weed control work
- Maps and other assistance to those seeking bird information and birding hot spots
- Reporting information pertinent to the YVAS Mission through public and commercial media

None of this happens without you and your support. Please enjoy and participate as fully as possible in your YVAS.

For example, from September through May YVAS organizes monthly presentations that are enjoyable, informative and first-rate. Please encourage friends and family to attend. We can accommodate a large and diverse audience with quality entertainment and information.

YVAS projects are only possible with your donation of time and dollars. Thanks for choosing to be a supporting member in YVAS. Those of you that have a gratis membership in YVAS via your National Audubon Society (NAS) membership please consider becoming a supporting member of YVAS.

As we begin our 2018-2019 event year we are especially reaching out to the regional community and NAS members for new supporting members in YVAS and participation in the Mission. See <http://www.yvauudubon.org/> or “The Flyer” for membership applications and related information. Please help achieve this goal to increase participation in YVAS and in bringing in new YVAS supporting members.

Thanks to all for contributing time, talent and support to YVAS, our projects and activities. *Submitted by Steve Regele*

**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 Society

## Annual Report of YVAS Funds

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

NEW!

	Operating Fund	Aud. Adv. Fund	Osprey Fund	Yellowstone River Fund	Gen. Proj. Fund*	Twine Recyc. Proj.	Endow. Fund	BCF Endow. Fund 1/
Balance on 7-1-17	20,559	1,788	7,111	1,744	12,345	0	92	63,296
Revenue	5,158	219	500	0	735	250	1,298	2,389
Expenses	(4,436)	0	(1,763)	0	(1,109)	0	(1,390)	3,463
Balance on 6-30-18	21,281	2,007	5,848	1,744	11,971	250	0	69,148

TOTAL OF ALL YVAS FUNDS:      \$ 112,249.00

**\*General Projects Fund includes:**

<b>OSPREY PROJECTS</b>	
Osprey Rescue Fund	\$ 2,695.30
<b>CONSERVATION PROJECTS</b>	
Conservation Grant	380.00
Unspecified Conservation Projects	282.00
Clark's Fork WMA	295.07
<b>SPECIAL PROGRAMS</b>	
Holiday Fundraiser/Other	1,248.15
Birdathon 2018 - YVAS "party" fund	85.00
<b>EDUCATION</b>	
Rose Sylling Trust	3,352.18
Birdathon 2016 - for Dover Park signs	1,690.00
Birdathon 2017 - for Dover Park signs	1,085.07
M and K Fried Community Education	500.00
Chapter Dinner 1-16-17,1-15&5-21-18	358.00
Nocturnal Bird Call Recording Project	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 11,970.77</b>

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

Above YVAS Annual Report for 2017-18 was submitted by Treasurer Pam Pipal. Thanks, Pam for all you do for YVAS!



**YELLOWSTONE VALLEY  
AUDUBON FLYER**

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

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Above: Birding group at Big Lake, *photo by Robert Hill.*

Photo at right of a Ferruginous Hawk by Kathy Williams, the photo was taken during the Big Lake field trip. Unfortunately, not only Osprey's like bailing twine. The photo below is by Will Crain, also from the Big Lake field trip. It is a spectacular photo and one for the YVAS calendar! Thank you Yellow-headed Blackbirds and your fledglings.



*© Kathy Williams*

