



*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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APRIL 2020

### YVAS Public Program Series News

Given the continuing and durable concerns and realities of Coronavirus/Covid 19, the YVAS Public Program for April is cancelled.

Keep an eye on the YVAS Web Site (<https://yvaudubon.org/>), Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/yvaudubon/>), and watch for news in the May Flyer as to whether or not the YVAS Public Program Series will pick up again in May.

YVAS news and updates about bird trips and other YVAS activities will also be posted as noted above.

The Billings Gazette and other conventional YVAS media contacts will occasionally report on YVAS Programs and events as well.

The YVAS Board of Directors appreciates your understanding about these decisions, your focus on staying healthy, and dedication to keeping others healthy too.

Don't let the Coronavirus or social distancing keep you indoors all the time! We encourage you to get outside, enjoy some birding and other outdoor activities and exercise.

Steve Regele  
Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, president

### 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, April 13, 4:00pm: Board of Directors Meeting**

**Monday, April 20, 7:00pm: YVAS Public Program Series**



The Board invites everyone for cookies and coffee at 6:30pm prior to the Public Program. Please contact Sue Weinreis @ 855-4181 [the Friday prior to the Public Program](#) if you would like to contribute cookies or bars.

**THIS FLYER IS PUBLISHED ON Sustainable Forestry Initiative SFI.org CERTIFIED PRODUCT**

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

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

**YVAS Board of Directors Highlights March 9, 2020***Submitted by Sue Weinreis*

- Jim and Nancy Wiggins visited in Billings in early March. While here, Jim and Nancy's brother Tom sanded and oiled the twelve bluebird boxes along the Bluebird Trail in Phipps Park. Bluebird Nest Box Monitors, Sue Weinreis and Carolyn Jones are very grateful for this assistance.
- The young people at Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch are raising pheasants, partridge and quail. YVAS Board Member Sheila McKay of WJH Bird Resources is advising them.
- YVAS will again sponsor an educational booth for 4<sup>th</sup> graders on Arbor Day at North Park on Thursday, May 7th. The children will learn about environment-related issues related to trees, parks, birds, flowers, pollinators, and more. The public is invited to attend the Official Arbor Day Ceremony at 12:15 pm.
- The April 21 YVAS public program has been canceled. A decision on the May 19th public program will be made later. As of today, no scheduled bird trips have been canceled. A decision will be made on a case-by-case basis.

**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: 812-1008, [donnbartlett@msn.com](mailto:donnbartlett@msn.com)  
 Dorothy Bartlett: 812-1008, [dpadanyi@live.com](mailto:dpadanyi@live.com)  
 Carolyn Jones: 670-4449, [carolyn684@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn684@gmail.com)  
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 Sue Weinreis: 855-4181, [granpeak47@gmail.com](mailto:granpeak47@gmail.com)

**Montana's Congressional Delegation:**

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

Birdathon: Ruth Vanderhorst, [erv132@charter.net](mailto:erv132@charter.net), 245-5118  
 Christmas Bird Count: James Court, [custertours@gmail.com](mailto:custertours@gmail.com), 860-0450  
 Conservation Advisor: Steve Regele, [smregele@gmail.com](mailto:smregele@gmail.com), 962-3115  
 Facebook: Nancy Wiggins, [nwiggins83@gmail.com](mailto:nwiggins83@gmail.com), 839-4461  
 Field Trip Chair: Donn Bartlett, [donnbartlett@msn.com](mailto:donnbartlett@msn.com), 812-1008  
 Flyer Editor: Trenay Hart, [yvasflyer@gmail.com](mailto:yvasflyer@gmail.com), 860-1175  
 Injured Raptors: Montana Raptor Conservation Center, 1-406-585-1211  
 Injured Waterfowl: WJH Bird Resources, [wjhbird@yahoo.com](mailto:wjhbird@yahoo.com), 652-7175  
 Membership Data Admin: Peter Cummins, [membership.data@yvaudubon.org](mailto:membership.data@yvaudubon.org), 248-8684  
 Mt Bluebird Habitat Project: Carolyn Jones, [carolyn684@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn684@gmail.com), 670-4449 & Sue Weinreis, [granpeak47@gmail.com](mailto:granpeak47@gmail.com), 855-4181  
 Osprey Nest Monitor Coord: Deb Regele, [debregele@gmail.com](mailto:debregele@gmail.com), 962-3115  
 Osprey Research Coord: Marco Restani, [restani@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:restani@stcloudstate.edu), 425-2608  
 Public Program Series: Steve Regele, [smregele@gmail.com](mailto:smregele@gmail.com), 962-3115  
 Publicity: Steve Regele, [smregele@gmail.com](mailto:smregele@gmail.com), 962-3115; Nancy Wiggins, [nwiggins83@gmail.com](mailto:nwiggins83@gmail.com)  
 Recycling (aluminum): Larry Handsaker, 918 Avenue C, Billings, 855-9832  
 Recycling (baling twine): Deb Regele, [debregele@gmail.com](mailto:debregele@gmail.com), 962-3115 & Doreen Hartman, [rdzlhman@bresnan.net](mailto:rdzlhman@bresnan.net), 697-0277  
 Website: Deb Regele, [debregele@gmail.com](mailto:debregele@gmail.com), 962-3115

**Board meetings and Public Program Series** are held September through May at Mayflower Congregational Church, corner of Poly and Rehberg, Billings, MT:

- Board Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 4:00pm. Board Meetings are open to all members.
- YVAS Public Programs are held the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm. All meetings and programs are open to the public.

There were no Field Trip Reports available at the time of the Flyer publishing. No official Field Trips are planned for

**Hope this finds all of you well and taking the necessary precautions to cope with this pandemic. In keeping with the Governor's edicts YVAS has found it necessary to suspend all group activities for the foreseeable future. This of course would include our birding field trips.**

**\*\*To that end we are suspending our April trip to Exxon Ponds on Saturday, April 25th. Likely we will all so be suspending our May trips but have yet to make that decision so please watch for the Flyer, our website-[YVAudubon.org](http://YVAudubon.org)-and/or future birding field trip emails for updates.**

Donn Bartlett can be contacted via [donnbartlett@msn.com](mailto:donnbartlett@msn.com) or 406-812-1008 for any questions.

## 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 812-1008, [donnbartlett@msn.com](mailto:donnbartlett@msn.com)

May 2, 2020	Sat.	Riverfront Park. S Billings Blvd; 1st parking area on the right.	Sue Weinreis leader. 8:00 AM to Noon. FAMILY ORIENTED OUTGOING.
May 10, 2020	Sun.	Pryor Mountains, Bear Canyon Birding/Hiking.	Trenay Hart, leader. Meet at Rocky at 6:00 AM or at Lions Park in Bridger at 7:30 AM to hike into Bear Canyon. Bring a Sack Lunch.
May 14, 2020	Thurs	Riverfront Park, S. Billings Blvd.;	Mike Weber, leader. Meet at River- front Park at 5:30 PM (parking area on the right near the covered picnic facility).
May 16, 2020	Sat.	Lake Basin	Mike Weber, leader. Bring a Sack Lunch.
May 23, 2020	Sat.	Bridger Creek	Stan Heath, leader. Meet at Itch-Kep- Pe Park in Columbus at 8:00 AM. Bring a Sack Lunch
May 24, 2020	Sun.	Gritty Stone Fishing Access Site, Pompey's Pillar.	Robert Hill, leader. Bring a Sack Lunch.
May 26, 2020	Tues.	Stillwater River and Woodbine Ar- ea.	Ruth Vanderhorst, leader. 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Meet at Rocky Mountain Col- lege before 7:00 AM. Bring a Sack Lunch.
May 30 & 31, 2020	Sat. & Sun.	Birdathon	Contact Ruth Vanderhorst 406-245- 5118.



### Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society and Amazon Smile

If you make Amazon purchases through Amazon Smile, and designate Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society as your chosen charitable organization recipient you will contribute 0.5% of each purchase to the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society! There is no cost to you and YVAS benefits directly from Amazon's generosity!

It is really simple:

#### Here's how to shop AmazonSmile:

1. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
2. Sign in with your regular Amazon.com credentials
3. Select your charity - Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society. Choose Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society as the charitable organization to receive donations, or in the search box type in Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society
4. Start shopping!
5. Add a bookmark for [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile

You do not need to have an Amazon Prime membership. Amazon does not charge any administrative fees or take any deduction from the donation amount, and there is no cost to YVAS (or you) to participate. 100% of the Amazon Smile contributions will be deposited in the YVAS bank account and distributed by the Board of Directors to YVAS projects and Programs:

#### Programs and Projects

- Presentations by exceptionally qualified and talented speakers about birds and conservation, free to the public
- Birding trips (also free to the public) to choice areas and with proficient birders
- Bird data contributions to Cornell Lab of Ornithology, MT Fish Wildlife & Parks, MT Natural Heritage Program, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, etc.
- Osprey monitoring and rescue
- Recycling - baling twine <http://yvaudubon.org/osprey-monitor-project/>
- Assistance and grants to aspiring birders and conservationists
- Injured raptor transport assistance
- Publication of the our newsletter (The Flyer), web site and Facebook page
- Creating and placing bird and habitat information signs at parks and other public places
- Blue bird nesting box monitoring, maintenance and installations
- YVAS members and officers 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 Supporting Members. Please help by maintaining your YVAS membership and by bringing in new members. See <http://www.yvaudubon.org/> for membership applications and more information.**

#### Osprey Platform

*Submitted by Deb Regele*

**CANCELLED** - The Osprey Orientation Program at Livingston-Park County Public Library on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, has been cancelled due to the COVID-19. It will not be rescheduled. To inquire about Osprey nest monitoring or if you have questions, contact Deb Regele at 406-962-3115 or [debregele@gmail.com](mailto:debregele@gmail.com).

The Twine Collection & Recycling Site (TCRS) will be gearing up for its second year of collecting clean unwanted twine. Unless the COVID-19 Federal and State health guidelines recommend otherwise, it is tentatively scheduled to open May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Please watch the YVAS website and Facebook for updates.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the TCRS, contact Deb Regele or Doreen Hartman at [rdzlh-man@bresnan.net](mailto:rdzlh-man@bresnan.net).

Additional information on the Osprey Nest Monitoring and the TCRS can be found on the YVAS website under Projects.

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 APRIL. 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.



**APRIL Renewals:** Angus & Margie Fulton, Gordon & Susan Hills, Judi Knapp, Judy Weddel, and Kristie Decker.

**MARCH (outstanding) Renewals:** Carole W Baumann, Gwen Emmerson, Steven D. Evans, Jim & Peggy Good, Lois Gorseth, Claudia Janecek, Audrey Jurovich, Robert Mackin, and Joan McKeown.

**As the result of a recent Microsoft update,** I lost about half of my list of email addresses of those I send field trip information. If you have not been receiving the information, please send me an email and I will add you to the list. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused you. -Donn Bartlett [DonnBartlett@msn.com](mailto:DonnBartlett@msn.com)

### YVAS Board Members Volunteer in Yellowstone National Park

*Submitted by Sue Weinreis*

When YVAS Board President Steve Regele announced the opportunity to assist Yellowstone National Park biologists with several Citizen Science Projects this summer, YVAS Board members Carolyn Jones and Sue Weinreis were all over it!

Carolyn was accepted as a volunteer in the Yellowstone Phenology Project. In collaboration with NEON (National Ecological Observatory Institute), she will help collect essential data to help park scientists and managers better understand how the Yellowstone ecosystem is responding to changing environmental conditions. Carolyn will be using pit-fall traps to collect predacious Carabid beetles, making plant phenology observations, and recording data.

Sue is a volunteer in the Yellowstone Red-tailed Hawk Nest Monitoring Project, which requires hiking into the back-country to observe the nests and to record data. She will also be monitoring the swans' nests at Swan Lake Flats. Swans nests have not been successful here the past few years, due to pressure from "loving" tourists. Part of the Sue's work will be to educate park visitors about swans and help them view swans with a scope.

Will Crane submitted this link to The New York Times article on "Why Birds are the World's Best Engineers."

[https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/science/why-birds-are-the-worlds-best-engineers.html?te=1&nl=morning-brief-ing&emc=edit\\_NN\\_p\\_20200317&section=whatElse&campaign\\_id=9&instance\\_id=16834&segment\\_id=22302&user\\_id=bb3c64a87d8853748c25e9824bcae66a&regi\\_id=107904586ion=whatElse#commentsContainer](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/science/why-birds-are-the-worlds-best-engineers.html?te=1&nl=morning-brief-ing&emc=edit_NN_p_20200317&section=whatElse&campaign_id=9&instance_id=16834&segment_id=22302&user_id=bb3c64a87d8853748c25e9824bcae66a&regi_id=107904586ion=whatElse#commentsContainer)

### Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Application for New & Renewal Membership

Please enroll me as a supporting member of Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society. I understand I will be supporting local Chapter activities and receiving the local newsletter. I will enjoy full family Chapter benefits. Make check payable to **Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society** for \$25. If applying for a new or renewing student membership, make check for \$15 and indicate academic affiliation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to receive the Flyer electronically?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Send this application and your check to:  
Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1075

Billings, MT 59103-1075

PayPal option is also available for renewing or joining YVAS. It can be found on the YVAS Website under Memberships.







**YELLOWSTONE VALLEY  
AUDUBON FLYER**

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**YVAS Bird of the Month**

**Short-eared Owl**

This beautiful photograph might have been shared a few years ago in the Flyer, however it is worthy of reprinting. Will Crane took it near Molt, MT.

This open-country hunter is widely distributed in the world and is seen frequently in daylight. They reside year-round in Montana.

Normally reluctant to leave the nest, females that are forced to flush will defecate on her eggs to serve as a repellent to predators.

*Adapted from All About Birds by  
Trenay Hart, Photo by Will Crain.*

