

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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FOR THE BIRDS BY BOB LANDIS

Bob Landis, renowned videographer created a special presentation of his adventures filming birds, wildlife and landscapes with Yellowstone Valley Audubon in mind. The documentary is filmed largely in Yellowstone National Park. To view "For the Birds" and for more information about Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, visit <https://yvaudubon.org/>

For more information about Bob and his work visit <https://trailwoodfilms.com/about-2/>



Great Ideas For Birding In The New Year

❖ **Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks "The Outside Is in Us All"**

"Start Your New Year Off Right With A First Day Hike At A Montana State Park" <http://bit.ly/2X01Ccw>
If you miss the ranger-led hike on January 1, find a Montana State Park near you and go winter birding!

❖ **National Audubon YouTube series: I Saw a Bird**

Episode 15, a look back at the best of previous episodes. Episode 15 includes an interview with Dr. Jane Goodall, a clip on the feeding habits of the Great Horned Owl, a short video "To Feed or Not to Feed Birds," ID that bird, and much more! Then extend the fun for days by binge-watching the complete Episodes 1 – 14!

Continue the recap of 2020, with a short video entitled "Top Wins for Birds in 2020" on YouTube. <https://youtu.be/i7zD89CLPqw>

(Continued on page 2)



WE ARE ON THE WEB [YVAUDUBON.ORG](https://yvaudubon.org)

❖ Southwest Wings Wild And Wonderful Speakers Series

Each live online presentation is FREE and begins at 11 AM Arizona time (MDT year-round).

To register for the live version, see a full list of future talks at <https://www.swwings.org/online-speakers>. A recorded version of the last talk will be available for several weeks afterwards on the Southwest Wings website. All of the earlier talks are available on the Southwest Wings YouTube Channel.

Upcoming Online Speaker Talks)

- January 27, 2021: *Northern Jaguar Project: Protecting The World's Northernmost Jaguars* - Diane Hadley
- February 24: *Bluebirds, Robins And Thrushes* - Kathe Anderson
- March 24: *Twelve New Clouds* - Glenn Minuth
- April 28: *Wildlife, Rescue, Rehabilitation, Release And Coexistence* - Angeline Fahey
- If You Missed *The Abc's Of Birding Optics* With Eric Moore, Owner Of Jay's Bird Barn And Arizona Field Optics In Prescott, Arizona, You Can Watch The Recorded Version Until January 8, 2021. To View, Please Click Here: [Http://Bit.Ly/382Wnif](http://bit.ly/382Wnif)

Submitted by Sue Weinreis

NOTICE

Four pair of Binocular Straps remain of 100 purchased in 2013 in honor of Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society's 60th Birthday!



To purchase a pair contact Pam Pipal at ppipal@charter.net and she'll see that you get a pair. The cost is \$15 for one or \$25 for two.



Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society



ALLABOUTBIRDS.ORG

How Birds Survive the Cold: Feathers + Food = Warmth

On cold winter days I am always astounded that there are any birds left...

WHY RECYCLE POLYPROPYLENE TWINE (BALER TWINE)



Baler twine is made of polypropylene (PP) and it is recyclable. Twine is extremely strong and can remain in the environment for many, many decades. It is a nonrenewable product that should be recycled.

Users of baler twine in Montana have had few options for its disposal including, burning (toxic and illegal), burying, hauling to dump sites or leaving on the ground. None of these options are environmentally sound or reasonable.

There are recycling facilities in the United States that recycle baler twine. Like all plastics that are recycled, the twine needs to be dry and at least 90% clean. A full semi-load of dry, 90% clean twine will bring a refund payment adequate to cover the cost of loading and shipping. If the twine is dirty or wet, the payment will not cover these costs.

Please note: We are not accepting net wrap. It is one of the most difficult plastics to clean and recycle due to the hay fibers, soil and rocks that become embedded in the plastic.

Studies have shown that recycling 1 ton of plastic will save up to the equivalent of 1,500 gallons of gasoline.

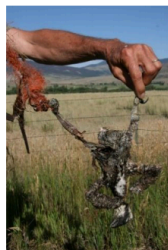
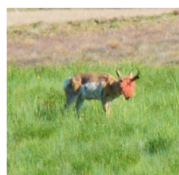
OSPREYS, WILDLIFE, LIVESTOCK, HUMAN ACTIVITY AND LOOSE TWINE DON'T MIX

If twine is left loose in the environment, it can entangle wildlife and livestock causing constriction, infection, debilitation and in some cases, death.



Ospreys, ravens and other birds can become entangled in twine that they place in their nests. The birds suffer long and painful deaths due to starvation, constriction and infection.

Twine can become dangerously entangled in deer, elk and pronghorn antlers.



Livestock ingest twine causing internal blockages. Canada Geese have been known to eat twine.



Pieces of twine can get embedded in sheep's wool rendering it useless.

Twine hanging off Osprey nests on utility poles causes power outages and fires.

Loose twine can ensnarl highway equipment causing costly breakdowns and expenses for tax payers.



The Twine Collection & Recycling Site (TCRS) is open and accepting unwanted clean twine.

Like all plastics that are recycled, the twine needs to be dry and at least 90% clean.

The TCRS is located 2½ miles north of Laurel on Buffalo Trail Road (¾ mile north of Laurel Airport Road and the Yellowstone National Cemetery). It is across the highway from the Laurel Container Site.

Small deliveries of twine can be left in the shed or in the outside bin. Access is through a pedestrian gate to the left of the locked vehicle gate.

For large loads requiring vehicle access or assistance, call in advance and we will meet you. Leave a message at 406-591-8606 and we will return the call.

Deliveries can be made year-round, weather dependent.

For further information including a map, visit yvaudubon.org or email yvas.twine.recycle@gmail.com. You can also call and leave a message at: 406-591-8606.

Additional Info:

We are not accepting net or mesh wrap since not all is recyclable. It is one of the most difficult plastics to clean and recycle due to the hay fibers, soil, and rocks that become embedded in the plastic.

No money is made from this project. A full semi-load of dry, 90% clean polypropylene twine will bring a refund payment adequate to cover the cost of loading and shipping to a recycling facility in Minnesota.

Most users of baling twine in Montana do not have access to an environmentally safe method for disposing of unwanted loose twine.

Recycling is the only environmentally safe and legal way to dispose of twine and other plastics.

Baling twine is made of polypropylene, a #5 PP plastic. It recycled into products such as large outdoor tubs and flower pots as well as food containers such as yogurt, cottage cheese and butter.



This site is maintained by volunteers of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, a registered nonprofit organization.



McCown's Longspur now Thick-billed Longspur— W. Crain

McCown's Longspur is Now Thick-billed Longspur

The North American Classification Committee (NACC) of the American Ornithological Society has been studying name changes of birds with honorific names.

This is part of a push by such movements as the "Bird Names for Birds" that is trying to get rid of honorific names that represent colonialism, racism and inequality. The new names are to be based on the bird's appearance, habitat, or range.

According to an August 7, 2020 post by Birdwatchingdaily, the decision by NACC was unanimous in changing the name of McCown's Longspur, a bird named after Captain John P. McCown, the naturalist who first collected the species in 1851, to Thick-billed Longspur. (Originally in the Union Army, McCown left to join the Confederate Army in 1861, where he served for most of the Civil War.)

Submitted by Pam Pipal

YVAS Board of Directors Highlights Nov/Dec 2020

- ❖ Robert Hill is our newest YVAS Board Member. He is interested in conservation, education, and BIRDS! Welcome, Robert!
- ❖ YVAS Board of Directors began meeting by ZOOM in December. Besides keeping safe during the pandemic, there other benefits. Hate to go out in the dark? You can ZOOM. Blizzard? Icy roads? Or just under the weather? Just ZOOM to your meeting! Traveling? Snowbirding in Arizona for the winter? See you on ZOOM!
- ❖ Bob Landis was once again our first choice for the YVAS Christmas Special. View his hour-long program of all-new material on YouTube, Facebook, or the YVAS website.
- ❖ YVAS received a grant from Fish, Wildlife, and Parks for \$5000 for the construction of a viewing shelter at the Clark's Fork WPA. We also received an additional \$1000 for a bench.
- ❖ Our Montana has a free "APP" for mobile phones called Explore the Yellowstone River. Users can plot a course or get information about museums, fishing access areas, and landmarks along the whole length of the Yellowstone River. Caroline Jones is the YVAS liaison with Our Montana to explore other uses for this application, which is available from the Ap Store for Apple users and the Play Store for Android users.
- ❖ [The Mid-Winter Eagle Survey will be held in January.](#) Contact Donn Bartlett if you are interested in participating in the all-day event.

Submitted by Sue Weinreis

FIELD TRIPS

Due to Covid-19, YVAS has decided to SUSPEND our monthly scheduled birding trips until further notice. We do, however urge everyone to bird on their own or with others while adhering to the pandemic requirements. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know. Here's to good birding and good weather!

The Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey will be on Saturday, January 9, 2021. As usual, we will leave from Rocky at 8:00 a.m. Do plan to follow all Covid 19 requirements. Please call Donn Bartlett at 406.812.1008 or 406.598.3689 if you have any questions

Donn Bartlett
406.812.1008
406.598.3689

New YVAS Board Member

We are very pleased to welcome Robert Hill into the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Board of Directors. Following is a short personal note about Robert and his association with YVAS.

I became a member of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Board of Directors in October and was asked to provide a short introduction of myself to the YVAS members. I was born in Billings but moved a number of times and came back the final time in 1972. In 1973 I became a member of the Billings Fire Department and worked there for 32 years. It wasn't until retiring that I became interested in bird watching. I joined YVAS around 2011 and started observing Osprey Nests in 2012. Retirement also included more opportunity for fresh and saltwater flyfishing, golfing and other outdoor activities. Since joining I have become active in the YVAS field trips. I have also joined with Steve and Deb Regele working on increasing state and federal land access and opportunities for non-game enjoyment, including the Big Lake Waterfowl Management Area and Wheat Basin area in general, Lake Mason and Grass Lake National Wildlife Refuges, Clark's Fork Waterfowl Production Area, and on other lands and waters.

Thank you.

Robert Hill

The YVAS By-Laws provide that the Board may appoint a Board Member to fill a vacancy followed by a vote of the Members present at the Annual Meeting of the Society in May. Given the Covid circumstances we may hold that Annual Meeting and vote for Board Members and Officers by mail, email or by some other means rather than in the here-to-fore routine animate monthly meetings. A quorum for the purpose of holding any meeting or vote of the Members is to "be ten percent of the Members or 20 Members, whichever is less, and unless otherwise provided". The Board will notify Members of the means for conducting the Annual Meeting and vote via <https://yvaudubon.org/> and newsletter at least a month prior to May 17, 2021.

Submitted by Steve Regele

YVAS MEETINGS & PUBLIC PROGRAMS
September through May

Next Board of Directors Meeting: Jan 11, 2021 The YVAS meeting of the Board of Directors will be held from 4PM to 6 PM. The Meeting will be held virtually by Zoom conference

- ◆ Board of Directors meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 4:00pm. Board meetings are open to all members.
- ◆ YVAS Public Programs are suspended until further notice.

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Officers:

President: Steve Regele, 962-3115, smregele@gmail.com

Vice-President: Steve Linder, 380-0073,
becon1@bresnan.net

Secretary: Sue Weinreis: 855-4181,
granpeak47@gmail.com

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

Board of Directors:

Doreen Hartman, 697-0277, rdzlhman@bresnan.net

Carolyn Jones: 670-4449, carolyn684@gmail.com

Steve McConnell: 661-0422, mcconnells@ci.billings.mt.us

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

Deb Regele: 962-3115, debregele@gmail.com

Sue Weinreis: 855-4181, granpeak47@gmail.com

Robert Hill: 252-4447, rehill49@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
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. 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, 245-5118

Christmas Bird Count: Jerry Dalton, daltonlj@centurylink.net
656-3656

Conservation Advisor: Steve Regele, smregele@gmail.com,
962-3115

Facebook: Nancy Wiggins, nwiggins83@gmail.com, 839-4461

Field Trip Chair: Donn Bartlett, donnbartlett@msn.com, 812-1008

Flyer Editor: Teresa Henderson, yvasflyer@gmail.com,
337-263-7985

Injured Raptors: Montana Raptor Conservation Center, 585-1211

Injured Waterfowl: WJH Bird Resources, wjhbird@yahoo.com,
652-7175

Membership Data: Peter Cummins,
membership.data@yvaudubon.org, 248-8684

Mt Bluebird Habitat Project: Carolyn Jones,
carolyn684@gmail.com, 670-4449 & Sue
Weinreis, granpeak47@gmail.com, 855-4181

Osprey Nest Monitor: Deb Regele, debregele@gmail.com,
962-3115

Osprey Research: Marco Restani, restani@stcloudstate.edu, 425-
2608

Public Program Series: Steve Regele, smregele@gmail.com,
962-3115

Publicity: Steve Regele, smregele@gmail.com, 962-3115; Nancy
Wiggins, nwiggins83@gmail.com

Recycling (aluminum): Larry Handsaker, 918 Avenue C, Billings,
855-9832

Recycling (baling twine): Deb Regele, debregele@gmail.com, 962-
3115 & Doreen Hartman, rdzlhman@bresnan.net, 697-0277

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

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

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





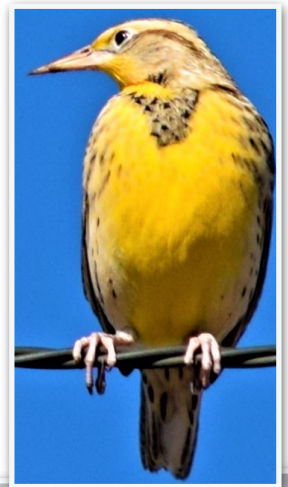
**YELLOWSTONE VALLEY
AUDUBON FLYER**
P.O. Box 1075
Billings, MT 59103-1075
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

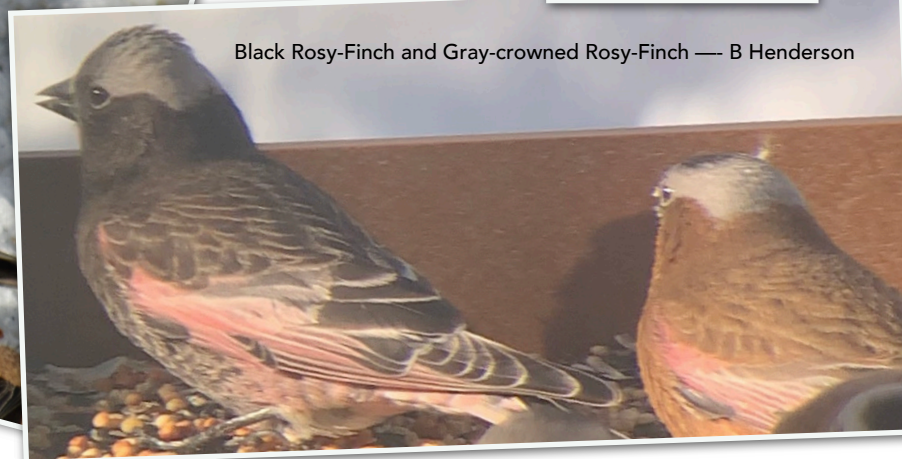
L to R: Steve, Mike, Stan, Marco, Deb, Robert at Cooney Dam Nov 2020



Western Meadowlark— W Crain



Black Rosy-Finch,
Gray-crowned (Gray-cheeked) Rosy-Finch
—B Henderson



Black Rosy-Finch and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch — B Henderson