

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.

SEPTEMBER 2021

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SAVING THINGS

Members and friends of YVAS share an interest in birds, the natural world, and in protecting both.

Watching and seeking out birds is enjoyable and even priceless to most of us. Same can be said for time spent and interest in the natural world. Engaging in protecting birds and the natural world can be - and often is - work, at times daunting hard work. Countless people around the world and for many generations take on that work.

Thankfully.

As said, that work can be daunting, sometimes with a capitol D. Spending time focused on and relaxing with birds and the natural world can be a mental (and physical) safe place to go to at daunting times.

But also remembering why one does the hard work of engaging in protecting birds and the natural world can be critically important. Sometimes remembering the why becomes elusive.

One of my favorite stories for remembering why is the "Tale of the Starfish". This story was first shared with me by one of my sisters' years ago as she was doing some daunting natural world work. Many of you may have heard this tale or versions of it. I think the following original edition worth reading again, or for the first time.

THE TALE OF THE STARFISH

IT ALL STARTED WHEN...

A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up, and throw it back into the ocean. People watched her with amusement.

She had been doing this for some time when a man approached her and said, "Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can't save all these starfish. You can't begin to make a difference!"

The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied,

"Well, I made a difference for that one!"

The old man looked at the girl inquisitively and thought about what she had done and said.

Inspired, he joined the little girl in throwing starfish back into the sea. Soon others joined, and all the starfish were saved.

Adapted from "The Star Thrower" from THE UNEXPECTED UNIVERSE by Loren Eiseley. Copyright © 1968 by Loren Eiseley and renewed 1996 by John A. Eichman, III. Used by permission of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Originally published: <https://www.thestarfishchange.org/starfish-tale>

Submitted by Steve Regele

VISIT THE YVAS WEBSITE AT: YVAUDUBON.ORG

YVAS ON FACEBOOK: [FACEBOOK.COM/YVAUDUBON](https://www.facebook.com/YVAUDUBON)



OSPREY PLATFORM

Twine Recycling

The second trailer-load of twine from the Public Auction Yard (PAYS) was transferred to the Twine Collection & Recycling Site (TCRS) in August. Since it was only half-full, it was easier to unload and it gave Steve Regele and Jerry Dalton the opportunity to try out new techniques that will make unloading twine easier in the future.

In early August, YVAS received a grant of \$5,000 from Turner Enterprises, Inc. for the TCRS. This grant will enable us to reach more twine users through advertisements in local newspapers in the surrounding counties and to have necessary maintenance funds available if maintenance is needed at the TCRS. Thank you to the Flying D Ranch's foreman who is committed to twine recycling, continues to bring annual deliveries of twine and who recommended the TCRS to the Turner Enterprises grant committee.



*Unloading PAYS twine from the trailer
Photo by Deb Regele:*

when he was contacted by the landowner, and one adult male Osprey found hanging from the nest platform. I am happy to report that all four entangled nestlings recovered as stress-free as possible in the comfort of their nests and all have fledged. The male adult was badly injured and was taken to the Montana Raptor Center where it needed to be euthanized.

A follow up to the June/July Flyer: the two nesting female Ospreys observed with twine and mesh dangling on their legs successfully raised their offspring despite the interference. By the time the young fledged in August, the nest monitors reported that they were no longer seeing twine or mesh on the female adults.

The Osprey Nest Monitors annual picnic will be at Sacajawea Park in Livingston on September 5. The monitors are completing their written reports for their assigned nests. As in previous years, the data from the reports will be consolidated into a spreadsheet and submitted to the MT Natural Heritage Program.

Miles City Fish Hatchery

The first "Working Group" meeting to review and discuss the killing of piscivorous birds at the Miles City Hatchery was held June 8 via Zoom. Representatives from YVAS, National Audubon Society, MT Fish Wildlife and Parks including the Fisheries division, US Department of Agriculture and independent consultants attended. The US Fish and Wildlife Service did not participate. Information was shared about each of the organizations roles followed by numerous questions asked by attendees to others attending the meeting. A second meeting was scheduled for July but was cancelled by MT Fish Wildlife and Parks two days prior to the meeting.

Osprey Nest Monitoring and Banding

Marco Restani banded a record number of 95 nestlings from a record number of 41 nests this year. During this time, he also rescued five Ospreys that were entangled in twine including three nestlings that were entangled at the time of banding, one nestling

Submitted by Deb Regele

Birding Quiz

Want to learn about another fun way to learn about birds from the comfort of your desk? Check out <http://www.birdingquiz.com/birdtest/>.

The Birding quiz website describes it this way " Birding Quiz is a website that creates a visual quiz that uses random photos for the birds in a list of birds. The order of the birds in the quiz is also randomized, so that the user cannot guess the bird name from the order that the birds are displayed in. For any given bird the user might see a male or female, adult or juvenile, different seasonal plumages, different sub-species, different views (front, back, side, underneath, etc)."

Check it out and have fun!

Submitted by Teresa Erickson

Virtual Audubon Convention

The first virtual Audubon convention this Oct 1st and 2nd! Are you interested in collaboration, community, conservation, and conversation too?

Get more info and register today: <http://audubonconvention.org>

Submitted by Teresa Henderson



*Above: Swainson's hawk nestlings sighted on the way to Big Lake Aug 2021
Left: Chestnut-collared Longspur
Photos: Dorothy Bartlett*

Upcoming Birding Field Trips:

Sept 8 Wed: Steve McConnell, Billing's City Forester will lead and be joined by Rebecca Mathias who works at the Montana Audubon Center and leads their "monthly bird stroll's". This will be a very interesting trip. As City Forester, Steve can discuss plans for the park as well as discuss trees, plants, and birds. Rebecca also knows the park and its birds well. You will meet at 5:00 p.m. at the parking area on the right, once you are at the end of the park entrance ramp.

Sept 18 Sat: Red Lodge Area Hawk Watch. 8:00a.m. In Red Lodge Town Pump Conoco Marco Restani, leader, Sack Lunch

Please check for updated/correct times and meeting places prior to field trip: Donn Bartlett
donnbartlett@msn.com

September Program Cancelled

Our Board of Directors has decided to cancel the in-person/live Program for September 20.

Resurgence of Covid (including in some members' families) is of course the primary reason.

We are hopeful that we will be able to have a live Program in October and on through the rest of the year. We all remain conscious and conscientious about Covid concerns.

We are working with a couple of prospective presenters to see about hosting a virtual Program on our Facebook page or on YouTube.

Keep an eye on <https://yvaudubon.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/yvaudubon/> for news about YVAS Programs. Stay healthy!

Submitted by Steve Regele

September Events at the Montana Audubon Center

As a courtesy, Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society publishes events of the Montana Audubon Center in our newsletter "the Flyer". Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society and Montana Audubon Center are two separate nonprofit organizations.

Family Programs

❖ **Nature Nuts Preschool Program:** Every Tuesday 10 - 11am Nature exploration comes naturally, especially for kids! Children ages 1 to 4 (and an accompanying adult) join our teacher naturalists for guided outdoor play and learning about the local area. Monthly themes are posted on our website: Suggested donation \$5/child or free for members.

❖ **Open House:** 2nd Saturday of the month from 10:30am-2:30pm Come down to explore and enjoy the great outdoors at the Montana Audubon Center! Ask a naturalist your essential questions about animals and plants, borrow field guides, insect nets, and binoculars, or get in a canoe and explore the ponds. Suggested donation \$10/canoe, Free for members.

❖ **Weekend Wonders Family Program:** 3rd Saturday of the month from 9:30 - 11am These naturalist-led programs are designed for all ages of explorers. Every month features a different topic that will get you and your family outdoors, learning about the plants and animals in our big backyard. Monthly themes are posted on our website. Suggested donation \$5/person or free for members.

Adult Programs

❖ **Bird Stroll: 2nd Saturday of the month** from 8:30 - 10am Enjoy a morning stroll by the river and learn a few birds along the way. Great for beginning birders. Binoculars and guidebooks available to check out. Suggested donation \$10/adults, \$5/students, or free for members

❖ **Walk with a Naturalist: 4th Tuesday of the month** from 6:30 - 8pm The weather is warming up, plants and animals are waking up, and we're ready to get outdoors exploring! Join us to make observations, follow our curiosity, and share naturalist knowledge with each other. Each month we'll explore a different natural area in and around Billings. This month we'll meet at Two Moon Park, a county park along the Yellowstone River in the Heights. Escape from the heat during this walk among the cottonwoods on the banks of the Yellowstone River. Please bring any naturalist tools you like to use (binoculars, field guides, magnifying glasses, journals, etc.). We'll also have some equipment you can borrow. Suggested donation \$5-10/person.

Advance registration is required for all programs. Visit our website at mtaudubon.org/center for more info or to register. Current members of the Montana Audubon Center receive discounts on our programs! Become a member today by visiting our website.

Submitted by Becca Mathias

YVAS MEETINGS & PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Next Board of Directors Meeting: SEPT 13, 2021 —The YVAS meeting of the Board of Directors will be held from 4pm to 6pm. Board of Directors meetings are held the second Monday of the month. Board meetings are open to all members.

Next Public Program: Cancelled- for September 20, 2021- YVAS Public Programs are held the third Monday of the month, September through May. Doors open at 6:30pm; program begins at 7pm.

All meetings are held at the Mayflower Congregational Church, corner of Rehberg Lane and Poly Drive, Billings, MT.

Board of Directors

President: Steve Regele 406-962-3115 smregele@gmail.com
 Vice President: Steve Linder 406-380-0073 becon1@bresnan.net
 Secretary: Sue Weinreis 406-855-4181 granpeak47@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Pam Pipal 406-245-4517 pppipal@charter.net

Board Members

Doreen Hartman 406-697-0277 rdzlhman@bresnan.net
 Robert Hill 406-252-4447 rehill49@gmail.com
 Carolyn Jones 406-670-4449 carolyn648@gmail.com
 Steve McConnell 406-661-0422 mcconnells@ci.billings.mt.us
 Sheila McKay 406-652-7175 wjhbird@yahoo.com
 Deb Regele 406-962-3115 debregele@gmail.com

Montana's Congressional Delegation to the US Congress:

Senator Steve Daines
www.daines.senate.gov
 Billings: 406-245-6822 Wash DC: 202-224-2651

Senator Jon Tester
www.testersenate.gov
 Billings: 406-252-0550 Wash DC: 202-224-2644

Representative Matt Rosendale
<https://rosendale.house.gov/contact>
 Billings: 406-413-6720 Wash DC: 202-225-3211

Committees and Chairs

Bird Questions: Any Board of Directors or member
Birdathon: Ruth Vanderhorst 245-5118 erv132@charter.net
Christmas Bird Count: Jerry Dalton 656-3656 daltonlj@centurylink.net
Conservation Advisor: Steve Regele 962-3115 smregele@gmail.com
Facebook: Doreen Hartman 406-697-0277 rdzlhman@bresnan.net
Field Trip Chair: Donn Bartlett 812-1008 donnbartlett@msn.com
Flyer Editor: Teresa Henderson 337-263-7985 yvasflyer@gmail.com
Injured Raptors: Montana Raptor Conservation Center 406-585-1211
Injured Waterfowl: WJH Bird Resources: 652-7175 wjhbird@yahoo.com
Membership Data Admin: Peter Cummins 248-8684
 membership.data@yvaudubon.org
Mt Blue Bird Habitat Project: Carolyn Jones 670-4449 carolyn684@gmail.com
 Sue Weinreis 855-4182 granpeak47@gmail.com
Osprey Project Nest Monitor Coordinator: Deb Regele 962-3115
 debregele@gmail.com
Osprey Project Research Coordinator: Marco Restani 425-2608
 restani@stcloudstate.edu
Twine Recycling Project: Deb Regele: 962-3115 debregele@gmail.com
 Doreen Hartman 697-0277 rdzlhman@bresnan.net
Program Committee: Steve Regele 962-3115 smregele@gmail.com
Publicity: Steve Regele 962-3115 smregele@gmail.com
Recycling (aluminum): Larry Handsaker 855-9832918 Avenue C, Billings
Recycling (baling twine): Deb Regele 962-3115 debregele@gmail.com
 Doreen Hartman 697-0277 rdzlhman@bresnan.net
Website: Deb Regele 962-3115 debregele@gmail.com

Membership Updates

Chapter members listed below are up for renewal. Please use the application form below (include your email address) and submit, along with a check, to any Board Member or mail it to the address on the application. Contact the Data Base Administrator: Peter Cummins at membership.data@yvaudubon.org with any questions.

- ❖ September renewal: Shari & Robert Dayton, Kristin Neva, Ross & Ginny Waples, Gail McGlothlin
- ❖ August outstanding: Stephen Linder, Mat Regele, Sherlene Robinson-O'Dea

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?

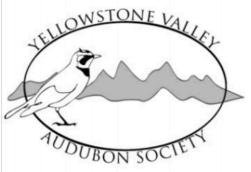
☐ YES ☐ NO

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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Black-necked Stilt. Photo: Dorothy Bartlett



Field Trip to Big Lake Aug 2021. Photo by Dorothy Bartlett

Please submit articles, notes, and photos that you would like to see in a YVAS Flyer newsletter on or before the 20th of the month preceding the month of preferred publication. This is your chance to use your writing and reporting skills! All contributions are appreciated.