



*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.*

JANUARY 2022

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## January 17, 2021 - YVAS Program

### Avian Protection at NorthWestern Energy

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society Members and their families are invited to this intriguing program about complicated interactions between birds and humans.

Power companies, wildlife agencies, and conservation organizations have collaborated for decades to reduce bird electrocutions and collisions with power lines. Borne from these efforts was the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC). Today APLIC counts among its members over 50 utilities, the Edison Electric Institute, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Electrocutions and collisions can cause power outages, equipment damage, and even wildfires. APLIC's mission is to lead the electric utility industry in protecting avian resources while enhancing reliable energy delivery. APLIC funds research, develops management options, and publishes educational materials. In 2005 APLIC and the US Fish and Wildlife Service released Avian Protection Plan (APP) Guidelines.

NorthWestern Energy is an active member of APLIC and implements an APP across its entire electrical system. New power lines are constructed following bird-safe standards and existing lines are retrofitted with bird protection devices where electrocutions or collisions have occurred. This presentation will review the legislation protecting birds, the biology and engineering behind bird-power line interactions, and management to reduce conflicts. Examples from waterfowl to raptors to ravens will illustrate the diversity of challenges experienced in Montana.

*Submitted by Marco Restani*

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The Jan. 17, 2021 Program will be held at Mayflower Church on the corner of Rehberg Lane and Poly Drive. Doors open at 6:30 PM, program begins at 7:00 PM. Masks are required inside the Mayflower Church and Covid vaccination is encouraged. Seating will be arranged with Covid management in mind.  
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Left: Marco with Golden Eagle  
Top: Rough-legged Hawk  
Below: Osprey and nest



Marco Restani is a Wildlife Biologist at NorthWestern Energy responsible for developing and implementing the company's avian protection program. He attended the University of Montana (BS), Montana State (MS), and Utah State (PhD). Following post-doctoral research at the University of Washington, Marco was Professor of Wildlife Ecology for 15 years. Each summer he also coordinates the research component of the YVAS Osprey Nest Monitoring Project.

### Update on the Killing of Fish-eating Birds at the Miles City Hatchery

Killing native Montana migratory birds to protect nonnative farmed species of fish is not morally or ecologically acceptable. Here is an update from the YVAS committee working to resolve the killing of Ospreys and other birds at the Miles City Hatchery.

Both MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) Hatchery Division and U.S. Fish Wildlife Service (USFWS) have played a role in the shooting of fish-eating birds at the Miles City Hatchery. While preliminary discussions have begun with MFWP, discussions with the USFWS have barely started. Here is the up-to-date summary of YVAS' actions and positions supported by YVAS, National Audubon Society (NAS), NAS' legal representative and Earth Justice's legal representative.

- ◆ A Letter to the Editor was published in the Billings Gazette on November 28, 2021. A week later it was published by the Livingston Enterprise. It was also submitted to the Miles City Star but it is not known if the opinion was published.

#### Killing Native Birds to Protect Nonnative Fish

For years, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has issued Depredation Permits to MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) Fisheries Division permitting them to kill native fish-eating birds such as pelicans, cormorants, herons and kingfishers in order to protect nonnative fish species such as bass.

Now, the USFWS is issuing Depredation Permits to the Miles City Hatchery to shoot Ospreys. Since 2018, the Hatchery has killed eight Ospreys. This WAS the eastern most breeding population of Ospreys on the Yellowstone River. There has not been an active Osprey nest with young within the 30-mile Rosebud to Miles City stretch of the Yellowstone River since. Now, to the detriment of the ecosystem and dismay of those who study and watch these birds nest and raise young, this breeding group is gone.

Ospreys were hit hard by the use of DDT in the 1950's and 1960's. After DDT was banned in 1972, Ospreys slowly returned to their summer breeding range which includes the Yellowstone River from Gardiner to Miles City at present.

These killings are entirely avoidable. Hatcheries can reconfigure and net ponds to protect fish from predatory birds. Shooting native Ospreys to protect largemouth bass, an aggressive introduced fish, is myopic management. MFWP Fisheries Division can and should do better.

Montana hatcheries raising and releasing nonnative fish into Montana waters should not be allowed to kill native migratory birds. Hatcheries and USFWS should manage their fish ponds responsibly to protect both fish and birds.

Deb Regele  
Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society

#### ◆ MT Fish Wildlife & Parks (MFWP)

MFWP held their second Working Group Zoom Meeting on December 16, 2021. Sixteen people attended including MFWP, YVAS, NAS, USFWS, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) and professional consultants. The Miles City Hatchery began installing filament strings across the smaller ponds last summer as a trial method for deterring fish-eating birds, but disappointedly, this discussion was postponed until the next Working Group Meeting tentatively scheduled for January 2022. The first Working Group Meeting took place June 8, 2021.

From 2018 to 2020, 8 Ospreys, 105 Canada Geese, 26 Great Blue Herons and 16 Double-Crested Cormorants were killed (shot) at the Miles City Hatchery. In the meantime, the Miles City Hatchery continues to apply for and receive Migratory Bird Depredations Permits from the USFWS to shoot these birds. MFWP has reduced the number of killings since the issues were raised by YVAS.

#### ◆ U.S. Fish Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Before issuing a Migratory Bird Depredation Permit, the USFWS is required to investigate the applicant's request. It is normal practice for the USFWS, a branch under the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI), to consult other Agencies. In this case, the USFWS delegates to Wildlife Services (WS) who investigates the application request and gives the VERBAL nod (not written report) to issue the Depredation Permit. This despite the fact that, Wildlife Services is a branch of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

One Department's job is to protect wildlife (USDI-USFWS) and the other department's job to protect agriculture and fish farms (USDA-APHIS-WS) from wildlife, even if it means killing wildlife. Is this logical or is this just wrong?

USFWS issued a Migratory Bird Depredation Permit for Ospreys to the Miles City Hatchery in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 and likely will again in 2022 even though the Hatchery has succeeded in removing the easternmost breeding population of Ospreys on the Yellowstone River. These permits are to be short term by law, and that is not what is happening. There have been no successful Osprey nests with fledglings from Rosebud to Miles City since 2017. Prior to that, this 30-mile area produced an average of 3.6 fledglings per year between 2012 and 2017.

YVAS and NAS will be continuing discussions with USFWS and insisting on better protection of native birds in the future.

*Submitted by Deb Regele*

#### **Baby, It's Cold Outside! It's time for some "armchair" birding!**

Southwest Wings currently features their 20th anniversary festival talks on YouTube. I have provided the links to three of my favorites below. When viewing the actual YouTube video, remember that they are autostart. Be patient. No clicking.

##### ◆ Do you know what "The Big Lie" in Birding is? No? This one's for YOU!

Alvaro Jaramillo- Birding Fast and Slow

"Learning about the brain, and how we process birding information, can make birding easier, particularly bird ID. Birding is absolutely wonderful for your health - perhaps one day doctors will prescribe it to people!" Learn about birds and brains (bird brains?) here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7VClwDlphE> (CTRL click on link, then wait for autostart)

##### ◆ Fun Fact: Audubon's Birds of America, published in England in the 1820's and 30's, is the most expensive printed book in history – the latest copies going for \$8-\$12 MILLION dollars!

Rick Wright- Arizona Birding Library

"What titles are essential to the birder in the American Southwest? Rick will help you choose the best, most useful books for identification, bird finding and general information about the birds of the region." Learn more about birds and books (bird books?) here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjRyFAqUSzk> (CTRL click on link, then wait for autostart)

##### ◆ I've never been too concerned about safety while birding alone. Perhaps I should be.

Tiffany Kersten- Birdie Big Year: Elevating Women Birders

"This year (2021) Tiffany is on a mission to see 700 birds in the Lower 48 while working to make birding a safer space for women! Learn about her experience with both the birds and the people.

Tiffany's presentation can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeJ2gMmWUD0> (CTRL click on link, then wait for autostart.)

*Submitted by Sue Weinreis*



Northern Goshawk Photo by Fran Nunn

### Billings Christmas Bird Count, December 18, 2021

61 official species, 11309 individual birds, 29 field observers, and 17 feeder watchers. (Different color morphs of Red-tailed Hawks, and different colored races of Northern Flicker and Dark-eyed Junco don't count as species.)

Feeder watchers increased this year to 17 people, and as a group they reported 30 species, the most of any group. Notable species they reported were 8 Pine Siskin, 1 Redpoll, 2 Cassin's Finch, and 2 Purple Finch. Collectively, feeder watchers had the high count for 62 Black-capped Chickadee, 38 Wild Turkey, 13 Downy Woodpecker, 27 Dark-eyed Junco, 8 Blue Jay, 9 Red-breasted Nuthatch, and 179 House Sparrow.

Dover Park has expanded to include Dover River Ranch, open only by appointment with Yellowstone River Parks Association (YRPA). Carolyn Sevier of YRPA guided Brian Henderson birding the Ranch. Tom Howard and Tom Tully helped with public areas of Dover Park. Birds seen nowhere else on the CBC were 4 Sandhill Cranes, 1 Killdeer, 1 American Kestrel, and 6 Western Meadowlarks. Dover Park shared 1 Great Blue Heron and 1 Song Sparrow with the Exxon Ponds area, and Brian observed 30 Horned Lark both in Dover Park and 4 Horned Lark north of Lake Elmo. 27 species were listed in Dover Park.

We were short on people to cover all areas. Brian Henderson went way above and beyond to cover 3 areas with the help of Teresa Henderson, Carolyn Sevier, Tom Howard, and Tom Tully. Car trouble cut short Peter and Helen Cummins time above the Rims and along Alkali Creek, and prevented Robert Hill and Will Crane from getting to the Pryor Creek area east of I-90.

Bob Mackin and Jerry Dalton divided time between Billings Heights west of Main Street and the area between Dover Park and Huntley, contributing one species to the total, 1 Cackling Goose.

In the triangle north of Hwy 312 and east of Hwy 87, Ruth Vanderhorst and Pam Pipal were the only group to count Ferruginous Hawk, and they saw three! They also counted 1 Golden Eagle, 1 Northern Shrike, 2 Mourning Doves, and had the high count of 5 Rough-legged Hawks. Total species was 21.

Norm Schoenthal, who passed recently, was back in spirit with his CBC friends, Fran Nunn, Dennis Nunn, Mary Johnson, and Kim Watterson, all students of Norm's at MSUB. In the Blue Creek, Montana Audubon Center (MAC) area, they observed 29 species, sharing 1 Golden Eagle and 1 Northern Shrike with other groups. The most unusual

find was 1 Northern Goshawk, documented with a photo by Fran.

Montana Audubon Center team volunteers flexibly shifted to the Four Dances/Pictograph Cave area. Alina Garner, Gabi and Paul Morey, Emily Chilcoat, and Steve McConnell were one of 2 groups who spotted both Red and White-breasted Nuthatch. They turned in the high count for Townsend's Solitaire, 10.

And talk about nuthatches! Bonnie and Bill McIntyre, new to Billings, but 25 year veterans of the CBC, teamed with Bernie Quetchenbach to bird the large Lockwood area, reporting 28 species. 6 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 White-breasted Nuthatch, and 6 Pygmy Nuthatch were all on their list. Shared with only one other group for each species, they listed 14 Sharp-tailed Grouse, 34 Mourning Dove, 1 Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker, a Redpoll flock of 32, and 20 Pine Siskins.

Nearby, Mike Weber lamented that Exxon Ponds were frozen. Still, with his son Charley, Tom Howard, and Tom Tully, they listed 25 species. 4 Wood Duck and 4 Hooded Merganser were theirs alone. Species shared with only one other group were 4 American Wigeon, 7 Sharp-tailed Grouse, 2 Great Blue Heron, 1 Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker, and 6 Song Sparrows. 330 American Robins were the highest count of robins.

Across the Yellowstone River in Two Moon Park and Billings Heights east of Main Street, Deb and Steve Regele and Sandy and David Kennedy found 23 species. They added two species to the total, 2 Northern Shoveler, and 1 Double-crested Cormorant. 2 American Wigeon and 2 Cassin's Finch were found in only 1 other area. High counts were 287 European Starling, 50 Eurasian Collared-Dove, 88 Common Goldeneye, 24 Bufflehead, 6 Ravens and 6 Red-tailed Hawks, one of those being a Krider's red-tail, a very light colored morph.

Upstream, at Coulson, Mystic, and Riverfront Parks, Brian Henderson encountered the largest flock of 135 Cedar Waxwings. North of Lake Elmo, Brian and Teresa Henderson added a species, 1 Prairie Falcon, and also counted 1 Golden Eagle and 4 Horned Larks. The area totaled 21 species.

By midday it had warmed up to 30F from near zero in the morning, and we were thankful. Next year, if we can have a compiling party after the count, we will also be thankful.

*Submitted by Jerry Dalton*



**YVAS Christmas Bird Count 2021** — To see additional CBC results from other Chapters/locations, visit: <http://audubon.org/cbc>

Count Name:	Billings	Count Code:	MTBL	Count Date:	12/18/2021
Organizations & Sponsors:	Yellowstone Valley Audubon, Montana Audubon Center	# of Party Hours:	41.50	Species reported on count date:	61

Compiler(s)

First Name	Last Name	Email	Is Primary Compiler
Jim	Court	custertours@gmail.com	No
William	Crain	williamcrain@earthlink.net	No
Jerry	Dalton	daltonjl@centurylink.net	Yes
Steve	Regele	sregele@donotnuse.com	No

Start & End Times

Start time	End time
08:00 AM	04:00 PM

Effort

Observers			
In Field		Total Number: 29	
		Minimum Number of Parties (daylight): 9	
		Maximum Number of Parties (daylight): 12	
At Feeders		Total Number: 17	
Party Hours and Distance (excludes viewing at feeders and nocturnal birding)			
By	Hours	Distance	Units
Foot	11.50	11.25	Miles
Car	30.00	452.50	Miles

Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	3		30/107	42	
Golden Eagle	3		11/110	63	A-2, I-1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7		15/103	54	
Cooper's Hawk	3		8/116	42	
Northern Goshawk	1		3/111	12	Unusual
Bald Eagle	37		93/111	68	A-27, I-10
Red-tailed Hawk	19		49/116	57	1 Krider's
Rough-legged Hawk	18		50/118	76	
Ferruginous Hawk	3		4/66	14	
Buteo sp.	2		17/107	25	
American Coot	5		12/112	30	
Sandhill Crane	4		4/122	3	Unusual, High count
Killdeer	1		21/61	55	
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	651		3205/114	48	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	136		1189/116	16	
Mourning Dove	36		36/122	24	
Belted Kingfisher	3		14/103	67	
Downy Woodpecker	31		39/120	74	
Hairy Woodpecker	2		12/84	68	
Northern Flicker	78		147/101	42	
Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)	2		20/109	18	
Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)	20		101/90	49	
American Kestrel	1		19/84	73	
Prairie Falcon	1		6/81	58	
Northern Shrike	1		18/92	70	
Blue Jay	13		34/120	40	
Black-billed Magpie	134		478/101	76	
American Crow	190		2195/103	55	
Common Raven	10		30/119	40	
Horned Lark	34		450/68	48	
Black-capped Chickadee	187		522/86	76	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	16		53/85	54	
White-breasted Nuthatch	6		31/106	65	
Pygmy Nuthatch	6		18/87	20	Wow!
Brown Creeper	4		14/60	47	
Townsend's Solitaire	28		65/107	72	
American Robin	531		4072/111	70	

Other Time and Distance			
	Hours	Distance	Units
At Feeders	38.75		
Nocturnal Birding	0.00	0.00	
Total Party	41.50	463.75	Miles

Weather

Temperature	Minimum: -2.0 Fahrenheit	Maximum: 31.0 Fahrenheit	
Wind Direction	Southwest		
Wind Velocity	Minimum: 0.00 Miles/hour	Maximum: 5.00 Miles/hour	
Snow Depth	Minimum: 3.00 Inches	Maximum: 6.00 Inches	
Still Water	Frozen		
Moving Water	Open		
AM and PM Conditions			
Cloud Cover	AM: Partly Cloudy	PM: Partly Cloudy	
AM Rain	None		
AM Snow	None		
PM Rain	None		
PM Snow	None		

Checklist

Species	Number or cw	Flags	Max Number	# Of Counts	Editor Comm.
Cackling Goose	1		236/120	9	
Canada Goose	5568		15566/121	58	
Wood Duck	4		16/119	24	
American Wigeon	6		58/104	30	
Mallard	255		10608/100	77	
Northern Shoveler	2		32/108	19	
Bufflehead	32		107/112	41	
Common Goldeneye	240		2673/111	77	
Hooded Merganser	4		73/111	27	
Common Merganser	5		284/78	74	
Ring-necked Pheasant	46		340/64	78	
Sharp-tailed Grouse	21		141/97	48	
Wild Turkey	80		199/115	29	
Double-crested Cormorant	1		5/116	12	
European Starling	1163		11699/113	72	
Cedar Waxwing	219		474/113	52	
American Tree Sparrow	14		506/52	78	
Dark-eyed Junco	41		221/99	36	
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)	6		150/98	39	
Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	1		174/93	29	
Song Sparrow	7		63/84	74	
Western Meadowlark	6		121/58	27	
House Finch	515		1423/102	51	
Purple Finch	2		13/67	9	
Cassin's Finch	4		51/95	15	
Common Redpoll	33		1175/86	32	
Pine Siskin	28		572/87	53	
American Goldfinch	32		162/82	50	
House Sparrow	746		4286/74	78	
Total Individuals	11309				
Total Species Reported	61				
cw = Reported count week					
US = Flagged as an unusual species					
HC = Flagged as an unusually high count					
LC = Flagged as an unusually low count					

### Duck nesting at Big Lake Wildlife Management Area

Four of us from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Mark Szczypinski, Megan O'Reilly, Cora Selden, and I searched for duck nests in 2021 on the 9-acre, greasewood-covered natural island on the southwest side of Big Lake (on the Big Lake Wildlife Management Area) to see if any ducks nested on it and to see how good the nest success rate was. I mentioned to some of you on a May YVAS field trip that the ducks liked to nest on that island.

Searching was done in the mornings, when egg-layers as well as incubators might be found. The technique was just walking through the tall, thick cover a few yards apart, with a couple of willow sticks in each hand. When a hen flushed off her nest, we'd find the nest, count eggs, candle them to determine incubation stage, GPS the nest, and mark it with orange flagging a few yards away. We found 89 nests (on this small island!), 23 of them on May 28 and 66 on June 22. By species, we found nests of 48 gadwalls, 23 mallards, and 18 teal (blue-winged or cinnamon).

When Mark and I checked nests on September 29, there were 8 nests that we didn't find, mostly due to some inferior flagging that shredded in the wind. To say that the ducks did well would be an understatement! Of the nests we relocated, 94 percent were successful! That's almost unheard of in the world of duck nesting studies! Only 5 nests out of 81 relocated were lost to predators, 2 probably bird predation, one possibly snake, and 2 to unknown predators.

Several times during the second search, we had 3 or 4 flushes before we could write up the first one. It was a busy day! Much of the greasewood is so tall and thick that it was often hard to find a nest. After we were toward the end of our nest checking on September 29, Mark

commented that he wished, when he was working on the sage-grouse study, that those birds had had similar nest success.

Islands are relatively predator-resistant, especially for mammalian predators, and ducks, especially gadwalls and mallards, are especially attracted to nest on islands when they are available. Greasewood next to water is very valuable for duck nesting, and it should be protected and encouraged.

Much of the island burned in a lightning-caused fire a few years ago, but the greasewood survived. We also found one Wilson's phalarope nest and one black-necked stilt nest. I enjoyed doing some mentoring with a group of enthusiastic accomplices and appreciated their help!

The water level in the lake dropped rapidly during the long, hot summer, but maybe we'll get some snow and rain to put some water back in it. Big Lake is a good place for ducks and other birds, and for birders as well!

I got the excellent suggestion that I explain a bit about candling eggs, as that is likely an unfamiliar term. By putting an egg up to the end of a tube and looking toward the horizon through the other end, you can see right through the egg and determine if there has been any development of the embryo and also the stage of development. Some use a piece of radiator hose, but my egg candler is a tube about 10 inches long and is made from upholstery material. It's tapered so that one end is the right size for mallards, and the other, for teal. Incubation periods are about 28 days for mallards, 26 for gadwalls, and 24 for teal. I did my own "field guide to egg candling" decades ago when I was doing a wood duck study.

*Submitted by Jim Hansen;  
Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks*

### YVAS Birding Field Trips 2022

If you would like to be notified of impromptu trips or for updated information on current birding trips, contact Donn Bartlett at 406-812-1008. For updated status on trips, be sure to check the YVAS website at [yvaudubon.org](http://yvaudubon.org) and the YVAS Facebook page at [facebook.com/yvaudubon](https://facebook.com/yvaudubon).

In order for YVAS to sponsor birding trips, it is necessary that each participant follow Covid-19 safety measures. Wear a mask when prudent, distance appropriately between others, and do not share binoculars or scopes. Make transportation arrangements ahead of time if possible. Carpooling cannot be guaranteed due to covid.

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



**YVAS MEETINGS & PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

**Next Board of Directors Meeting:** January 10, 2022 —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:** January 17, 2021. Masks are required inside the Mayflower Church and Covid vaccination is encouraged. Seating will be arranged with Covid management in mind. 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 ppipal@charter.net

**Board Members**

Doreen Hartman 406-697-0277 rdzhman@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

**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 rdzhman@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 rdzhman@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 rdzhman@bresnan.net  
**Website:** Deb Regele 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

**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.

- ❖ Jan renewal: Jim Court, Jerry & Lois Dalton, Larry & Janice Handsaker, Doreen Hartman, Jim Hartung, Karen Heil, Aiko Kawano, David & Sandy Kennedy, Steve McConnell
- ❖ Dec 21 outstanding: Marlene & Robert Cushing, Fran Garnett & Jim Snyder, Tom & Ruth Towe, Pat Vandell

**NEW - Special YVAS Membership Rate When Renewing In Person**

Whether you are renewing or becoming a new supporting member of Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, receive an individual or family membership for \$20 when you renew IN PERSON at a birding trip or other YVAS sponsored event. (Memberships renewed by mail remain at \$25. Student memberships are \$15.) Checks can be made out to Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society or YVAS. However, be sure to complete and include the below membership application with your payment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to receive the Flyer electronically?

\_\_\_YES

\_\_\_NO

**YELLOWSTONE VALLEY****AUDUBON FLYER**

P.O. Box 1075

Billings, MT 59103-1075

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization

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PAID

BILLINGS, MT

PERMIT NO. 27

*Please submit your photos to be featured in the newsletter. Email all submissions to [yvasflyer@gmail.com](mailto:yvasflyer@gmail.com)*

**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

