



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.

APRIL 2022

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 4

We Are Bringing Them Back!

Given vaccination and other successes in the management of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society (YVAS) Board of Directors voted to recommence "Live In-Person" YVAS Program presentations. We were hoping to kick this off in April. However, due to the short notice to our pool of potential presenters and the beginning of a busy 2022 "Field Season", we won't be able to begin these Programs until May 16, 2022. Watch for the Program announcement in the May Flyer, on the YVAS website at yvaudubon.org/ and Facebook at facebook.com/yvaudubon.



In recent efforts to put together "Live In-Person" Spring 2022 YVAS Program presentations we have been in touch with a number of excellent people who are willing and ready to contribute their time and talents to 2022 and 2023 YVAS Programs. A very good series of "Live In-Person" presentations is in the works!

As in past years, the Programs will conventionally be held September through May and will be at the Mayflower Church on the corner of Rehberg Lane and Poly Drive in Billings. Doors to open at 6:30 PM, Programs begin at 7:00 P

Submitted by Steve Regele

YVAS Upcoming Bird Field Trip Schedule

Field trips depart by car from the Rocky Mountain College parking lot on Rimrock Road next to Billings Studio Theater at 8:00 a.m. unless noted in the specific trip information shown below.

Please DO NOT bring pets.

Passengers will share gas costs

Donn Bartlett, Field Trip Chairman, 406-812-1008

Apr 16	Sat	Pryor Mountains	Searching for Sagebrush Sparrow –Stan Heath leader; meet at the Bridger Rest Area at 7:30. Sack Lunch.	May 14	Sat	Lake Basin	Brian Henderson, leader. Meet at Rocky at 8:00 Sack Lunch
Apr 30	Sat	Exxon Ponds and Emerald Hills	ONE MILE WALK, Sack Lunch, Brian Henderson, Leader; meet at Rocky or at Exxon.	May 17	Tue	Pompey's Pillar	7:00 a.m. at Rocky or 7:45 at Bundy Bridge FAS, Carolyn Jones, leader, Sack Lunch
May 7	Sat	Riverfront Park	8:00 a.m. to noon. FAMILY ORIENTED S Billings Blvd; parking area to the right near the picnic area. NEED A LEADER.	May 21	Sat	Bridger Creek	Stan Heath, leader, Sack Lunch Meet at Itch-Kep-Pe Park in Columbus at 8:00 a.m.
May 8	Sun	Pryor Mountains, Bear Canyon	Meet at Rocky at 6:30 a.m. or at Bridger Rest Area at 7:30 a.m. Hiking and Birding; Trenay Hart leader.	May 24	Tue	Stillwater River/Woodbine Area	7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sack Lunch Leave Rocky at 7:00 a.m. or Itch-Kep-Pe Park at 8:00 a.m. Carolyn Jones, leader
May 12	Thurs	Riverfront Park	Meet at Riverfront at the parking lot to the right at the end of the entrance driveway. Mike Weber, leader 5:30 p.m.	TO ENCOURAGE ADDITIONAL OUTINGS, PLEASE CONTACT DONN BARTLETT AT DONNBARTLETT@MSN.COM OR 406-812-1008. DONN WILL THEN FORWARD THE INFORMATION TO ALL AREA BIRDERS HE HAS ON EMAIL. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT YVAUDUBON.ORG FOR ADDITIONAL SITES IN AND AROUND THE BILLINGS AREA AND CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR INFORMATION.			

BIRDLE

Can you answer these 12 True or False Questions about Turkey Vultures (aka TUVUs)? You can find the answers here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CPpo5sfYRM>

1. _____ If you wish to attend "The Return of the TUVU Festival," go to Willcox, Arizona.
2. _____ Like the Swallows of Capistrano, TUVUs reliably return to Arizona on March 27.
3. _____ A group of TUVUs is called a "Wake."
4. _____ The TUVU got its name because of its resemblance to wild turkeys.
5. _____ TUVUs locate use their great sense of smell and good hearing to locate a meal.
6. _____ TUVUs are not able to kill their prey and must rely on finding dead animals to eat.
7. _____ TUVUs' digestive juices kill bacteria so they don't get sick from eating dead flesh.
8. _____ TUVUs defecate on their feet and urinate on their legs when they are too full to fly.
9. _____ The "heraltic pose" serves to warm the TUVU, dry the feathers, and bake off bacteria.
10. _____ Buzzard is an accurate synonym for a TUVU.
11. _____ The Life Expectancy for TUVUs is 16 years in the wild and 30 years in captivity.
12. _____ TUVUs provide a vital ecological service, make the countryside more sanitary with less smell.

PRIZES for first five correct entries!! Email me at granpeak47@gmail.com with your answers.

Submitted by Sue Weinreis



Chirps and Tweets



- ◆ Memberships, new or renewing, are only \$20 when paid in person at YVAS' Chapter Programs or birding trips, saving \$5.
- ◆ The Miles City Bald Eagles are incubating! View the live cam in downtown Miles City at:
<https://53431558b81c6.click2stream.com/>
- ◆ Saturday, May 14, is 2022's World Migratory Bird Day. This year's theme is "Dim the Lights for Birds at Night," focusing on the impact of light pollution on migratory birds. Learn more about World Migratory Bird Day at:
<https://www.migratorybirdday.org/>
- ◆ The Billings Public Library is looking for volunteers to read to children during the Summer Reading programs. Readers are needed for ages 0-6 on June 16th 10AM; June 30th 10AM; and July 14th 10AM. For ages 7-12 on June 15th 3PM; June 29th 3PM; July 6th 3PM; and July 13th 3PM. Contact Allynne Ellis at ellisa@billingsmt.gov for more information.
- ◆ For those that like to create and build, check out the newly published book, The Audubon Birdhouse Book. This second edition includes new and timely topics such as the impacts of climate change on birds, nestbox monitoring for community science, native plants, and how birders can help birds. It can be found at bookstores, Amazon.com, or directly through the publisher, QuartoKnows.

Submitted by Deb Regele

YVAS MEETINGS & PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Next Board of Directors Meeting: April 11, 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.

In-Person Program coming May 16, 2022. Please continue to check in at the YVAS web site <https://yvaudubon.org/> and watch the Flyer for news and updates about future live Programs.

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 rdzlhman@bresnan.net
 Robert Hill 406-252-4447 rehill49@gmail.com
 Carolyn Jones 406-670-4449 carolyn648@gmail.com
 Steve McConnell 406-661-0422 mconnells@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 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

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.

- ✦ April renewal: Gordon & Susan Hills, Carol Pearson, Linda Wham
- ✦ March outstanding: Brenda Rogers

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
PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BILLINGS, MT
PERMIT NO. 27



Great Gray Owl
Photo by Shawn Stewart



Black Rosy Finch
Photo by Brian Henderson

Wings Across The Big Sky Bird Festival

The Montana Audubon has announced the schedule and list of field trips for the upcoming birding festival. You can find the brochure at: <https://mtaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/207976-NL.pdf> Registration information can be found on the website at: <https://mtaudubon.org/outreach/montana-bird-festival/>

21ST ANNUAL
MONTANA AUDUBON
BIRD FESTIVAL

JUNE 3 – 5, 2022
YOGO INN,
LEWISTOWN