

### Big Lake's Colonial Nesting Birds

On May 23, Megan O'Reilly, Amber Stapleton (Megan's intern) and Lauren Hanson (Jim Hanson's granddaughter) assisted me as I did a nest count of the colonial nesting birds that are nesting on the island near the boat ramp of Big Lake. The island is approximately one third of an acre in size.

The island was jam packed with nests, requiring constant attention to where you placed your feet to avoid damaging nests and eggs. Candling of a few American white pelican eggs showed an average age of about 20 days which would give an estimated hatch date of June 2.

A total of 1,428 nests were found. Of those, 382 were American white pelicans, 314 were double-crested cormorants and 732 were ring-billed and California gulls (we couldn't accurately identify the nests by species so lumped them all together).

This small island with over 1,400 nests we refer to as the "push-up" island. It was created in the late 1980's by Ducks Unlimited when they cut off a large peninsula to the east to make it a more predator resistant nesting island. The dirt that they removed was pushed up to create the island.

Jim Hanson also noted that in a nest search on the large island on the southwest side of Big Lake, the following were found for the first time: 269 ring-billed gull nests, 72 American white pelican nests and 5 double-crested cormorant nests. It's possible that the small island on the north side was "full," and the birds "overflowed" onto the other island. There were also 104 duck nests on this island. The lake could use some more rain or snow.



American White Pelicans at Big Lake WMA Photo: Tracy Enterline

*Submitted by Mark Szczypinski  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Wildlife Technician*



### Chirps and Tweets



- ❖ Wildlife observation from Pam Pipal: June 18 at Lake Elmo I saw an American Coot with a 'little one' swimming along with it. (At first I thought it was a Mallard down to one duckling from its brood this year.) A few minutes later on our return walk, this 'little one' was cheeping his head off and swimming away from the Coot. Pretty soon papa Mallard came out from the shore to meet him, and when he got closer to shore mama Mallard left the other siblings (7) to meet him. Poor little guy, must have been frantic (!).
- ❖ Lately, you may have read that a few Audubon groups are dropping all references to John James Audubon from their names. The National Audubon Society has put together a committee that will be reviewing this important matter over the next year.
- ❖ Rounding out our notable list of 2021-2022 YVAS volunteers is the Board of Directors: out-going President Steve Regele, Vice President Steve Linder, Secretary Sue Weinreis, Treasurer Pam Pipal and board members Doreen Hartman, Robert Hill, Carolyn Jones, Steve McConnell, Sheila McKay and Deb Regele.
- ❖ Fall migration is happening. Be sure to get in on one of the upcoming bird trips listed in this issue of the Flyer

*Submitted by Deb Regele*

### August and September Birding Trips

Unless otherwise noted, field trips are open to the public and depart at 8:00 a.m. by car from the Rocky Mountain College parking lot on Rimrock Road next to Billings Studio Theater. Passengers will share gas costs. Please DO NOT bring pets. Check the [yvaudubon.org](http://yvaudubon.org) website, YVAS Facebook, and the Flyer for the most updated details including cancellations or additional trips. Make transportation arrangements ahead of time if possible. Carpooling cannot be guaranteed due to Covid-19. Please follow Covid-19 safety measures when prudent to do so.

- ❖ August 6 (Sat) - Shorebirds, Hawks, and Prairie Birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Rocky Mtn. College. Sack lunch. Mike Weber, leader.
- ❖ September 3 (Sat) - Bridger Creek. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Itch-Kep-Pe Park in Columbus. Sack lunch. Stan Heath, leader.
- ❖ September 7 (Wed) - Riverfront Park. Meet at 5:00 p.m. at the parking area on the right once in the park. Mike Weber, leader.
- ❖ September 17 (Sat) - Hawk Watch & Red Lodge Area. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Red Lodge Town Pump. Sack Lunch. Marco Restani, leader.

To encourage additional outings or other questions, please contact Donn Bartlett (Field Trip Chairperson) at [donnbartlett@msn.com](mailto:donnbartlett@msn.com) or 406-812-1008. Please visit our website at [yvaudubon.org](http://yvaudubon.org) for additional sites in and around the Billings area.

*Submitted by Donn Bartlett*

### August Adult Programs- Montana Audubon Center

❖ 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! On this monthly birding adventure, we will cover some birding basics, learn some bird calls/songs for ID by ear and work on our description skills to visually ID the species that we see. Come with your own gear or borrow some from us; we have binoculars and guidebooks available to check out. Rain, snow or shine, we'll be out there birding. We hope to see you there! Suggested donation \$10/adults, \$5/students, or free for members. Advance registration is requested via our website [mtaudubon.org/center/adultprograms/workshopsclasses/](http://mtaudubon.org/center/adultprograms/workshopsclasses/)

❖ Nature Trivia Night: Monday, August 1st from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. Join us for a nature trivia night at the Montana Audubon Center. Come ready to put your naturalist knowledge to the test with local natural history questions, a sensory bonus round with skins and skulls, take a field trip outside for a hands-on component, and much more! Bring your fellow nature nerds for a trivia night unlike any other. BYOB and snacks. Suggested donation of \$5/person, free for members! Advance registration is requested via our website [mtaudubon.org/center/adultprograms/workshopsclasses/](http://mtaudubon.org/center/adultprograms/workshopsclasses/)

❖ Nature Trivia at Gally's Brewing Wednesday, August 10th from 6pm-8pm. Join us for a nature trivia night at Gally's Brewing in Harlowton, MT. Enjoy some delicious, cold microbrews as you put your knowledge to the test with local natural history questions, brewing questions, sensory bonus rounds, and much more! Bring your fellow nature nerds for a trivia night unlike any other. Bring a team of people if you have them, or come out alone and join one. Free for all participants.

❖ Walk with a Naturalist: 4th Thursday of the month from 6:30 - 8pm April- August 2022. 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. 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 requested via our website [mtaudubon.org/center/adultprograms/workshopsclasses/](http://mtaudubon.org/center/adultprograms/workshopsclasses/)

❖ Bugs N Brews: Friday, August 12th from 9pm-12am. Join entomologist Marian Kirst on an invertebrate-filled adventure you'll never forget! Enjoy some local microbrews from Gally's Brewing Co. while you meet your neighborhood mini-creatures. Participants will use different insect collecting techniques to find and observe insects, spiders and their kin; the critters that make the natural world go 'round. Bring a headlamp or flashlight, or borrow one from us! Cost is \$25/person for non-members, \$22.50/person for members. Space is limited! Advance registration is requested via our website [mtaudubon.org/center/adultprograms/workshopsclasses/](http://mtaudubon.org/center/adultprograms/workshopsclasses/)

*Submitted by Becca Mathias  
Montana Audubon Center  
Community Programs Coordinator*

**YVAS MEETINGS & PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

**Next Board of Directors Meeting:** September 12, 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 TBA. Programs will be held on third Monday of the month at Mayflower Church on the corner of Rehberg Lane and Poly Drive in Billings. Doors open at 6:30 PM, the program begins at 7:00 PM

**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

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.

- ∞ August renewal: Pat Crisp, Martha Crofts, Stephen Linder, June Luptak, Cindy Meccage, Sherlene Robinson-O'Dea, Joann Sanderson
- ∞ July outstanding: Trenay Hart

**Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society  
 Annual Report of YVAS Funds  
 July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022**

	Operating Fund	Osprey Fund	Yellowstone R. Fund 3/	Gen. Proj. Fund* 3/	Twine Recyc. Proj.	Endow. Fund 2/	BCF Endow. 1/
<b>Bal. 7-1-21</b>	<b>25,070</b>	<b>20,062</b>	<b>1,744</b>	<b>12,662</b>	<b>17,893</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>92,862</b>
Revenue	4,886	10,902	0	3,990	5,735	1,898	0
Expenses	(2,566)	(7,813)	(1,744)	(2,933)	(6,742)	(1,805)	8,682
<b>Bal. 6-30-21</b>	<b>27,390</b>	<b>23,151</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,719</b>	<b>16,886</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>101,544</b>

**TOTAL YVAS FUNDS: 182,854.00**

**\*General Projects Fund includes:**

<b>OSPREY PROJECTS</b>	
Osprey Rescue Fund	\$ 2,672.20
<b>CONSERVATION PROJECTS</b>	
Conservation Grant	707.00
Unspecified Conservation Projects	2,025.84
Endangered Species Donation	332.00
Clark's Fork WMA	233.88
<b>SPECIAL PROGRAMS</b>	
Holiday Fundraiser/Other	998.67
Birdathon 2018/2019 - YVAS "party" fund	110.00
<b>EDUCATION</b>	
Rose Sylling Trust	2,472.20
Birdathon 2016/2017-Dover Park signs	1,344.32
Audubon Adventures Repurposed	1,839.61
M and K Fried Community Education	500.00
Chapter Dinner 1-16-17,1-15&5-21-18	358.00
<b>Matching Grant Program (NEW)</b>	<b>125.00</b>
Nocturnal Bird Call Recording Project	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 13,718.72</b>

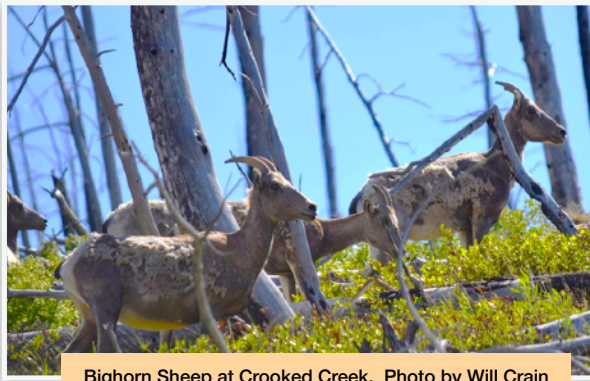
- 1/ Revenue represents deposits by YVAS to the Endow. Fund and Expenses represent net changes to the Fund.
- 2/ Expenses represent transfers to BCF Endowment.
- 3/ Moved to Unspecified Conservation Projects under General Projects Fund March 2022.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

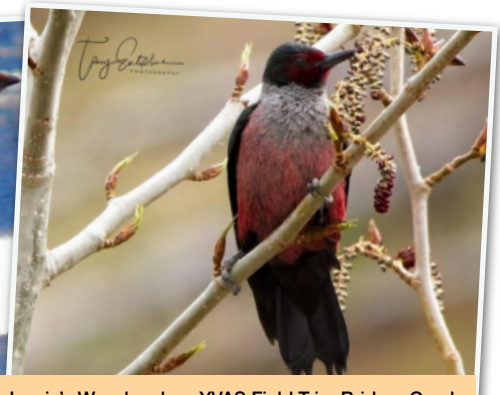
**Non-Profit Organization  
PRST STD  
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PERMIT NO. 27**



Bighorn Sheep at Crooked Creek. Photo by Will Crain



Dusky Grouse Photo by Will Crain



Lewis's Woodpecker- YVAS Field Trip, Bridger Creek.  
Photo: Tracy Enterline

**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

