



*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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### Lead Poisoning of Eagles across North America

Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society members and their families are invited to a program discussing the implications of lead poisoning for bald and golden eagles at a nationwide scale. Lead poisoning from spent ammunition is an important known cause of mortality and morbidity of bald and golden eagles. Recently, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service identified lead poisoning as one of the primary causes of mortality in these species. The program will be held October 17, 2022 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.

Vince Slabe is a research wildlife biologist at Conservation Science Global and lives in Bozeman with his wife and 3 children. He worked on multiple avian research and monitoring projects in California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Wyoming before completing a Ph.D. at West Virginia University in Forest Resources Science studying lead poisoning of eagles. Vince will discuss his dissertation research that was recently published in the journal Science and also discuss his current work running non-lead ammunition distribution programs. He is interested in testing if the increased use of non-lead ammunition results in reductions of bald and golden eagle mortalities.

Lead poisoned Bald Eagle  
The Raptor Center University of Minnesota.



Golden Eagle on elk carcass in Montana  
Photo:MPG Ranch.

Submitted by Marco Restani



### Chirps and Tweets



- ◆ The YVAS Board of Directors apologizes for any inconvenience to our members who did not receive their September newsletter, The Flyer, in the mail last month. The printer that printed and mailed The Flyer closed their doors without any notice to YVAS. A link to The Flyer was emailed to those members with an email address on file. If your current email address isn't on file with YVAS and you would like to be included on last minute changes to YVAS programs, please send your active email address to the Membership Data Administrator (Peter Cummins) at [membership.data@yvaudubon.org](mailto:membership.data@yvaudubon.org). Please note, those currently receiving the Flyer by email notification, no action is necessary.
- ◆ Photos from bird trips are always fun to see on Facebook, even if they are not birds! Send your photos to Doreen at [rdzlhman@bresnan.net](mailto:rdzlhman@bresnan.net).
- ◆ Renew your membership at the October Meeting and Program and receive \$5 off your YVAS family membership. Renew or join in person for \$20.

Submitted by Deb Regele

### Red Lodge Area Hawk Watch

On 18 September seven observers settled into their comfy lawn chairs for a taxing day of hawk watching. The sky was clear and temperatures reached near 70F by midday. The morning began calm but soon light to moderate winds brought over the migrants, and did it ever bring the migrants. Observers counted 137 raptors of 12 species. Not a bad day below the palisades of Meeteetse Trail!

The top three species counted were Broad-winged Hawk (61), Northern Harrier (25), and American Kestrel (14). It's always satisfying to see a few broadwings as they travel through Montana between their breeding grounds in Canada and wintering areas in Central and South America. The first few broadwings delivered smiles and congratulations, but soon we were gobsmacked by kettle after kettle of this small Buteo.

Other raptors observed included Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Golden Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon. Small groups of White-throated Swifts, Clark's Nutcrackers, Mountain Bluebirds, and Yellow-rumped Warblers kept us company during lulls throughout the day.

*Submitted by Marco Restani*

### A Semi-load of Twine Ready for Recycling!

Three years ago, the first bags of twine were delivered to YVAS' Twine Collection & Recycling Site (TCRS) north of Laurel. Today, there is approximately 38,000 pounds of twine ready to be recycled! Within the next 30 days, this amazing mess of twine will be shipped to a reprocessing plant in Lea Alberta, Minnesota where it will be melted down and reprocessed into small #5 PP (polypropylene) pellets. These pellets will be shipped to manufacturing factories that produce various #5 PP products.

While this is a small percentage of twine that has been discarded in Montana, it represents successes on several fronts. It has prevented countless Ospreys and other birds; deer, elk, antelope and other wildlife; and livestock from entanglements that most often result in painful injury and sometimes death.



It addresses one of the critical issues our Planet is facing now. This twine will be recycled, not released into the atmosphere as toxic fumes when burned illegally. It will not be hidden in a landfill or strewn on open ground. Instead it will be recycled into reusable #5 PP products.

And importantly, people in Montana delivered this twine to the TCRS for recycling. Montanans want to recycle!

An excellent article by Dr. Marco Restani "Baling Twine and Ospreys: A Deadly Combination but now a practical solution" was published in the March 2022 issue of *Trader's Dispatch*. The link can be found on the YVAS Homepage along with more information on Twine Recycling at [yvaudubon.org](http://yvaudubon.org).

*Submitted by Deb Regele*



YVAS MEETINGS & PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Next Board of Directors Meeting: October 10, 2022 —The YVAS meeting of the Board of Directors will be held from 4 pm to 6 pm. Board of Directors meetings are held the second Monday of the month. Board meetings are open to all members.

In-Person Program October 17, 2022. Programs will be held on third Monday of the month at Mayflower Church on the corner of Rehberg Lane and Poly Drive in Billings. Programs are held the third Monday of the month. Doors open at 6:30 pm; the program begins at 7:00 pm.

Board of Directors  
President (Acting): Steve Linder 406-380-0073 becon1@bresnan.net  
Vice President:  
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  
Carolyn Jones 406-670-4449 carolyn684@gmail.com  
Steve McConnell 406-661-0422 mcconnells@ci.billings.mt.us  
Deb Regele 406-200-7873 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 Assignments  
Christmas Bird Count: Jerry Dalton 406-656-3656 daltonlj@centurylink.net  
Conservation Advisor:  
Facebook: Doreen Hartman 406-697-0277 rdzlhman@bresnan.net  
Field Trip Chair:  
Flyer Editor: Teresa Henderson 337-263-7985 yvasflyer@gmail.com  
Injured Raptors: Montana Raptor Conservation Center 406-585-1211  
Injured Waterfowl: WJH Bird Resources 406-652-7175 wjhbird@yahoo.com  
Membership Data: Peter Cummins 406-248-8684  
membership.data@yvaudubon.org  
Mt Bluebird Habitat Project: Carolyn Jones 406-670-4449 carolyn684@gmail.com  
Sue Weinreis 406-855-4181 granpeak47@gmail.com  
Osprey Nest Monitor Coord: Deb Regele 406-200-7873 debregele@gmail.com  
Osprey Research Coord: Marco Restani 460-425-2608 restani@stcloudstate.edu  
Program Committee: YVAS Board of Directors  
Publicity: YVAS Board of Directors  
Recycling (aluminum): Larry Handsaker 406-855-9832 or 918 Avenue C, Billings  
Recycling (baling twine): Deb Regele 460-200-7873 debregele@gmail.com  
Doreen Hartman 406-697-0277 rdzlhman@bresnan.net  
Deb Regele 460-200-7873 debregele@gmail.com  
Website:

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.  
❖ October renewal: Helen & Peter Cummins, Mary Davis, Beth Horn, Robin Manfredi, Ruth Vanderhorst, Raylene Wall

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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PAID  
BILLINGS, MT  
PERMIT NO. 27**



#### YVAS 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.

- ◆ There are currently no bird trips planned for October. Please visit our website at [yvaudubon.org](http://yvaudubon.org) for additional sites in and around the Billings area.
- ◆ November 5 (Sat) - Yellowstone Dam Afterbay. Meet at Rocky at 8:00 a.m. Sack lunch. Brian Henderson, leader.



Tree Swallow nest feathers  
Photo by Ginny Waples



Carolyn Jones and Sue Weinreis cleaning out Mountain Bluebird nest boxes. Photos by Ginny Waples