

Bitterroot AUDUBON



OCTOBER 2013

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 28, NO. 2

"Monitoring Bats in Montana"

By Kay Fulton, BAS President

At the October meeting of Bitterroot Audubon Society (BAS), Bob Bastasz and Kate Stone will describe two statewide projects designed to monitor bats in Montana. The first project, led by the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP), is a network of passive acoustic monitors to study bat activity at over 50 locations throughout the state. The monitors, many of which are in remote areas, record bat calls each evening of the year. The MNHP is using the data to generate a statewide database of the number, species and behavior of bats. An important aspect of the project is to watch for any sign of white-nose syndrome, a fungal infection that is ravaging bats in the eastern U.S. The second project is an inventory of bats on the MPG Ranch that is currently underway using both acoustic monitors and mist-netting. These projects are providing new and detailed information about the remarkable bats that live in our state. Bob and Kate will share pictures, findings and technology being used to study these nocturnal creatures.



Courtesy Kate Stone

A bat in the gloved hand of a researcher.

Bob Bastasz is a member of the Northern Rocky Mountain Grotto, a caving club in Montana that is working with Fish, Wildlife and Parks to monitor bats and bat activity in caves where the club goes. Bob has also helped install a bat monitor on the MPG Ranch. Kate Stone works as an ecologist for the MPG ranch and is well known to BAS members as the person who coordinates field trips, conservation projects and numerous research/monitoring studies on birds.

Come join BAS for this fascinating program Monday, October 21st, 7:00 P.M. at the Lee Metcalf National Refuge, north of Stevensville at 4567 Wildfowl Lane. For questions and information, contact Kay Fulton at 642-3794.

Due to the government shutdown, the location of the Audubon meeting may change. If the meeting location is changed, we will send an email to members and post a notice in the Ravalli Republic newspaper and on our website www.bitterrootaudubon.org.

Audubon Adventures "Sharing Our World With Birds"

By Leslie Nyce, BAS Education Chair

The National Audubon Society's environmental education program *Audubon Adventures*, now in its 30th season, brings the natural world into classrooms and helps kids form positive attitudes about nature. Bitterroot Audubon is thrilled to offer *Audubon Adventure* to teachers around the valley. Geared for grades 3-5, the title for the 2013-2014 kit is "**Sharing Our World With Birds**". Participating classrooms will learn about: *Raptors: The Birds of Prey*, *Seabirds: Feathered Ocean Travelers*, *Hooray for Hummingbirds*, and *Caring For Our Planet: Join the Action*. See the flyer included in this newsletter. Kits are correlated to Common Core Language Arts and Next Generation Science Standards. Each classroom will be provided with an Educator Guide for each topic, student handouts, hands-on activities for

inside/outside, student assessment pages and an Official Certificate for participation. Teachers receive a one-year membership to National Audubon and Audubon Magazine, which also means they are members of our local Bitterroot Audubon Chapter. *The Audubon Adventures* program is provided at no cost to teachers because Bitterroot Audubon members generously provide donations to cover the fees for all the materials. The cost to sponsor a classroom is \$45.95. Partial contributions for half the amount (\$22.98) may also be made. To sponsor a classroom, please make your check payable to Bitterroot Audubon and send it to Bitterroot Audubon, Attn: Audubon Adventures, P.O. Box 326, Hamilton, MT 59840. For more information or to register for the program, teachers should contact Leslie Nyce at 961-3808.

Letter from the President: Fall Migration Once Again!

By Kay Fulton, BAS President

What an exciting time of year! Everywhere you look things are changing: leaves are turning beautiful colors, gardens are either full of abundant crops or have already been put to bed for the winter, the skies are wild with clouds, sun and wind and birds are flying every which way! The Metcalf Wildlife Refuge reports 20 Pelicans feeding and dancing on the ponds, one observer noted a group of Turkey Vultures south of Hamilton that seem unable to get the right air currents to allow them to migrate out of the valley, Wayne Tree had a Blue Jay visiting his yard, Western Meadowlarks were “staging” in my neighborhood for several days until they “just disappeared” and I had about 50 Common Grackles in and out of my yard in a matter of ten minutes. Many of these events happen very quickly, so we need to be alert and watching! Enjoy what you see this fall!



Courtesy Karen Griffing

American White Pelicans in flight at the Lee Metcalf NWR.

Calendar of Events

Oct 19- Beginner Bird Walk at Lee Metcalf NWR, 10AM-12PM, Call 777-5552 for more information.

Oct 21- Audubon Meeting, Lee Metcalf NWR, 7PM, **Board Mtg. 5PM**

*****Due to the government shutdown, the location of the Audubon meeting may change, and the Beginner Bird Walk may be cancelled. Please contact a board member for more information. If the meeting location is changed, we will send an email to members and post a notice in the Ravalli Republic newspaper.*****

Bitterroot Audubon Society is going GREEN

By Sara Ashline and Karen Griffing, BAS Editors

Beginning September 2013, Bitterroot Audubon began delivering monthly newsletter electronically. If you haven't already done so, please send us your email address to receive your newsletter via email. Starting this fall, we'll send a meeting reminder by postcard, but the full newsletter will be sent to your email address and is always available at www.bitterrootaudubon.org. This will allow us to reduce printing and mailing costs and waste, while offering full color pictures and expanded coverage of Bitterroot Audubon activities. For those without computer access, we will continue to mail you an individual copy of the newsletter; please send a note to Bitterroot Audubon, PO Box 326, Hamilton, MT 59840 requesting this service. Please send your email address to Susie Duff at audubonmembership@gmail.com to begin receiving your newsletter electronically.

Bitterroot Audubon Photography Workshop

Are you interested in learning about photographing wildlife or how to use your camera to take better shots? Bitterroot Audubon Society is offering a Photography Workshop this fall, hosted by BAS member Nathan DeBoer. The workshop includes one evening class with a morning field trip for shooting and instruction.

Cost for the workshop will be \$20.00/Audubon members and \$30.00/non-members. **Pre-registration is required and limited to 6 participants.**

Participants may not sign up for only one portion of the workshop, but must commit to attending both the evening class and the field trip. The workshop is open to photographers of all abilities from beginner to those with more experience. For

more information or to pre-register, email Sara at sarevt@gmail.com.

News and Notes

Bitterroot Audubon is on Facebook! If you use Facebook, please look for Bitterroot Audubon and “Like” us!

Call for Photos Bitterroot Audubon is seeking images of birds for a feature in our newsletter: *Bird shots*. If you have taken a great photo and would like to submit it for consideration, please email the jpeg image, with a brief description, to BASeditors@gmail.com.

Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT New to birding? Beginner Bird Walks at the refuge sponsored by Bitterroot Audubon and Five Valleys Audubon are held the third Saturday of each month. Meet at the Refuge Visitor's Center on October 19th at 10AM for a two hour bird walk. Bring binoculars if you have them. Contact the refuge at [\(406\) 777-5552](tel:4067775552) for more information.

Bird Shots



Close up of an Orange-crowned Warbler in the hand. MPG Ranch banding station, October 2013.

*****Due to the government shutdown, the Beginner Bird Walk may be cancelled. Please contact a board member for more information.*****

Bitterroot Audubon 2014 Calendar

The 2014 BAS Calendar is now available! Only a limited quantity of calendars were printed so be sure to buy your copy before they are gone! The cost of a calendar is \$15 and proceeds from calendar sales support our Scholarship and Education Funds. You can purchase your copy from a BAS board member, on our website: www.bitterrootaudubon.org, and at these and other locations in the Bitterroot Valley:

Hamilton Farmer's Market

Chapter One Book Store

Sam's Spade Garden Tools and Wares

Bitterroot Drug

Lakeland Feed and Supply

Courtesy Sara Ashline

Explore the Natural World With Your Class



Designed for teachers and students in **grades 3 – 5**, *Audubon Adventures* offers **top-quality nonfiction** material from the **environmental experts** at the **National Audubon Society**.

Audubon ADVENTURES®

New for 2014:

Sharing Our World with Birds!

The classroom kit is correlated to **Common Core Language Arts** and **Next Generation Science Standards**, and includes student assessment material.



Audubon Adventures Classroom Kits introduce students to the essential principles that determine how the natural world operates and feature compelling examples that show these principles at work. With captivating hands-on activities, students learn that we all have a personal stake in the health of the environment and play an important role in its preservation and improvement.



Student Magazine—You will receive 4 separate magazine sets (32 of each). Each set will thrill and inspire students with **vibrant photos** and **lively illustrations** that bring the natural world to life right in your classroom. This year's titles:

- *Raptors-The Birds of Prey*
- *Hooray for Hummingbirds*
- *Seabirds-Feathered Ocean Travelers*
- *Caring For Our Planet: Kids are Taking Action!*

Educator Resource Materials—You will receive Educator's Guides, and online resources for each magazine. This new format will help you easily navigate your way through each topic and present the material to students in an appealing and engaging way. Each includes:

- **Step-by-step teaching plan** for the topic
- Instructions for **hands-on activities** with **easy-to-remove reproducible pages**
- Background facts and information
- **Student assessment pages**
- Plus — each manual contains glossary words, recommended resources, and **correlations to national language arts and science standards.**

Your local Audubon Society Chapter would like to sponsor your class to receive this resource at no cost to you!

Your exclusive **FREE** gift: Membership in the National Audubon Society including a full year of *Audubon* magazine. Value \$35.

For more information and to order call: 800-340-6546

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* Board Member

EMAIL: contactus@bitterrootaudubon.org

WEBSITE: www.BitterrootAudubon.org

Chapter Only Membership

The Bitterroot Audubon Chapter Only Membership is \$15/year. These members will be supporting local chapter activities, receive the newsletter, and enjoy Chapter benefits. To join as a Chapter Only Member, complete this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Check this box to receive full color email-only newsletters delivered to your inbox.

Send this application with \$15 to:



Bitterroot Audubon Society
PO Box 326
Hamilton, MT 59840-0326

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Become a member of the **National Audubon Society** and **Bitterroot Audubon** [Chapter Code C1ZN580Z]. You will receive *Audubon* magazine, *Bitterroot Audubon Newsletter* and a membership card. *Introductory membership is \$20.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Send this application and your check to:



Audubon

Membership Data Center
PO Box 422250
Palm Coast FL 32142-2250