

Bitterroot AUDUBON



MARCH 2009

NEWSLETTER

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THE WORMY WORLD OF BIRDS:

“Parasitism, what is it?”

At the March meeting of Bitterroot Audubon, Dr. Albert Canaris, Professor and Researcher in Parasitology, will share his findings on parasite communities in migratory waterfowl from Alaska and Canada to Mexico, Yucatan, Africa, Australia and other places. We will look at the waterfowl flyway from the nesting grounds in Alberta through Montana and on to the desert wintering grounds in New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico. (Do ducks really winter on a desert?) Data gathered on wintering green-winged teal, which triggered further studies, will be shared.



Dr. Canaris will entertain questions such as: Is there a difference in worm populations between ducks on nesting and on wintering grounds? Do worm parasite populations change as waterfowl migrate? Who has the most worms, young or old ducks? Do duck food habits play a role in infections? Are worm parasites harmful to ducks and what about people who eat the ducks?

Come join the Bitterroot Audubon to learn all you ever wanted to know about this fascinating subject Monday, March 16th, at 7:00 P.M. at the Forest Service Headquarters Building, 1801 N. First Street (Hwy 93, north end of Hamilton). Enter the building from the west side. The public is invited. For further information contact Kay Fulton, 642-3794.

Bitterroot BioBlitz June 26 - 27, 2009

By Paul Belanger

The Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge is hosting the Bitterroot BioBlitz on June 26 and 27, 2009. A BioBlitz is a collaborative 24-hour event in which teams of scientists and volunteers join forces to find, identify, and learn about as many of the Refuge's plant and animal species as possible. This project is aimed at establishing scientific baselines to aid in the planning process while providing environmental education to visitors, specifically aimed at schoolchildren. Bitterroot Audubon is hoping to use this event to help raise awareness and gather important data on the Bitterroot Important Bird Area which includes the riparian habitat of the Refuge.

GBBC A SOARING SUCCESS

by Judy Hoy

Reporting 74 species, Stevensville topped all other Montana zip code areas with the highest count for the state. Missoula was 2nd with 69 species, and Great Falls was 3rd with 54. Thank you to all participants in the Great Backyard Bird Count on February 13-16. Observations by citizen scientists are vital in determining population dynamics and seasonal movements of bird populations. There was enthusiastic participation by many bird watchers in the Bitterroot Valley and the rest of Montana, but Stevensville's Wayne Tree, Bob Danley, Deborah and Bill Goslin, Bob Petty, Bob Hoy, Jack and Jean Athowe, and others reported the most species for the Stevensville zip code since the GBBC began in 1998. In the rest of the Bitterroot Valley, Victor reported 35 species, Florence 30, Hamilton 28, and Corvallis 27. Montana's total species count in 2009 was 119, far more than the 34 species reported in the first year of the count. Way to go birders!

Letter from the President

By Fred Weisbecker

Our 1st annual bluebird box fund raiser has begun! Every organization needs a good annual fund raiser and we are hoping this worthy project can become one of ours. It is hard to fund our many activities without a little money in the bank. Thanks to the hard work of Campbell Massey, our resident carpenter and vice president, and a few other volunteers we have constructed 20 boxes and have the parts for about 20 more. They even have Bitterroot Audubon stenciled on the side to personalize them.



Mountain Front to the prairie marshes and the storied Missouri River, rich in birds, other wildlife, and history. Birds of interest include: McCown's & Chestnut-collared Longspurs, Sprague's Pipit, Burrowing Owl, Calliope Hummingbird, Baird's Sparrow, [American Avocet](#), and Ferruginous Hawk.



Attend presentations and workshops on bird conservation and birdwatching. Bring the whole family and experience a morning of games, a bird banding demo, and guided hikes and activities involving birds and birding. This festival will bring you and your family up close and personal with the birds of Montana and their magnificent habitat!

Add to your festival experience by participating in the pre-festival canoe trip through the [White Cliffs of the Missouri](#) in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, or one of the two post-festival field trips to [Glacier National Park](#) and [Square Butte Natural Area](#).

The festival will be held at the Holiday Inn, Great Falls, MT. For more information or to register visit www.mtaudubon.org/birdwatching/festival or call the Montana Audubon office at 406-443-3949.

Register by April 15 and have a chance to win two nights of lodging at the Holiday Inn during the festival!



To place your order you can call me at 375-9317 or go by Sam's Spade at the O'Hara House on S. 4th Street in Hamilton. Samantha has agreed to offer the boxes for sale with all receipts to BAS, so be sure to thank her when you go by. The price is \$25. Help make this project a big success; the bluebirds will love you.

2009 Montana Audubon Bird Festival *Wings Across The Big Sky*

Montana Audubon, in conjunction with the Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon Society, will hold our annual bird festival in Great Falls, MT, June 5-7, 2009.

Please join us and featured speaker, **David Allen Sibley**, the author and illustrator of the comprehensive *Sibley Guide to Birds* and other books such as *Sibley's Birding Basics*.



Vince Yannone, retired MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks biologist and educator, who has appeared on the Discovery Channel and Animal Planet, opens the festival Friday evening with live birds.

Choose from over 28 different field trips to wildlife refuges and birding hotspots from the Rocky

1 What's the Story, Story?

by Jim Story

Question: What kinds of diseases affect birds?

Answer: Birds have a great variety of diseases. Notable bird diseases include malaria (protozoan), aspergillosis (fungal), tuberculosis (bacterial), Newcastle disease (viral), fowl plague (viral), avian pox (viral), and many, many others. Some bird diseases are closely related to human diseases (tuberculosis, malaria, etc.) but are not infectious to humans. But some bird diseases **are** infectious to humans, including salmonellosis (bacterial), psittacosis (ricketsial), equine encephalitis (viral), West Nile virus, and avian influenza (viral).

Colonial Waterbird Inventory: A Citizen Science Opportunity

The Montana Bird Conservation Partnership is planning a colonial nesting waterbird inventory in 2009 and 2010. This statewide program will provide important information to scientists and managers on waterbirds in Montana that will be used to assist monitoring, research, and habitat projects.

The Partnership is seeking volunteers to count nests on one visit at colonies throughout Montana during the month of June. Priority species include: American White Pelican, Clark's Grebe, Forster's Tern, Franklin's Gull, White-faced Ibis, Black-crowned Night-heron, Black Tern, Caspian Tern, and Common

Tern. Species of secondary priority include: California Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, Ring-billed Gull, Western Grebe, Eared Grebe, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, and Great-blue Heron. Funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will be used to cover travel expenses (mileage, small *per diem*) for volunteers. A list of survey areas and protocols will be provided to your Chapter in the near future. This is a great opportunity to get involved in a statewide bird conservation program.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Catherine Wightman, Bird Conservation Coordinator with Fish, Wildlife and Parks at cwightman@mt.gov or 406-490-2329.

BACKYARD BIRDS

compiled by Wayne Tree



Hamilton

Claude Birkeneder Cedar Waxwing
Audrey Hobbs American Robin
Shirley Abel Red-winged Blackbird
Barry Abel Dark-eyed Junco
Kathy Daniels Bohemian Waxwings
Mike Daniels Bohemian Waxwings
Aislinn Daniels American Robin
Patricia Ryan-Swindler Great Blue Heron
Ree van Oppen Sharp-shinned Hawk
Mac Donoffrio Northern Flicker
Peter Allen Red Crossbills -6
Helen Allen Mourning Dove
Skye O'Byrne American Robins
Elizabeth Chilcote California Quail - 20

Grantsdale

Colleen Powell Blue Jay
LM Powell Cedar Waxwing
Ted Troutman Downy Woodpecker -
pair
Dorinda Troutman Blue Jay

Roaring Lion

Pat Bartholomew Steller's Jay
Bart Bartholomew Northern Goshawk

Darby

Veryl Kosteczko Pileated Woodpecker

Conner

Peg Platt Red Crossbills

Sula

Sue Case Red-winged Blackbird
Doug Case Gray Jay

Corvallis

Samantha O'Byrne Northern Goshawk
Steve Elie Great Horned Owl
Art Callan Cedar Waxwing
Nancy Callan Bald Eagle
Jim Story Red-winged

Blackbird Marleen Story

Robin
Marie McKee

Victor

Molly Hackett
Sharon Browder
Dan Browder
Kevin Browder
Lindsay Browder
Betsy Douglas
Kay Fulton
Carol Santos
Johnny Santos

Stevensville

Judy Hoy
Bob Hoy
Lynn Moshier
Gail Moshier
Sherry Ritter
Patty Laughlin
Mike Williams
David Calkins
Patti Calkins
Jeanne Tischler
Jerry Tischler
Wayne Tree
Arla Tree
Paul Hayes
Mary Hayes
Jim Hamilton
Dave Lockman
Blakey Lockman
Daniel Lockman
Jenna Lockman
Mimi Sauer
Len Sauer
Joe Birkeneder
Marty Birkeneder

American

Eurasian Collared Dove

Red Crossbills
Golden Eagle
Gray Partridge
Red-winged Blackbird
American Robin
Red Crossbills
Bald Eagle
Red Crossbill
Bald Eagle

Pinyon Jay
Red Crossbill
Northern Flicker
Song Sparrow
Great Horned Owl
Pygmy Nuthatches
Pileated Woodpecker
White-breasted Nuthatch
Pine Siskin
Red Crossbills
Cedar Waxwings
Townsend's Solitaire
Hairy Woodpecker
Western Bluebirds - 4
Red Crossbills
American Robin
Pine Grosbeak
Red Crossbill
Clark's Nutcracker
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Red Crossbills - 2
Bald Eagle
American Goldfinches
Red Crossbills

Florence

Greg Nenow Rough-legged Hawk
Minta Nenow Red-breasted Nuthatches
Mary Gum Bald Eagles - 2
Peter Scholl Bohemian Waxwings - 10
Michael Koeppen American Goldfinch
Lynn Koeppen American Goldfinch

Lolo

Al Hinman Red-breasted Nuthatch
Hazel Hinman Red-winged Blackbird
Dale Dufour House Finch

