

Bitterroot AUDUBON



SEPTEMBER 2011

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 26, NO. 1

Home Improvements for Birds

By Sherry Ritter and Kay Fulton

Think about all the time, effort and money people put into making their properties just the perfect environment to live in and then think about the “properties” (riparian areas) that support over 75% of bird species found in Montana. These riparian areas, so crucial to the survival of birds and other wildlife, are threatened by multiple uses. Managing for their improvements is one of the greatest gifts man can give to nature. Members of Bitterroot Audubon have been involved in “giving such gifts.”



Courtesy Kate Stone

IBA volunteers working on ungulate exclosures to protect riparian vegetation from herbivores in the Bitterroot IBA.

At the September Audubon meeting, Sherry Ritter, Chairperson of the “Bitterroot River Important Bird Area” (IBA) Committee, will give a presentation about habitat management for birds highlighting the use of “Exclosures” at the Teller Wildlife Refuge. Following her talk, we will drive to the 4.5 acre riparian exclosure near Gird Creek (on the Teller) that was erected in 2007 to see how the shrubs have recovered without deer browsing.

Kate Stone, Field Trip Coordinator, has added that we should keep our calendars open on Saturday, October 8th, to visit a new set of ungulate exclosures on the floodplain of the Bitterroot River. These exclosures were built by Bitterroot Audubon volunteers for the purpose of protecting riparian vegetation within the IBA. This half day field trip will include a tour of the four 0.25 acre exclosures, a discussion of restoration options for interested landowners and bird watching for resident species and fall migrants.

The Bitterroot Audubon Chapter meeting will be Monday, September 19th at the Teller Wildlife Refuge at 7:00 P.M. Gather at the Education Room in the Slack Barn for Sherry’s presentation but dress appropriately for the weather since we will be outside for a period of time. The Refuge is located north of Corvallis. Take the Eastside Highway from Corvallis to Quast Lane, Turn West onto Quast and then turn south on Chaffin Lane. Contact Kay Fulton for further information (642-3794).

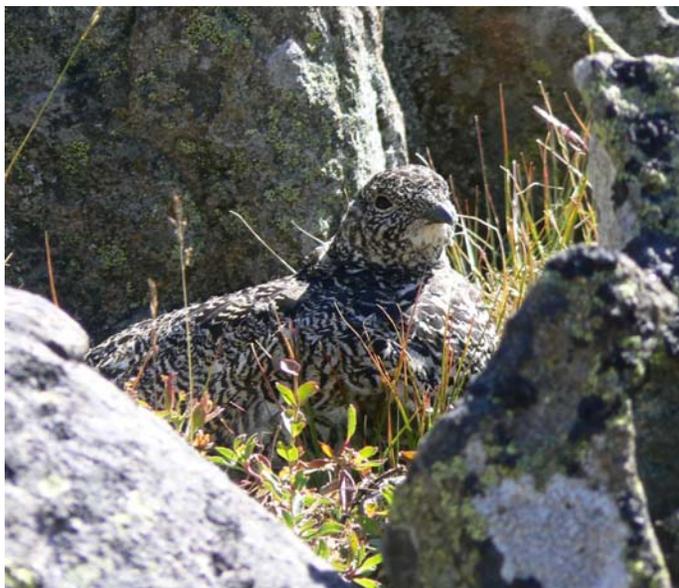
Please join us Monday, September 19th, 7:00 P.M. at the Teller Wildlife Refuge Slack Barn Education Room.

Letter from the President

By Kay Fulton, BAS President

Hi, BAS Birders, I'm your new president and this is my first attempt to say something meaningful to this great membership. I was in a meeting recently with the BAS Board members and some visitors. There were introductions where everyone told his/her background, and I realized that I was the only one with no training in biology, forestry, ecology, botany, etc, etc. In addition, I'm not that skilled as a "Birder." I don't do well birding by ear and often can't identify a bird when I see it ----and I'm the president?? Well, hopefully, I'll be able to keep the "ship afloat" and do what you want to have done! I can say that I am a Defender of Wildlife and the Environment; so I may get on a soapbox from time to time. I love "birding," watching wildlife and being out in nature, oh, and gardening too. We are so fortunate to live in the Bitterroot Valley where we have both the river and the mountains. They each provide wonderful habitat for the birds and wildlife. If we get out and look, we often even get to enjoy seeing these beautiful creatures in their natural surroundings. I have a quote on my wall that says, "Summer doesn't last forever, so build barns." I would modify that somewhat by saying, that Summer doesn't last forever, so Get Out and Enjoy It."

-Kay



Courtesy Kay Fulton

Can you see the bird in this photo? A White-tailed Ptarmigan in Glacier National Park, Summer 2011. An example of a beautiful creature that fits perfectly in its natural surroundings.

Vaux's Swift Watch

By Sara Ashline and Karen Griffing



Courtesy Sara Ashline

Hamilton Fire Station on the corner of State and 3rd Streets.

Vaux's Swifts can be found roosting in the chimney (shown at the right in the image above) of the Hamilton Fire Station at the corner of State & 3rd streets during their fall migration. Vaux's Swift counts organized by Kate Stone are planned for Saturday nights during the month of September. Interested persons should contact Kate Stone (381-1115) to participate.

Volunteers are needed to count Vaux's swifts at the Fire Hall in Hamilton on Saturday nights throughout September.

Would you like to see the newsletter in **COLOR**?

Visit www.BitterrootAudubon.org and click the link to download the current newsletter or visit the archives.

You can sign up to have an e-copy sent to your email inbox by contacting Susie Duff, our Membership Chair at 961-5455 or sduff1@aol.com. Please include "Newsletter" in the subject line.

News and Notes



Courtesy Sara Ashline

Black-capped Chickadee, Hamilton, MT

Call for Photos

Bitterroot Audubon is seeking images of birds for a new 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 (who took the photo, what is the subject, where the photo was taken, and any interesting details) to BASeditors@gmail.com.

Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT

Bob Danley, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge invites you to check out his blog for pictures and information about what is happening at the refuge. The website for the blog is: www.fws.gov/leemetcalf/blog.

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 September 17th at 9AM for a two hour bird walk. Bring binoculars if you have them. Contact the refuge at (406) 777-5552 for more information.

Volunteers are needed for weeding projects at the refuge. Contact Bob Danley at (406) 777-5552 for more information.

New Assignments

Thank you, Peter and Helen Allen for serving as President and Newsletter Editors on the board. Kay Fulton has agreed to take on the Bitterroot Audubon Society President position. Sara Ashline and Karen Griffing are the newsletter co-Editors.

Thank you, Judy Williams for your 15+ years as the Membership Chair of Bitterroot Audubon Society. Welcome, Susie Duff, the new Membership Chair.

Welcome, Rosan Stover as Hospitality Chair, and Becky Peters, new Board Member and Representative to Montana Audubon for our chapter.

Congratulations to Fred Weisbecker, Bitterroot Audubon Society Vice President and Conservation Chair for his new position as Vice President for MT Audubon.



Courtesy Sara Ashline

Black-capped Chickadee, Hamilton, MT

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- Sept** Saturday Nights, Vaux's Swift counts, Fire Station, Hamilton (Kate Stone 381-1115)
- Sept 19** Audubon Meeting @ 7 pm, Teller Refuge Slack Barn, Education Room
Board Mtg @ 6 pm
- Sept 17** Beginner Bird Walk at Lee Metcalf NWR 9-11AM
- Oct 8** AM Field trip to MPG ranch in Florence. Contact Kate Stone 381-1115 to register.
- Oct 15** Beginner Bird Walk at Lee Metcalf NWR 9-11AM
- Oct 17** Audubon Meeting 7 pm, Location TBD
Board Mtg @ 5:30
- Nov 21** Audubon Meeting 7pm, Location TBD
Board Mtg @ 5:30

Chapter Only Membership

The Bitterroot Audubon Chapter Only Membership is \$15/year. These members will be supporting local chapter activities, receive 9 issues of the newsletter, and enjoy Chapter benefits. To join as a Chapter Only Member, complete this form.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____

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

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