

Bitterroot AUDUBON



SEPTEMBER 2012

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 27, NO. 1

Raptor Migration: 30+ Years of Raptor Migration Studies in Western North America

by Steve Hoffman, Executive Director of Montana Audubon



Steve Hoffman with a Northern Goshawk.

Join Bitterroot Audubon Society Monday, September 17th to learn everything you ever wanted to know about raptors from Steve Hoffman who has dedicated his entire 32-year career to wildlife conservation. After 10 years as a Wildlife Biologist and Endangered Species Specialist with different government agencies, he launched "Hawk Watch International," a not-for-profit organization dedicated to research and conservation of hawks, eagles and other birds of prey. Steve has authored more than 30 scientific papers on raptor biology and conservation as well as other topics.

Steve will cover a myriad of questions, such as: How did a wayward eastern US hawk watcher come to discover and study raptor migration in the Rocky Mountain West? When is "prime time" and where are good locations for observing raptors migrating? Where do they come from and where do they go?

These are some of the topics Steve will address in this illustrated presentation. Steve's enthusiasm for raptors is infectious and everyone will leave knowing more and wanting to get out and "hawk watch!"

Join us on Monday, September 17th, at 7:00 P.M. at the Lee Metcalf Refuge Visitor's Center (north of Stevensville), in the Okefenokee Room. The public is invited. For further information, contact Kay Fulton at 642-3794.

Steve will host a MT Audubon birding fundraiser with Steve Hoffman on Sept. 17. Contact Becky Peters at 369-5210. Space is limited.

From Sunbirds to Ostriches: Africa's Magnificent Birds

The Bitterroot Audubon Society invites the public to a special program featuring African bird photographs by Peter Kummerfeldt on Thursday September 6th. Southern Africa's 951 species of birds, many of them endemic, dazzle the eye, intrigue the mind, and once seen bring you back to Africa again and again. Peter's photography reveals the wonderful world of Africa's birdlife.



Little Bee-eater

Courtesy Peter Kummerfeldt

Peter is the son of Margaret Kummerfeldt who moved to the Bitterroot Valley in 1999. She was born and raised in Kenya where her father, Arthur Percival, was Kenya's first game warden. Margaret's uncle, Philip Percival, was a famous professional East African hunter. Peter also grew up in Kenya. His love for the outdoors and Africa's flora and fauna is attributable to his mother and these two men. Peter retired from the United States Air Force after 30 years of service where he became an expert in survival and taught in various Air Force academies. After retiring he founded "Outdoor Safe, Inc." – an organization that conducts outdoor safety skill seminars all around the country. He has been featured on several television programs as well. In 2009 he and Hayden Elliott from South Africa, started "Outdoor Africa," a safari and travel company, that is committed to the protection of the environment and the people. They support effective community partnerships and sustainable tourism projects. Their safaris include game safaris, birding safaris and photographic safaris.

Come experience these wonderful photos and informative speaker, Thursday, September 6th, 7:00 P.M. at the Natural Resources/Forest Service building, 1801 N. First Street (Hwy 93, north end of Hamilton). Enter from the west side.

Letter from the President

By Kay Fulton, BAS President
"Volunteering"

I know how busy everyone is with all the different demands on them, but I just want to take this opportunity to encourage you to include some assistance to your Audubon Chapter and all of the wonderful things they do. We may need your help just for an hour or two, sometimes for intermittent projects, and once in a while for an ongoing commitment, such as a particular committee. I will be sending you a letter in the near future asking if you would be willing to be on an e-mail list &/or a phone list whereby you would receive notification of an upcoming activity that could use your help. Please consider being on that list and helping when you can.

Bitterroot Audubon Chapter is committed to conservation as it relates to birds, wildlife and their environment for the benefit of humanity and earth's biological diversity. This is done by promoting appreciation, knowledge and conservation through education for children and adults, field trips, work projects and ongoing surveys. All of these activities require people. Please come help us!



Fall Highway Clean-up

Greetings birders!

Our semi-annual highway clean-up project will take place on October 16 at 5PM. Meet on the west side of Highway 93, near mile marker 64, south of Stevensville. There is a fair amount of trash along our stretch of road so please come out and help make us look good! We'll supply orange vests for everyone, but bring your own gloves. **For questions contact Skip Horner at 642-6840 or skip@skiphorner.com**



Highway clean-up volunteer.

Calendar of Events

Sept 2-Calendar Launch Party at Sam's Spade

Sept 6-African birds program, Forest Service Bldg, Hamilton.

Sept 8-National Swift Night Out

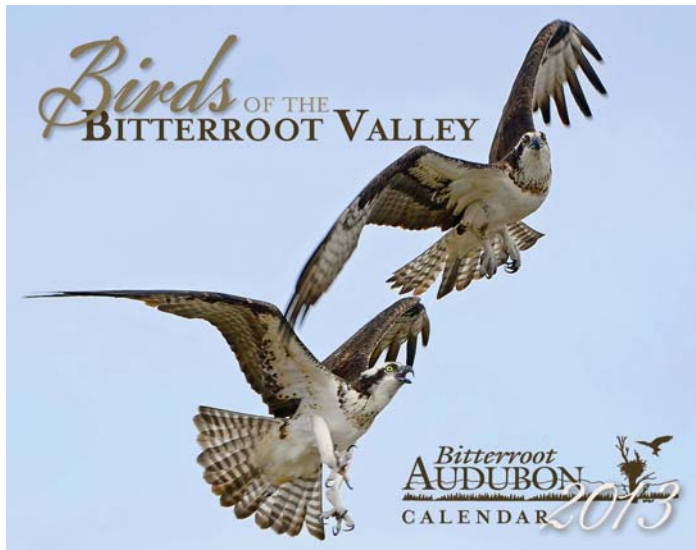
Sept 15-Bird Migration Celebration--Birder's breakfast and Beginner Bird Walk, Lee Metcalf NWR.

Sept 17- Audubon Meeting, Lee Metcalf NWR, 7PM, Board Mtg. 5PM.

Oct 15-Audubon Meeting, TBD

Oct 16-Highway Clean-up

The Bitterroot Audubon 2013 Calendar Takes Flight!



The 2013 "Birds of the Bitterroot Valley" calendar, created by Bitterroot Audubon board members with submissions by local photographers and student artists, is available for purchase now. The price is \$15. The calendars will be available for purchase at the Ravalli County Fair (Aug. 29th-September 1st), at the Hamilton Farmer's Market during the month of September, at the Bitterroot Audubon meetings, and at Sam's Spade.

Proceeds from the sale of the calendars support Bitterroot Audubon's education programs and the Byron Weber Memorial Scholarship Fund. For more information or to help sell the calendars, contact Becky Peters at 369-5210. Join us at the launch party on September 2nd from 4-6PM at Sam's Spade to celebrate!

News and Notes

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.

Bitterroot Audubon is on Facebook!--

Bitterroot Audubon has created a Facebook page. If you use Facebook, please look for Bitterroot Audubon and "Like" us!

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 September 15th 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.

1st Annual Bird Migration Celebration

Saturday, September 15, 2012--Twice a year, hundreds of bird species in the United States undertake an incredible journey of between hundreds and thousands of miles. The Five Valleys Audubon Society and Audubon/Toyota's *TogetherGreen* program are sponsoring the first-annual Bird Migration Celebration on Saturday, September 15th. The event aims to raise awareness of the threats to migrating birds and educate the public on how to help birds that visit Montana during fall and spring migration. The event is free and family-friendly, taking place in various locations in Missoula and Stevensville. For the schedule of events including the birder's breakfast at Lee Metcalf NWR, please visit:

www.birdmigrationcelebration.org/schedule.php

Swift Night Out--

The National Swift Night out will take place on Saturday, September 8. On this night, swift watchers around the nation will record the number of swifts entering known chimney roost sites. This spring, observers counted northbound Vaux's swifts at two roosts in the Bitterroot: at the Hamilton Fire Hall, and the Stevensville Hotel. Are you interested in seeing if the chimneys get used on the southbound journey? If so, please contact Kate Stone (kroestone@hotmail.com, 381-1115). Observation typically takes place for an hour prior to sunset. For more information on this project, please see the Vaux's Happening website:

http://vauxhappening.org/Vauxs_Happening_Home.html.

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.

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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

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