

Bitterroot AUDUBON



MARCH 2013

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 27, NO. 7

The Galapagos Islands

By Kay Fulton, BAS President



Courtesy Reine Hilton

Waved Albatross, Galapagos Islands.

Do you have a Bucket List? Have you ever envied a friend who has gotten to go on some special trip? Do you dream about going to that special place? Well, for all of you who admitted “yes,” this is the program for you. For all of you who have already been there, you’ll want to come and reminisce. Bird lovers will “love” it!



Courtesy Reine Hilton

Lava Heron, Galapagos Islands.

Bitterroot Audubon invites you to their March 18th meeting to hear about Reine Hilton’s exciting trip in

May 2011 to Galapagos. Her trip started at Quito, Ecuador where the day was spent visiting the “Old Town.” After a flight to Baltra, Galapagos, the next week was spent visiting eleven different islands. The home base was the yacht. Each day she and her fellow travelers did two hikes at different locations. Her presentation will be a travelogue of the different islands and the birds and other animals that were seen.

Join Bitterroot Audubon Monday, March 18th at 7:00 P.M. at the Forest Service/DNRC Building, 1801 N. First St. (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.

2013 Welcome Back Waterfowl Day

By Judy Hoy, BAS Member

The 2013 Bitterroot Audubon Society's Welcome Back Waterfowl Day will be celebrated on the county road just west of the Lee Metcalf Refuge Visitor Center on Saturday, March 30, 2013. Everyone is welcome. The event will be held from 10:00 am. to 2:00 pm. There will be birders with scopes on the road between the two ponds to help you find and identify waterfowl, and treats on which to munch. Look for the Bitterroot Audubon Society banner. Hope to see you all there.



Barrow's Goldeneye.

Courtesy Nathan DeBoer

Bitterroot Audubon Offers Beginning Birder Class

By Leslie Nyce, BAS Member

Bird watching is a very popular activity. According to a United States Fish and Wildlife Service report, over 45 million people bird watch in the United States alone. Imagine what that number may be worldwide. Do you wish you could identify the birds that you see? Do you want to learn more about their behavior and habits? If you answered, "yes" to these questions then you may want to consider joining us for two evening classes and two field trips designed for beginning birders. The classes will cover optics, bird identification, behavior, habitat, birdsong, migration, and much more. Classroom sessions will take place on Thursday, April 18 & 25, and the field trips will take place on Sunday, April 28 and Saturday, May 4. Cost for the class will be \$25/Audubon members and \$35/non-members. **Pre-registration is required and limited to 20 participants.** For more information or to pre-register, call Leslie Nyce at 961-3808.

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

Public Meeting for Subdivision Proposal

Developers are proposing a 509-lot subdivision along the Eastside Highway north east of Stevensville, just south of Porter Hill Road. The planning board made an on-site visit and will hold a public meeting again on March 6 at 7 pm to discuss this development. The Ravalli County Commissioners are expected to review the proposal on April 29 at 9am.

2014 Calendar Calling all Bitterroot photographers!!

The 2013 calendar was so successful that we are going to make one for 2014! If you would like to enter your bird photos (limit of 3, please) make sure they are of high resolution, at least 300 dpi. The photographs will be printed at 8 1/2" W by 10" H. Send them to bitterrootcalendar@gmail.com

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 March 16th 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.

Calendar of Events

Mar 16- Beginner Bird Walk at Lee Metcalf NWR, 10AM-12PM

Mar 18- Audubon Meeting, Forest Service/DNRC Building, Hamilton, 7PM, Board Mtg. 5PM.

Mar 29/30- Photography Workshop, **FULL**

Apr 15- Audubon Meeting, TBD

Jun 7-9- Montana Audubon Wings Across the Big Sky Festival, Lewistown, MT

Bird Shots



Courtesy Nathan DeBoer
Red-tailed Hawk in flight, near Bell Crossing,
Stevensville, MT, March 2013.



Save the Date

The 14th Annual Wings Across the Big Sky Festival

will take place June 7th – 9th, 2013

in the geographic center of the state, Lewistown, Montana!

You are invited to join Montana Audubon and Lewistown for dynamic birding field trips, great speakers, interesting presentations, and fun festivities as we celebrate efforts to conserve our birds and wildlife in the heart of Montana.

One of only ten cities nationwide selected to receive an Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds grant, the Lewistown community and surrounding areas are gearing up to welcome birders to the region.

"The Urban Bird Treaty program, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service brings together private citizens, as well as federal, state, and municipal agencies and non-governmental organizations to conserve migratory birds through education programs, participation in citizen science, conservation and habitat improvement strategies, and reducing hazards to birds in urban/suburban areas."

Keynote speaker Susan Bonfield of the International Migratory Bird Day and Environment for the Americas will share with us a glimpse into the Western Hummingbird Partnership and the world of hummingbirds. [Note the change in schedule for speaker John Marzluff. He will join us for the 15th Annual Wings Across the Big Sky Festival in Bozeman.]

Experience Central Montana and all this landscape has to offer either through festival field trips or your own exploration. There will be an art workshop, tours of the historic Lewistown and its architecture, and other things to do for those who choose to remain at the hotel during field trip outings. Lewistown has wonderful fishing too! Bring your rod and reel along with your binoculars!

- Lewistown Trail System
- Snowies, Moccasins, Belts, Judiths, and Highwoods
- Big Springs Trout Hatchery
- Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge
- Big Spring Creek Fishing
- An official Cornell Lab of Ornithology eBird Trail Tracker, the first and only in the state, will be available in the lobby of the festival hotel, the Yogo Inn, to record your sightings!

Registration will open on March 6, 2013! Visit mtaudubon.org for more information.

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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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