

# Bitterroot AUDUBON



APRIL 2014

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 28, NO. 8

## The Amazing Amazon

By Kay Fulton, BAS President

Bitterroot Audubon invites you to take a trip with Janis Cooper on her visit to Peru's Manu National Park and Biosphere Reserve. She'll share her adventure of "river travel by 'canoe', rustic accommodations, flora, fauna and fun!"



Silk Spider.

*Courtesy Janis Cooper*

Adopting a homeless, wild-caught Amazon parrot 23 years ago certainly fueled Janis's desire to visit the Amazonian jungle. Therefore, following an outstanding trip in October 2013 to Peru's Colcha Valley with Russ Lawrence and Jean Matthews, she joined a guided 8-day trip into Peru's Manu National Park and Biosphere Reserve--one of the largest, most biologically diverse, protected regions of rainforest on earth.



*Courtesy Janis Cooper*

Hoatzin 'stinky bird' at oxbow lake.

Originally from Maine, Janis has lived primarily in the Bitterroot Valley since 1978, owned horses and sheep, earned a MA at the University of Montana, traveled a fair amount in the U.S. and Canada, and worked as case manager in a variety of positions and locations. Recently retired, she hopes to continue enjoying the outdoors, volunteering in her community, and taking the occasional 'big' trip.

**Join Bitterroot Audubon Monday, April 21st at 7:00 P.M. at the Forest Service/Natural Resources Building, 1801 N. First Street (Hwy 93, north end of Hamilton). Enter the building from the west side. The Public is invited. Contact Kay Fulton (642-3794) for further information.**

## Citizen Science Opportunity- Owls

By Kate Stone

The Montana Natural Heritage Program is organizing a statewide owl monitoring effort this year. They are looking for people to survey two routes in the southern Bitterroot Valley in April. They will provide survey protocol and equipment. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Kate Stone (381-1115; [kroystone@hotmail.com](mailto:kroystone@hotmail.com)).



*Courtesy Kate Stone*

Northern Saw-whet Owl.

## Letter from the President

*By Kay Fulton, BAS President*

### True Confessions of an Irresponsible Birder

I hate to admit this but I am responsible for the deaths of several birds! I have prided myself in what I do to support the birds who come to my yard: I feed them tons of black oil sunflower seed, Niger and suet, keep the bird bath full (even have a "bird accessible" fish pond), and, most importantly, I keep my cats inside and don't let my dog chase the birds (including the turkeys)!

BUT I have windows! Nice large windows that let in lots of sunlight and allows me to relish the scenery, especially the Bitterroot Mountains. Every Spring, a number of woodpeckers and nuthatches die when they are darting around. Two or three hawks, including a Goshawk, have collided with a window when pursuing a California Quail -especially if the Quail hit the window first, which has happened several times. I feel terrible about all of these deaths and have tried to "mitigate" (to borrow a term from developers!) the cause but few of the solutions have been very successful: stencils, flagging tape, shades drawn at different times, etc. I'm still looking for answers but I'm not ready to board up my windows or stop feeding the birds. I suspect that several of you suffer similar conflicts; such as wanting your cats to have the pleasure of going outside, using pesticides to rid your



property of noxious weeds or rodents, failing to properly store equipment, pipes (don't leave them standing vertically), bailing twine (birds will gather this for their nests resulting in serious injury to, or deaths of the young), failing to clean your bird feeders or bird baths. Some hunters and trappers inadvertently kill birds or catch them in traps intended for other animals. I encourage all of us to look around our environment to make it healthier and safer for our birds and I'll keep looking for solutions to my window problem!

## Non-lead Ammunition Education Event

*By Kate Stone*



*Courtesy Craighead Beringia South*

Deer shot with lead ammunition. There are an average of 160 fragments found in an elk gut pile left by hunters in the field.

This winter saw the deaths of two Montana Bald Eagles, including one from the Bitterroot Valley, due to acute lead poisoning. Most of the Golden Eagles tested in our valley have elevated blood-lead levels. We suspect that most of this contamination comes from the ingestion of lead ammunition from waterfowl and/or hunter gut piles. Are you interested in learning more about the impacts of lead on birds and other wildlife? Are you a hunter thinking about switching to non-lead ammunition? If so, please join us for an informational evening on Tuesday April 29th, from 6-9 at the UC Theater at the University of Montana. The evening will start with a series of short videos highlighting research being done on the relationship between lead and wildlife and the ballistics of lead vs. non-lead ammunition. The video session will culminate with a presentation by Anthony Prieto, the

self-dubbed “Non-lead Hunter,” describing his experiences hunting with non-lead ammunition and why he has made the switch. We will host a short panel discussion to allow the audience to interact with Anthony, other hunters, and biologists working on this topic. After the discussion, we will have refreshments in the theater lobby as well as tables from various interested organizations to foster education and discussion. Bitterroot Audubon will be one of the groups with a table at the event. For more information, please contact: Rob Domenech of Raptor View Research Institute (406.258.6813, [www.raptorview.org](http://www.raptorview.org)).

### ***Wings Across the Big Sky*** **June 6-8, 2014 ~ Bozeman, Montana**

**PLEASE REGISTER EARLY** for Montana Audubon’s *Wings Across the Big Sky Festival* in Bozeman, Montana on June 6-8, 2014, at the Best Western GranTree Inn.

To ensure the very best field experience this year, the **Field Trips** are limited to 15 participants (fewer in some cases) and they do fill up fast, so register early either by mail or online at [www.mtaudubon.org](http://www.mtaudubon.org). For mail-in registrations, please send the registration form to Montana Audubon, PO Box 595, Helena, MT 59624. Checks should be made to “Montana Audubon.”

To help you support your favorite bird conservation organization, we are offering four exciting **Raffle** prizes this year: Our **Bucket Raffles** afford you the choice of three fun prizes!

- Family stay at the beautiful Abbott Valley Homestead near Glacier National Park;
- Artistic and beautiful handmade quilt by fiber artist, Linda Parker; and
- Beginning Birder’s Basket containing binoculars, books, and much more.
- **Our Special Raffle is a “Texas Coastal Birding Extravaganza” which includes 2 days of expertly-guided birding, 3-nights lodging, meals and round-trip travel from Montana to Houston, Texas for four adults — total value \$4,000!!!**
- Tickets for the **Bucket Raffle (\$10/each or 6/\$50)** and the **Special Raffle (\$50 each)** are included in the registration brochures sent early March. Tickets may also be purchased online at [www.mtaudubon.org](http://www.mtaudubon.org) and at the festival.

### ***Thank you for your generosity in considering this special support of the bird festival!***

Always an exciting part of the festival, the **Silent Auction** is already gathering momentum. Sacajawea Audubon members and others have been busy soliciting items. Additional items can be brought to the festival headquarters on Friday of the event. The auction will be closed after Saturday evening’s banquet and successful bidders may pay for and pick up their “winning” items at the end of the evening. Thank you for your auction contributions and participation.

Each year Montana Audubon recognizes individuals who work for the conservation and protection of birds and other wildlife by presenting **Awards** at the Saturday evening banquet. We are currently seeking nominations in the following categories: Lifetime Achievement Award, Educator of the Year, Conservationist of the Year, Citizen Scientist of the Year, and Special Achievement Award. To make a nomination, download a nomination form from [www.mtaudubon.org/about/awards.html](http://www.mtaudubon.org/about/awards.html). Nominations are due at the office by May 23, 2014. Mail completed forms to *Montana Audubon, PO Box 595, Helena MT 59624*.

## **News and Notes**

### **Calling all Bitterroot Photographers!**

*By Becky Peters*

Bitterroot Audubon is organizing their 2015 calendar. This could be our last one. The generosity of our local photographers has helped increase our Education and Scholarship Funds with our 2013 and 2014 BAS Calendars. If you would like be part of this wonderful process and would like to submit your photo(s) of our local Bitterroot birds please go to our website for more information: [bitterrootaudubon.org](http://bitterrootaudubon.org). The website has a list of birds we have prioritized for next year's calendar. We would like photographs submitted by **April 30th**. They are to be really sharp photos of at least 300-600 dpi and with the dimensions of 8 1/2"W by 9 1/2"H. Send your photos and questions to [bitterrootcalendar@gmail.com](mailto:bitterrootcalendar@gmail.com)

## FESTIVAL SPECIAL RAFFLE!!

**What :** Texas Coast Birding Extravaganza

**When:** April 14-17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Where:** Lodging close to downtown Houston with field trips to High Island, Anahuac NWR, and Katy Prairie!



This \$4000 package for four adults and includes round-trip airfare from Montana to Houston, two full days of birding with local experts and three days of luxury accommodations! Don't miss out on the opportunity to win this item! Special Raffle tickets are only \$50! **This package was generously donated by John Whitmire and Susie Maclin!**

## FESTIVAL BUCKET RAFFLE FOR THE BIRDS!!

Here is a chance to win 1 of 3 graciously donated items!  
Tickets are \$10 ea or 6/\$50

**# 1**



**Abbott Valley Homestead near  
Glacier National Park**

*Two-night stay for 2  
Adults or Family*

**# 2**



**Sunshine Bird Quilt by fiber  
artist Linda Parker**

**# 3**



**Beginning Birder's Basket**  
*Binoculars, Bird ID Books and  
much more*

## Calendar of Events

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

**Apr 21-** Audubon Meeting, Forest Service/DNRC Building, Hamilton, 7PM, **Board Mtg. 5PM**

**Apr 30-** BAS 2015 Calendar Submission deadline. bitterrootcalendar@gmail.com

**May 10-** Youth Conservation Expo, Teller's Slack Barn, 1180 Chaffin Lane, Corvallis, MT 59828. Free to the public.

**May 23-** Nominations for Montana Audubon's Conservationist of the Year, Environmental Educator of the Year, Special Achievement, Citizen Scientist of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Jun 6-8-** Wings Across the Big Sky birding festival, Bozeman, MT

### Save The Date: Youth Conservation & Education Expo

When: Saturday, May 10, 2014

Where: Teller's Slack Barn, 1180 Chaffin Lane, Corvallis, MT 59828

Details: FREE to attend! Meander through the Slack Barn and the surrounding grounds to visit educational booths and interactive trailers from approximately 30 national and local conservation organizations.

### Call for Montana Audubon Award Nominations!

Please nominate a deserving person for their work for conservation and/or Audubon! We are now seeking nominations for awards that will be given away at Montana Audubon's June annual meeting in Bozeman. The awards acknowledge individuals who exemplify a commitment to birds, other wildlife, and habitat conservation. This year awards will be given for Conservationist of the Year, Environmental Educator of the Year, Special Achievement, Citizen Scientist of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement Award.

To nominate your candidate, please visit our website at <http://mtaudubon.org/about/awards.html>. To be considered for this year's award, nominations must be submitted no later than May 23, 2014. Nominations can be submitted by email or mailed to Montana Audubon, PO Box 595, Helena, MT 59624, or by fax: (406) 443-7144. Questions? Contact Janet Ellis at [406-443-3949](mailto:jellis@mtaudubon.org) or [jellis@mtaudubon.org](mailto:jellis@mtaudubon.org).

### Bitterroot Audubon Society is going GREEN

By Sara Ashline and Karen Griffing, BAS Editors

Beginning Fall 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](http://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](mailto:audubonmembership@gmail.com) to begin receiving your newsletter electronically

**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](mailto: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 April 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



Great-blue Heron.

Courtesy Mike Daniels

BITTERROOT AUDUBON  
PO BOX 326  
HAMILTON MT 59840-0326

### Officers

President	Kay Fulton*	642-3794
Vice-Pres. & Conservation Chair	Fred Weisbecker*	375-9317
Secretary	John Ormiston*	363-5464
Treasurer	Jim Story*	961-4689

### Directors & Committee Chairs

IBA Program	Sherry Ritter	777-7409
Website & Field Trips	Kate Stone*	381-1115
Education	Leslie Nyce* <a href="mailto:bas4education@hotmail.com">bas4education@hotmail.com</a>	
Newsltr Eds &	Sara Ashline* <a href="mailto:baseditors@gmail.com">baseditors@gmail.com</a>	
Distribution	Karen Griffing*	961-0181
Hospitality	Rosan Stover	
Membership	Susie Duff*	961-5455
Publicity	Dave Lockman	777-2929
Rep. to MT		
Audubon	Becky Peters*	
At large	Judy Hoy*	777-2487
Scholarship	Skip Horner*	642-6840
At large	Campbell Massey	381-0197
At large	Alex Shaffer*	

\* Board Member

EMAIL: [contactus@bitterrootaudubon.org](mailto:contactus@bitterrootaudubon.org)  
WEBSITE: [www.BitterrootAudubon.org](http://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 full color e-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

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