

Bitterroot AUDUBON



NOVEMBER 2014

NEWSLETTER

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Audubon's Birds and Climate Initiative—and Us: 314 North American Bird Species on the Brink of Extinction

By Amy Cilimburg

Perhaps you have already heard about the “Audubon Report” on birds imperiled by climate change. The results from that study, released in early September, are alarming—314 North American bird species on the brink. What are the implications for Montana birds and what can we in Montana do about it? How can citizen scientists help, and how can we use “climate-smart conservation”—in western Montana and beyond—as part of the solution?



Courtesy Karl Martens, National Geographic
Burrowing Owl



Join Bitterroot Audubon Monday, November 17th to hear Montana Audubon's Amy Cilimburg. She will present a slide show that highlights not just answers to these questions, but also a deeper look into the Audubon report, the largest and most comprehensive examination of birds and climate change ever undertaken in North America. Over the past seven years, Audubon's team has analyzed more than 30 years of bird observations from the North American Breeding Bird Survey, Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, and data from leading climatologists in the US and Canada. This assessment gives us an unprecedented ability to project where birds are most

likely—and unlikely—to survive in the future. We'll look at the future of swans, curlews, chickadees, owls, hummingbirds, and more, and we'll circle around to the status of climate change solutions. Much can be done locally to create a better future for all.



Courtesy Bob Martinka

Mountain Chickadee

Amy Cilimburg is the Director of Bird Conservation and Climate Policy for Montana Audubon, where she works to educate and inspire action around issues related to climate change, birds, wildlife, and energy in Montana. She spearheads, along with her colleague Amy Seaman, the Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program in Montana and collaborates with others to protect Montana's birds and their habitat. Amy has an M.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana, and prior to coming to Audubon, was the Assistant Director of the University of Montana Avian Science Center. This fall she received the Sustainability Advocate of the Year award from Missoula's Sustainable Business Council for her work to craft and implement municipal and community Climate Action Plans for Missoula. Amy lives with her husband, daughter, and dog in Missoula and strives to reduce her carbon footprint.



Courtesy Bob Martinka

Rufous Hummingbird

The Bitterroot Audubon meeting will be held at 7:00 P.M. Monday, November 17 in the Natural Resources/Forest Service Building at the north end of Hamilton, on the west side of Highway 93. Enter the building on the west side. The public is invited. Contact Kay Fulton at 642-3794 for more information.

Sponsors needed for Audubon Adventures!!

This year marks the 31st season of the National Audubon program Audubon Adventures. The theme for this year is “Birds, Bees, and Neighborhood Biomes.” Bitterroot Audubon is thrilled to offer Audubon Adventures to teachers around the valley at NO COST.

Because the program has gone digital, the cost to sponsor a classroom has been drastically reduced to only **\$16.00**. To sponsor a classroom, please make your check payable to Bitterroot Audubon and send it to Bitterroot Audubon, Attn: Audubon Adventures, P.O. Box 326, Hamilton, MT 59840. For more information, please contact Rachel Ingram at zephyrmer@gmail.com.

Festival of the Dead

By Kate Stone

Over 20 friends and members of Bitterroot Audubon participated in Missoula’s Festival of the Dead Parade on November 2nd. This event honors life and death through community involvement in the arts. Bitterroot Audubon paraded the streets of Missoula to honor dead trees and the role they play as habitat for birds and other wildlife. Along with several dead trees, we had two bats, two Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, a Flying



Courtesy Kate Stone

Bitterroot Audubon members at the Festival of the Dead Parade in Missoula.

Squirrel, a Mountain Bluebird, owls, a Pine Marten, a raccoon and a Black Bear marching in the parade. We handed out over 900 educational Audubon stickers to parade bystanders.



Courtesy Kate Stone

Bitterroot Audubon members at the Festival of the Dead Parade in Missoula.

Survey of Forest Carnivores

This winter, the MT Wilderness Association and Defenders of Wildlife will use volunteers to monitor forest carnivores in the Bitterroot and Sapphire Mountains. Field work will include setting up a monitoring station with a staff member and visiting it again with a partner every 3-4 weeks over the winter. This will involve snowshoeing and/or cross country skiing in the backcountry, with some stations closer than others. Or you can be involved by helping to sort images taken with remote cameras. There's a kickoff meeting/party on DEC 4 in Missoula. Contact Kylie Paul at kpaul@defenders.org or [406-728-8800](tel:406-728-8800).

Bitterroot Audubon 2015 Calendar

By Becky Peters

What's something that involves our Bitterroot Valley birds, local photographers, local children, and local businesses all the while bringing in money for local projects for our birds' habitats? Why, that can only be our locally made Bitterroot Audubon 2015 Calendar!!

And it is a beauty! You already have a 2015 calendar you say? Well, was it locally made and does the money stay local to help local residents? Probably not! Besides you need more than one calendar! You've got more than one room in your house! And what other calendar tells you where you can find which birds during each month? And what other calendar gives you space to write down the birds you see for each month? For a bird lover, there isn't another calendar as unique and useful as this one!



This is the third year we have made a Bitterroot Audubon Calendar and some say it is the best one ever! Out of the 400 submissions from a lot of talented, generous Bitterrooters, we laboriously narrowed our calendar photos down to 55, and would have gone for more if we could have.

What does your \$15 go for when you purchase one, or two?! (They make great boasting gifts to give to non-paradise residents unlucky enough not to live here!) Well, your money stays here in the Valley. Bitterroot Audubon uses the funds to support our Conservation Projects, Education Projects and Scholarship Funds for Montana college students in Environmental Sciences. We are truly thinking of the future for our birds and our children. Help us help them.

You can purchase the calendars at the November BAS meeting and at the Christmas Bird Counts. You can also find them at local stores in Hamilton: Chapter

One, Paper Clip, Picturesque, Robbins', Bitterroot Drug, Art Focus, Sam's Spade and Lakeland Feed; in Stevensville at the Lisa Archer Silks/Antique Store and in Missoula at Naturalist's Mercantile. If those places are not convenient, by all means buy them online at bitterrootaudubon.org. \$18 will cover the calendar and postage, etc. You will enjoy this calendar much longer than a year.

News and Notes

Highway Cleanup

Join us to help clean up our two mile stretch of Highway 93 on Saturday, November 16th at 2PM. Contact Kay Fulton at 642-3794 to participate.

Wildlife Grants Available—Apply Today

Montana Audubon is offering small grants (\$500 maximum/\$1,700 total) for wildlife research and education projects, with an emphasis on non-game wildlife. Grants come from our Audubon Wildlife Fund of Montana endowment. The funds can be used for mileage, equipment, printing, and communications; the funds cannot be used for salaries, stipends, and personal equipment. In 2014, grants purchased equipment for research and education projects at Salish Kootenai College, helped fund a research project on Montana's vulnerable wetlands, and aided a Northern Hawk Owl study in western Montana.

To apply for an Audubon Wildlife Fund grant, visit our website

(<http://www.mtaudubon.org/about/grants.html>).

Applications must be emailed (preferred) or post marked by Friday, December 12, 2014. Grant recipients will be announced by February 1, 2015.

Calendar of Events

Nov 15-Beginner Bird Walk at Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT 10AM-12PM

Nov 16-Highway clean-up rescheduled. Contact Kay Fulton at 642-3794 to participate.

Nov 17- Audubon Meeting, Audubon Meeting, Forest Service/DNRC Building, Hamilton, MT 7PM, Board Mtg. 5PM.

Dec 12- MT Audubon Wildlife Grant Application due date

Dec- Christmas Bird Counts, dates TBD

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 fall 2014, we'll be sending the newsletter electronically only, and it is always available at www.bitterrootaudubon.org. 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 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.

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 November 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.

Bird Shots



Common Raven.

Courtesy Judy Hoy

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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	Kate Stone*	381-1115
Field Trips	Sherry Ritter	777-7409
Education	Rachel Ingram* zephyrmer@gmail.com	
Newsltr Eds &	Sara Ashline* baseditors@gmail.com	
Distribution	Karen Griffing*	961-0181
Hospitality	Rosan Stover	
Membership	Susie Duff*	961-5455
Publicity	Dave Lockman	777-2929
Rep. to MT		
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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
WEBSITE: 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