

Bitterroot AUDUBON



OCTOBER 2014

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 29, NO. 2

Duck banding in Canada

By Deb Goslin

Banding is one of the most commonly used techniques for studying birds/ducks to learn about their habits, migration patterns, health and their environment. Biologists from all over the United States “flock” to the Provinces of Western Canada every year to count and band ducks. This prairie-pothole region is known as the “duck factory of the continent.” Come join Bitterroot Audubon, October 20th, to discover why this occurs and learn historical background on how this helps maintain duck populations. This program had to be postponed last March but we are thrilled to be able to offer it to you now.



Courtesy Deborah Goslin

Deborah Goslin, Biological Technician at the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge, has “migrated north” to Alberta to band hundreds of ducks. The enthusiasm she exudes when discussing her experiences is infectious and will have everyone wanting to sign up! Deborah is a Master Naturalist and has worked as a Biological Technician at the Lee

Metcalf Refuge for over 20 years, counting waterfowl and banding songbirds.

Come hear Deborah as she unveils her stories, Monday, October 20, 2014, 7:00 P.M. at the Lee Metcalf Refuge, on Wildfowl Lane north of Stevensville. The public is invited. Contact Kay Fulton, 642-3794, for more information.

Raptor Migration Resources

By Kate Stone

Raptor migration is in full swing! For those of you wanting more information about what raptors are migrating through and where some of our raptors go, there are a few resources to help you keep track.

Raptor counters throughout North America post their migration data to HawkCount.org, sponsored by the Hawk Migration Association of North America. You can see daily updates from counts conducted by Raptor View Research Institute on the MPG Ranch in Florence by going to this link:

http://www.hawkcount.org/month_summary.php?rsite=723

Observers have already counted over 2500 migrants!! Like last year, large numbers of Turkey Vultures are migrating through, over 1000 so far. Other top early-season migrants include Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, and Cooper’s and Sharp-shinned Hawks. As the season progresses, we expect to see fewer accipiters and more buteos and eagles. Did you know that Broad-winged Hawks migrate over the Bitterroot? The raptor crew has counted 38 so far.

You have probably noticed that most of the Osprey have left the area. Raptor View Research Institute has outfitted several local Osprey with satellite transmitters. You can follow their wanderings on this website:

<http://ranchmpg.appspot.com/ospreylocator.html>

Several Osprey have already made it down to their overwintering grounds. The last to go includes an adult male named “Wayne”, named after our local bird aficionado Wayne Tree.



Map courtesy of Raptor View Research Institute and MPG Ranch

Lines represent migration paths of individual Osprey.

Letter from the President

By Kay Fulton, BAS President

ATTENTION!

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We Urgently Need Your Help

Bitterroot Audubon Education Opportunity

Our Coordinator of Education Services had to step down at the beginning of the summer and we need one or two people to help with this very important part of Bitterroot Audubon. There are several aspects to this position but it can be divided into smaller parts. One of the most important is the Audubon Adventures Program which involves coordination with the local schools.

Please, consider helping us and the children of Ravalli County. Call Kay Fulton at 642-3794 or email her at kayinmt@cybernet1.com

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? Not one other calendar is 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! (Frankly, I don't choose between “our children!”) 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 October and November BAS meetings 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

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 nongame 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.

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.

Calendar of Events

Oct 18-Beginner Bird Walk at Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT 10AM-12PM

Oct 20- Audubon Meeting, Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT 7PM, Board Mtg. 5PM.

Nov 17-Audubon Meeting, TBD

Dec 12- Wildlife Grant Application due date

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 October 18th at 10AM for a two hour bird walk. Bring binoculars if you have them. Contact the refuge at [\(406\) 777-5552](tel:(406)777-5552) for more information.

Bird Shots



Cedar Waxwing, 2014.

Courtesy Mike Daniels

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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
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		
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

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