

# Bitterroot AUDUBON



MARCH 2015

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 29, NO. 7

## **BITTERROOT BIRDS: The Unique Habits, Songs and History of Some of our Backyard Visitors**

*By Susie Duff*

At the March 16<sup>th</sup>, BAS meeting, Susie will share some of her techniques for studying the birds that visit our bird feeders and backyards. She will focus on waxwings, grosbeaks, crossbills and finches and their habits, songs, natural history and why they might come to your yard. For example, there are a number of birds with “Grosbeak” as part of their names but one is not even in the same bird family, one is called a “mope” and one does not really have what we would recognize as a song. Do you know which of these is which?



*Courtesy Keith Alderman*

*Black-headed Grosbeak.*

Observing and studying birds has been a lifelong activity and love of Susie. She began at the age of 10 on the family farm in northern New Jersey and continues to this day. She became so enthralled with birds, wildlife and ecology that she eventually studied biology in graduate school and taught numerous science courses at the college level in South Bend, Indiana. She has spent hundreds of hours observing birds in the East, Midwest and Texas. Retired now, she continues her studies.

Moving to Hamilton has been a whole new education experience requiring learning different bird song dialects and different bird species. Susie has been involved with Audubon throughout her career and is currently the Membership Chairperson for Bitterroot Audubon.



*Pine Grosbeak.*

**Come join Bitterroot Audubon, Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 2015, 7:00 P.M. at the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge, on Wildfowl Lane, north of Stevensville. The public is invited. Contact Kay Fulton, 642-3794, for more information.**



*Evening Grosbeak*

## Do you eBird?

By Kate Stone

eBird is a free, web-based tool for sharing your bird observations, and is revolutionizing how citizen scientists contribute to our knowledge of birds. Currently, there are large geographic and species gaps within eBird for the state of Montana. To fill in these gaps, Kate Stone and Eric Rasmussen from MPG Ranch challenge you to share more of your observations. Our goal is to promote and encourage eBird use in Montana. We will have fun prizes for monthly challenges and for the eBirder with the most species and most counties at the end of the year. We'll also share tips for how you can use eBird to learn more about birds in Montana and elsewhere. For more information, contact Kate and Eric at [montanachallenge2015@mpgranch.com](mailto:montanachallenge2015@mpgranch.com).



Courtesy Sara Ashline

*Downy Woodpecker.*

## Join BAS at the 2015 Youth Conservation and Education Expo

By Rachel Ingram

The 2015 Youth Conversation & Education Expo will be held on Saturday, May 9 at the Teller Slack Barn in Corvallis. Many local sporting and conservation groups will host booths at the event with the goal of providing fun activities to educate kids about the outdoors and inspire them to get out and play. There will also be a climbing wall. Children of all ages are welcome to attend.

## Chapter Only Membership Dues

By Susie Duff

Just a friendly reminder that Bitterroot Audubon local membership dues are due if you would like to continue to be a supporting member. If you are a member of National Audubon you do not need to pay dues to Bitterroot Audubon to be a member, however these dues of \$15 help support our general fund. This fund allows us to have the monies to meet any bills we may incur, to pay our dues to Montana Audubon, and to do any other field work or support services that do not qualify for our special fund provided by our calendar sales. Dues may be given to Jim Story (BAS Treasurer) or mailed to:

Bitterroot Audubon, PO Box 326  
Hamilton, MT 59840-0326

## Calendar of Events

**March 16-** Audubon Meeting, Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT 7PM, Board Mtg. 5PM.

**Mar 21-** Beginner Bird Walk at Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT 10AM-12PM.

**Apr 2-25-** Birding Workshop, Missoula, MT

**Apr 11-** Welcome Back Waterfowl/BAS 30th Anniversary, Lee Metcalf NWR

**May 9-** Youth Expo, Teller Wildlife Refuge, Slack Barn, Corvallis, MT

**Jun 5-7-** Helena, MT, Wings Across the Big Sky

## Workshop for Beginning & Intermediate Birders

By Kate Stone

The Five Valleys Audubon Society will offer a workshop for beginning and intermediate birders. This workshop should appeal to birders who are just getting started and to birders who want to improve their identification skills. It will consist of four classroom sessions and one field trip. The classroom sessions are scheduled for Thursdays on April 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd, 2015 and will be held at the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Office at 3201 Spurgin Road. They will start at 7:00 PM and last until 9:30 PM. The program will include a full session on hawks, eagles and owls, and also include 30- to 60-minute sessions on bird anatomy, migration, waterfowl, woodpeckers, shorebirds, warblers, sparrows and birding-by-ear. The field trip will be held on Saturday, April 25th. There will be a \$35



**wings**  
**across the big sky**

**June 5-7, 2015    Helena, Montana**

***Come join us for Montana Audubon's Annual Bird Festival, this year co-hosted by the Last Chance Audubon Society, June 5-7, 2015, at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena.*** We are very excited about this facility, which will be the center for all festival activities Friday through Sunday, including registration, birding field trip departures, guest speaker presentations, meals, banquet festivities, and much more.

The Colonial is located near the Capitol exit off I-15 and provides easy access to all our birding activities and field trips.

Currently we have 100 rooms blocked for festival-goers Friday and Saturday nights. Be sure to tell them you're with the Montana Audubon Bird Festival group to get the special rate! We suggest you make your reservations soon at the hotel directly at 1-406-443-2100, or online with the booking code, MONT0604.

Our Festival Registration Brochure is scheduled to be mailed the middle of March, with the online registration system active soon after. Use either the registration brochure or the online system to register. The brochure is full of information on the festival events and all the field trips that will be available.

**Here's a Sneak Peak at Some of our Scheduled Events for the Festival:**

- Keynote speaker, Scott Weidensaul, will be speaking Friday evening on migration and "Living on the Wind" and then bringing some fascinating information on his work with Snowy and Northern Saw-whet Owls on Saturday afternoon.
- Friday evening - a look at how Montana Audubon is addressing conservation and some fun projects brewing in the area;
- What do you do when 180-pound moose calf invites himself into your kitchen? How do you settle a bet over the exact size of a ferret? What do you do when you find an injured animal? For many Montanans the answer is simple. Call Vince Yannone! Vince is one of the most recognized and popular personalities in the state. His native wit and sense of humor have made him a local legend. Many Montana children have grown up watching Vince on TV and listening to his classroom presentations. Although he has retired from Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks he remains a favorite speaker across Montana.
- What about Merlins? Another local favorite, Dan Ellison will bring some fun facts and information on his work in and around Helena with this fascinating species.

Stay tuned for more information on speakers and surprises for Friday and Saturday evenings and the Saturday afternoon sessions.

charge for the workshop. To sign up, call Larry Weeks at 549-5632 or email him at [bwsgenea@gmail.com](mailto:bwsgenea@gmail.com). The workshop will be limited to 30 participants.

## News and Notes

### **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](http://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](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 March 21st 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 Horned Owl.*

*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	Kate Stone*	381-1115
Field Trips	Sherry Ritter	777-7409
Education	Rachel Ingram* <a href="mailto:zephyrmer@gmail.com">zephyrmer@gmail.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