

Bitterroot AUDUBON



NOVEMBER 2015

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 30, NO. 3

A Visit to the Antarctic Peninsula with Well-Known Wildlife Biologist, Bob Martinka

By Bob Martinka



Courtesy Bob Martinka

Bitterroot Audubon Society invites you learn about one of the least visited areas in the world. The Antarctic Peninsula and associated islands are arguably the most remote, spectacular and wildlife diverse regions remaining on earth. Bob Martinka will highlight a 19-day cruise he and his wife Cathy took to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island and the Antarctic Peninsula in January 2014. They followed parts of a route that Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton and his men traversed on their disastrous 1914-1917 expedition. Bob's presentation will highlight the history, scenery and amazing wildlife of the region.

Bob obtained degrees in Wildlife Biology and Ecology from Colorado State University, Purdue University and a Ph.D. from Montana State University.



Courtesy Bob Martinka

He worked for almost 30 years with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. In his retirement years he has become an avid photographer, traveling to numerous locations around the globe to pursue his interest in most wild things, including birds, mammals, dragonflies and flowers.



Courtesy Bob Martinka

Some of you may remember Bob's program on dragonflies a number of years ago and know that his photography is outstanding as are his energy and enthusiasm for his subjects. **Join Bitterroot Audubon Monday, Nov. 16, 7:00 P.M. at the Teller Wildlife Refuge located at 268 Quast Lane, north of Corvallis just off the Eastside Highway to the west. For more information contact Kay Fulton at 642-3794.**

Letter from the President

By Becky Peters, BAS President

Last month I shared some books I treasure. This month I am going to share some websites and applications I treasure. It would be great to have time for us all to share other books, apps and sites that are important to us concerning birds and their habitats.



*First off, I sure hope you are all on **eBird.org**

This website is organized to be a global tool for birders and to share critical data for science.

- **Record the birds you see**
- **Keep track of your bird lists**
- **Explore dynamic maps and graphs**
- **Share your sightings and join the eBird community**
- **Contribute to science and conservation**

You don't have to record birds you see unless you want to (but they really want you to record them!) First you register with them and then you can start exploring the information. I just love going on their site, clicking on "Explore Data" and then seeing what birds are in Ravalli County during certain times. Like, "Wow, a Loon here in November!" You can look up any region in the world, look up species maps, arrivals and departures of certain species!

I've signed up for "Alerts" so I get almost daily emails from our local birders who input data about our local birds they observed and where they were. I'm spoiled.

*Then check out: **Cornell Lab of Ornithology** (which is eBird)

They have a great site for children:

<http://www.birdsleuth.org/>

A fun site for watching the migration of specific birds is <http://www.birdsleuth.org/mapping-with-birds/> or <http://bit.ly/1bPnuwD> which takes you right to the eBird Occurrence Maps

*If you like Bird Cams – go to allaboutbirds.org/

***Apps to download on to smartphone:**

1. **Merlin Bird ID** - from the Cornell Lab (free download)

Only 400 North American birds, but growing!
This is especially for beginning birders!!

Have you ever caught sight of a bird and saw some color and size, but you weren't sure which bird it was? Here's a site to download to your smartphone. When you put in your date and location it searches for likely birds within a 30 mile radius. With users' inputs from fellow eBirders, the Merlin ID site will add more and more birds.

For example, this morning I put in Hamilton, the date, crow size, three colors (black, gray, and white) and on a tree. Merlin came up with 5 possible matches. The first one that popped up was Clark's Nutcracker. Bingo! Then I confirm That's My Bird! and I get to see details about the bird and I can hear its call. Pretty nifty. They don't have enough birds in the site yet, but it will get better as we all put in more information.

2. The Audubon Bird Guide App . . . and Sibley's, and Peterson's, etc.

<https://itunes.apple.com>

<https://play.google.com/store>

3. And last, but not least – I love my **iBird Pro North America** app. for my smart phone. \$9.99 for my Android, \$14.99 for iTunes download to iPhone. I would not be without it!

Have fun with these and explore, explore, explore! I know there is much more out there.

BAS Field Trip Coordinator Needed

by Kate Stone

As a small Audubon chapter, we have struggled to maintain an active field trip program with a coordinator and leaders. At this time, we no longer have anyone able to serve as our field trip coordinator. If you might be interested in volunteering your time as a coordinator, please contact our President Becky Peters. In the meantime, we are taking advantage of the fact that our neighbor, Five Valleys Audubon in Missoula, offers field trips nearly every weekend and welcomes the participation of Bitterroot Audubon members. We are posting their field trips on our website calendar, and you can also visit their website for more information: <http://fvaudubon.org>.

Sponsors needed for Audubon Adventures

By Amanda Bestor

Bitterroot Audubon is proud to offer *Audubon Adventures* once again to teachers and students around the valley for no cost. This resource is free

because generous Bitterroot Audubon members provide donations to cover the fees for all the materials. This year we currently have over 300 students in 14 different classrooms across the valley that are excited to learn about birds with this program.

NEW for 2015-16! are Action for Planet Earth Classroom Kits with print and online components. Three topics focus on protecting Earth's natural resources.

- (1) Why and how to protect habitats that are home to all living things.
- (2) Sources of and challenges to essential clean water resources and how to preserve them.
- (3) Different forms and sources of energy and their pros and cons.

Student newspapers for each topic are provided in printed form plus online interactive features, teacher guide, e-newsletter subscription, and resources.

There is a print and online kit that costs: **\$45.95** or a digital kit that costs: **\$16.00**

We currently have 12 classrooms that are interested in the print edition and 2 classrooms that are signed up for the digital kit. Many teachers like the print option because they can use some of the lessons outside or have limited technology access.

To sponsor a classroom, please make your check payable to:

Bitterroot Audubon and send it to-
Bitterroot Audubon

Attn: Audubon Adventures

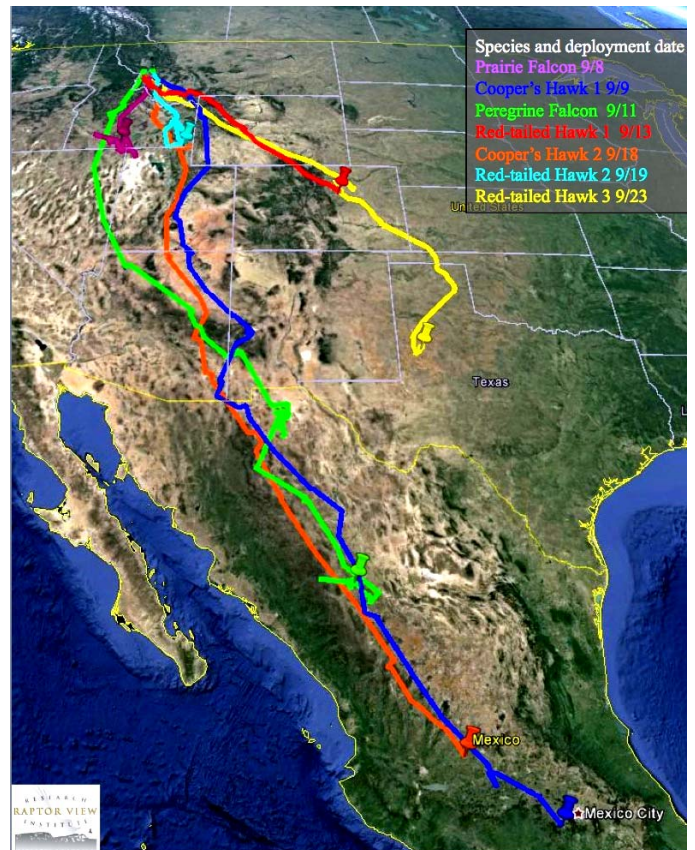
P.O Box 326, Hamilton, MT 59840

For more information or to register a program, teachers should contact: amandabestor4@gmail.com

Tracking Raptors Migrating Through the Bitterroot Valley

By Adam Shreading

During fall migration, Raptor View Research Institute deployed satellite transmitters on seven raptors migrating through the Bitterroot Valley. As of 10/30, all birds appeared to have settled on their over-wintering grounds. The two Coopers Hawks traveled the farthest and are currently in central Mexico. We have no idea where these birds came from; their satellite transmitters should identify breeding grounds in 2016.



Courtesy Raptor View Research Institute

Two Interesting Bird Studies

By Judy Hoy

Risk Assessment for the Birds

Every year, backyard songbirds across the United States make an arduous journey to warmer winter climates. They migrate hundreds of miles, occasionally braving tough terrain and nasty weather. Sometimes, they have no place to stop and refuel along the way. A new study focused on the complex factors that determine when these little birds make their journeys.

To read the study go to:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/11/151102184207.htm>

Juvenile Cowbirds Sneak Out at Night

A new study explores how a young cowbird, left as an egg in the nest of a different species, grows up to know it's a cowbird and not a warbler, thrush or sparrow.

To read the study go to:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/11/151102152607.htm>

News and Notes

Montana Audubon Wildlife Grants Available—Apply Today! Are you working on a project benefiting non-game wildlife? Montana Audubon is offering small grants (\$500 maximum/\$1,600 total) for wildlife research and education projects through our Audubon Wildlife Fund of Montana endowment. Funds can be used for mileage, equipment, printing, and communications (but not salaries, stipends, and personal equipment). To apply for a grant, visit <http://mtaudubon.org/about/wildlife-grants/>. Applications must be emailed (preferred) or postmarked by Friday, December 11, 2015. Grant recipients will be announced by February 1, 2016. For more information, contact Janet Ellis at jellis@mtaudubon.org.

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:(406)777-5552) for more information.

Calendar of Events

Oct 8-Highway 93 Cleanup, 4PM. Meet at mile marker 64 in Stevensville.

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

Nov 16-Audubon Meeting, The Teller Wildlife Refuge, Corvallis, MT 7PM, Board Mtg. 5:30PM.

Dec 11-MT Audubon Wildlife Project Grant Applications due

Dec-Christmas Bird Counts, TBD

Bird Shots



Great Gray Owl.

Courtesy Mike Daniels

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Officers

President	Becky Peters*	369-5210
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	370-4778
Programs	Kay Fulton*	642-3794
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Hospitality	Rosan Stover	
Membership	Susie Duff*	961-5455
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Audubon	Becky Peters*	
At large	Judy Hoy*	777-2487
Scholarship	Skip Horner*	642-6840
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

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