

Bitterroot AUDUBON



SEPTEMBER 2016

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 31, NO. 1

BIRDING IN SOUTHEAST ARIZONA

By Kay Fulton



Courtesy Barb Moreland

Verdin

You don't need to go to Central America or South America to see fantastic, colorful birds. Just go to Southeast Arizona; it's a lot closer! Imagine seeing an Elegant Trogon, an Elf Owl, a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher or an Acorn Woodpecker. Have you heard of Madera Canyon, the Chiricahua Mountains or **Barb Moreland's Backyard**? These are well-known birding hotspots in Arizona and Barb Moreland will be at Bitterroot Audubon's September 19th meeting to tell us all about this wonderful birding area. Her presentation will include information on birding spots and pictures of many of the major birds of that area.



Courtesy Barb Moreland

Acorn Woodpecker

In southeastern Arizona, elevation and climate rule. Geologic forces have created lush green mountain ranges called 'sky islands', surrounded by arid

deserts and grasslands. Here is where the Rocky Mountains meet Mexico's Sierra Madre, where Sonoran Desert meets Chihuahuan Desert and where a major migration corridor fills riparian woodlands with song and color in the spring. The resulting mixture produces one of the richest regions of bird diversity on the continent, more than 500 species recorded. Barb will share fascinating facts about this region and the birds.

Barb and her husband, Ron, have had a summer home in Hamilton for fifteen years. Their main home has been in Tucson, AZ for over twenty years and they have been avid birders during that time. In their community they are involved with a group connected to the Audubon Society, who take bi-monthly birding field trips. It is not unusual to spot 30 to 40 species on each outing. Barb credits her love of birding to her parents who were 50-year birders and Audubon Society members. She remembers fondly the many times her parents visited southeast Arizona and the many birding trips they all took together to track down a special bird!



Courtesy Barb Moreland

Vermillion Flycatcher

Come join Bitterroot Audubon for this exciting program, Monday, September 19th, 7:00 P.M. at the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge in the Visitors' Center. The Refuge is located on Wildfowl Lane, north east of Stevensville. The Public is invited. Contact Kay Fulton, 642-3794, for more information.

PROJECTED FUTURE AVIAN MIGRATION PATTERN



Map by Dan Majka, Audubon

The streaking blue lines on the map above represent the projected major paths birds will take to reach cooler climates in the next 70 years. These amazing maps show how wildlife will migrate to survive climate change. Not only do they highlight the major routes species will take to stay cool, but they are also guides for how we should approach future conservation. See the animated version at:

http://www.audubon.org/news/these-amazing-maps-show-how-wildlife-will-migrate-survive-climate-change?utm_source=engagement&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2016-09-08-climate-migration

Letter from the President

By Becky Peters, BAS President

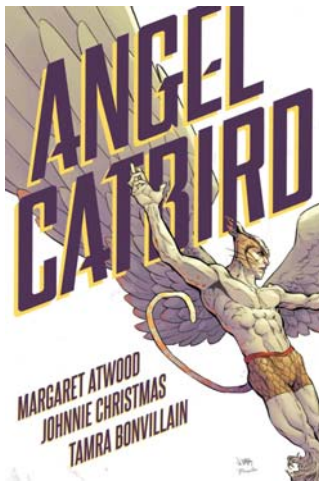


Welcome to our new BAS 2016-2017 meetings!

Hello to all our members and new members! We have some great programs set for our meetings this year thanks to Kay Fulton, our Program Director. So don't miss a meeting! We also have some new Board members for you to meet: Susan Nelson, Thomas Arminio, and Michelle Long. You will get to hear about them at the Sept. 19th. Meeting. Along with the new theme I have going don't forget to check out Nature Conservancy's new Bird of the Month each month. Here's September's: (which Kate Stone will love)

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/urgentissues/migratorybirds/bird-of-the-month/september-bird-of-the-month-long-billed-curlew.xml>

And if you are into something rather mind stretching, at least for me it is, this next item took me on a new path. Canadian science fiction author Margaret Atwood (*The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Blind Assassin*, *Oryx and Crake*) has collaborated on a graphic comic book/novel about a combination man, cat, and bird.



The first installment of *Angel Catbird* was released in tandem with Nature Canada's [Keep Cats Safe and Save Bird Lives](#) program, which urges cat owners to take a pledge against letting their pets roam outdoors, and increases their knowledge of [the strain it puts on wild bird populations.](#)" The graphic novel is Atwood's first,

and combines her inventive storytelling with her passion for animals and conservation. A birder since childhood, Atwood is an outspoken environmentalist and advocate who [pens essays about the plight of birds](#) and serves as honorary president of [BirdLife's Rare Bird Club.](#)"

How about that for something to stretch our wings? Check it out!

Last new thing, but it is a summer wrap-up item: Want to see what MPG Ranch was up to this summer? Check out their UMBEL Songbird banding site.

<http://mpgranch.com/research/latest-research/umbel-songbird-banding-update.aspx>

See you all Monday, September 19th at the Metcalf!

Calendar of Events

Sep 17- Beginner Bird Walk at Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT 10AM-12PM.

Sep 19- Audubon Meeting, Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT 7PM, Board Mtg. 5PM

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

Oct 17- Audubon Meeting, Location TBD, 7PM, Board Mtg. 5PM

Nov 19- Beginner Bird Walk at Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT 10AM-12PM.

Nov 21- Audubon Meeting, Location TBD, 7PM, Board Mtg. 5PM

e-Birders and the Bitterroot River IBA

By Sherry Ritter

This summer, we made a concerted effort to count birds within the Bitterroot River Important Bird Area (IBA). Kate Stone and eBird set up 15 "Hotspots" to attract birders and encourage them to submit checklists. And they did! More than a hundred birders recorded 175 species on the hotspots and several other locations along the river.

We were particularly interested in our six focal species and had good numbers of five of them: Bald Eagles (39), Great Blue Herons (98), Lewis's Woodpecker (73), Red-naped Sapsuckers (74), and Willow Flycatchers (32; a number that is lower than we think should be here but comparable to a count done in 2006). However one species, the Red-eyed Vireo, appears to have decreased since the 2006 count. We only found three of these birds along the whole IBA this year, compared to 27 in 2006. While the survey efforts and observers differed between the two years, we think the concern for this species is valid.

Red-eyed Vireos use cottonwood gallery forests with under stories of saplings and shrubs. They are also susceptible to nest parasitism by Brown-headed

Cowbirds. Managing for them will require protecting cottonwood under stories from excess browsing by cattle, deer, and elk. If we can get landowners to also protect more willow patches from browsing, we should be able to increase the number of Willow Flycatchers in the IBA.

Thanks to all the eBirders who helped out this year. Thanks also to Skip Horner and Fred Weisbecker who took surveyors out on three float trips on the Bitterroot River's IBA from Tucker Crossing to Florence.

News and Notes

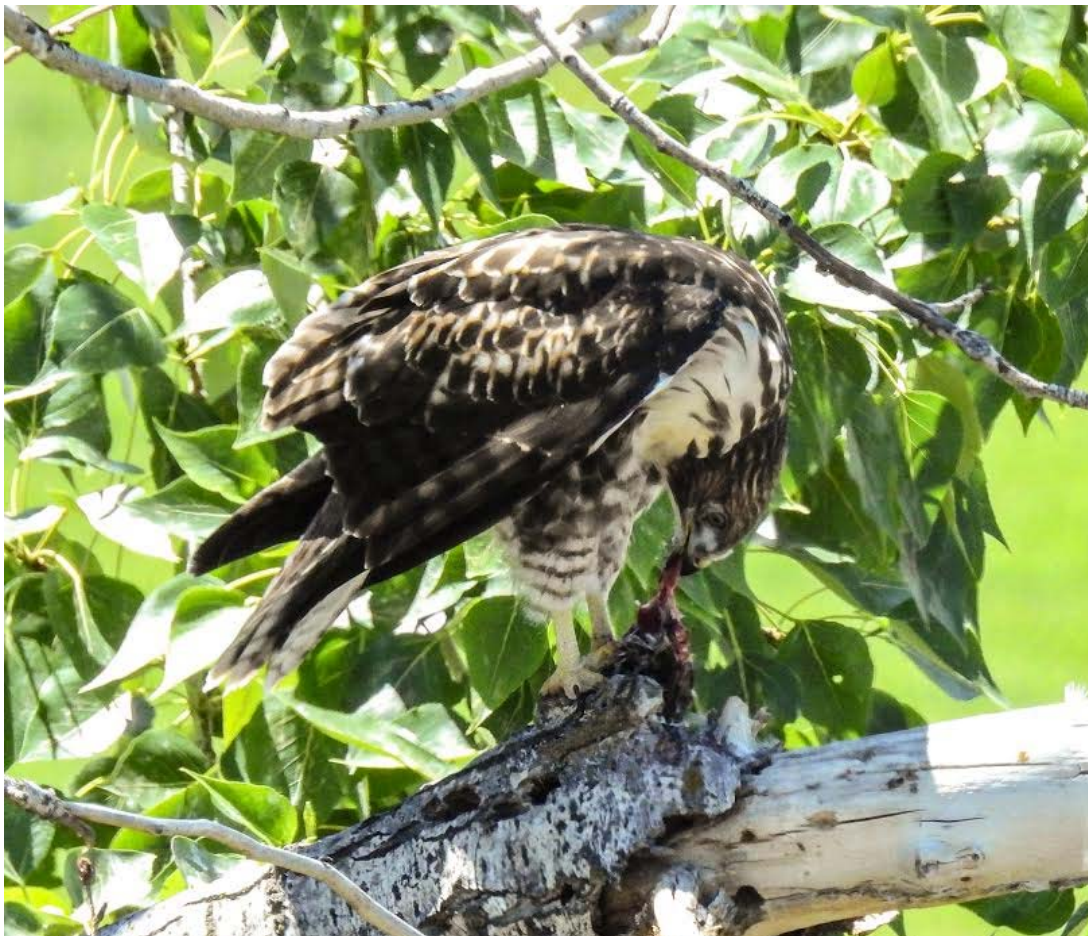
Thank You! Colleen Powell would like to thank Jenny Rokoush and her crew of willing workers who spent four evenings cutting Houndstongue bouquets for disposal. Great work everyone!

BAS Board Member Rosan Stover reported from observer Jo Ramundo of a stand-off between two Sandhill Cranes and a coyote. The coyote backed off.

Welcome New Board Members! Thomas Arminio, Susan Nelson, Michelle Long and Betsy Ballard **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 September 17th 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.



Courtesy Mel Holloway

Newly fledged Red Tailed Hawk with prey.

BITTERROOT AUDUBON
PO BOX 326
HAMILTON MT 59840-0326

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
Website	Kate Stone*	381-1115
Newsltr Eds & Distribution	Sara Ashline* baseditors@gmail.com	
Hospitality	Karen Griffing*	
Membership	Rosan Stover	
Publicity	Susie Duff*	961-5455
Rep. to MT	Dave Lockman	777-2929
Audubon	Becky Peters*	
Scholarship	Skip Horner*	642-6840
Aud. Adv.	Betsy Ballard	
At large	Judy Hoy*	777-2487
At large	Thomas Arminio*	
At large	Susan Nelson*	
At large	Michelle Long*	

* 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

National Audubon Society, Inc.
225 Varick Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10014
Attn: Chance Mueleck