

September 2021

Birding Observer



Five Valleys Audubon Society, a Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Calendar

- **Tuesday, September 7, 2021, 6:00-7:45 pm:** Please join us at the Missoula Public Library for the Five Valleys Audubon Society Board Meeting.
- **Sunday, September 12th:** All-day field trip to Pablo and Ninepipes Reservoirs to look for shorebirds. Meet at 8:00 am in the northwest corner of the Adams Center parking lot. There will be one mile of level hiking.
- **Monday, September 13, 2021, at 7:00pm:** Please attend our first chapter meeting of the fall season to hear bird guide and photographer, Joshua Covill, present on birding in Guatemala. We will be meeting in Room 123 of the Gallagher Business Building on the University of Montana campus. Please note that masks will be required, per UM mask policy.



Rufous-browed Peppershrike, a passerine bird in the vireo family, that can be found in woodlands of Guatemala.

Birding Guatemala on a Traveler's Budget

Ready to dream about the possibility of traveling once again? Please join us on **Monday, September 13th at 7:00 PM** as bird guide and photographer Joshua Covill takes us on a journey to Guatemala with his talk, Birding Guatemala on a Traveler's Budget.

Latin America is full of spectacular birds and destinations, and with some creativity and patience, the adventurous can experience these places on a shoestring budget. Joshua will talk about his 2020 (pre-COVID) trip to Guatemala and how he visited the country's top birding destinations while keeping a traveler's budget. Parrots, owls, tanagers, and hummingbirds alongside Mayan ruins, volcanoes, hot springs, and picturesque lakes make Guatemala a real hidden gem of a birding destination!

As Joshua says, "Raised in Columbia Falls MT, my fascination with birds turned into a true birding passion when I was 13 years old and went on my first Flathead Audubon field trip. Since then, I have made birding a huge part of my life. I started traveling farther away from Montana on birding trips, and in 2018, I traveled to South America on my first big international birding trip. So far, I have spent 10 of the last 35 months birding and traveling in Latin America, not to mention all the trips throughout the US, and I have many more trips on the horizon. I also recently started guiding professionally here in Montana, leading private trips for clients seeking any and all of northwest Montana's amazing birds."

We will meet in Room 123 of the Gallagher Business Building on the University of Montana campus. **Note the university requires masks to be worn on campus in classroom settings. Please bring a properly fitting mask.** Social distancing will also be practiced. We are working on a plan to record the meeting with the hope that those who are unable to attend can watch the meeting later using a link on our website. Please email Program Coordinator Susie Wall at susiewall2@gmail.com with any questions.

Peeps from the Board:
Sarah Conti, An Artist Profile
By Jacob Glass

Sarah Conti is a young ceramic sculptor and birdwatcher who is passionate about ecology and conservation. Her childhood took place in the coastal area of Western Washington. In this natural setting, Conti grew up in a family of inveterate bird enthusiasts. Her maternal grandmother and both of her parents birded regularly with local groups and periodically went on guided excursions. They encouraged her curiosity for the natural world, and nature appreciation became a central part of her formative years. Her spark bird was the Great Blue Heron, and she was fascinated by their rookeries in the surrounding wetlands.

Her current clay creations are heavily conceptually based, presenting her concerns about environmental degradation and the human devaluation of other lifeforms. One piece, based upon Rachel Carson's, *Silent Spring*, strikingly portrays the decline in bird populations as a flock collides with an implied window. Another gruesomely showcases the uncertain future of snowshoe hares in a warming world where their once evolutionary adaptive white winter coats now make them easy targets as snow falls later in the season. That her work can be disturbing to look at is precisely Conti's intention. Strongly influenced by the Flemish painter Frans Snyder, who starkly depicted hunting scenes, markets, and still life, Conti plays with balancing beauty and grotesqueness. The beauty of her well-crafted works pulls us in, and then the ugliness repulses our sensibilities. Though difficult to confront, work that churns our emotions like this can be a call towards action.

Conti thinks critically about the complexities involved in conveying messages through her art. There is what she as the maker hopes to express, and the inescapable freedom of interpretation on the part of the viewer. Finding a title too restrictive a space, she likes to include a sizable blurb to explain the convictions embedded in her pieces. She advocates for environmental justice and the acceptance of the inherent value of other species.

I asked her about what she personally gets from her craft that so often features birds as the means of expressions. She mused that through rendering the different birds, she experiences a unique way of learning about the birds' forms. The act of molding with her hands is how she melds her scientific interests with her need to create.

Conti currently lives in Missoula and works at Wildfire Ceramic, a space for emerging ceramic artists that she

helped to cofound. Two of her favorite places to bird locally are the northside of Kelly Island and Ninepipes National Wildlife Refuge. She enjoys Belted Kingfishers and Wilson's Phalaropes because the plumage of the females of these two species outshines those of the males. Her target bird is the Northern Shrike. Hopefully, she will get to see one this next winter. Maybe it will be featured in one of her upcoming sculptures.

To view her work, please check out...

Instagram: @sarahjconti

Website: www.sarahjconti.com

In person: Wildfire Ceramic Studio 2502 Murphy St Unit A, Missoula, MT 59808



Examples of Sarah's work.



Birdathon Update
By Larry Weeks

This year's Birdathon was very successful, and we raised over \$10,000. Many people contributed more than they had pledged. The birding portion of the Birdathon was also successful and resulted in 152 bird species. Steve Flood, who was accompanied by Ernie McKensie, spent 18 hours birding Upper Miller Creek, Elk Meadows Road and the Blackfoot Valley. The author, who was accompanied by John Battagli, spent 15 hours birding Missoula, Upsata Lake and Freezout Lake. I want to thank everyone who contributed to the Chapter's only fundraising event.

Summer Field Trips

By Larry Weeks

Sunday, May 16th: Twenty-three people participated in the Bandy Ranch field trip. The large turnout was likely the result of not offering field trips over the past year. While hiking around the ranch, it was obvious that the habitat was very dry. The flower people were disappointed in the lack of flowers. I saw five Pasque flowers and a few shooting stars but not much else.



Pasque Flower

Our first stop at the Clearwater River was quite productive for birds. Alex Kearney spotted Western Bluebirds at the entrance to the area. There were Barrow's Goldeneyes, a Belted Kingfisher and a Spotted Sandpiper on or near the water. A Lewis's Woodpecker and a Cliff Swallow were on the dead branches of the cottonwoods. The first stop on Cottonwood Creek had a singing Northern Waterthrush and we heard Long-billed Curlews. Lots of Vesper Sparrows and at least one Savannah Sparrow were found along the road to the Bandy Ranch. Another Lewis's Woodpecker was seen near the ranch buildings. At Upsata Lake, there were Common Loons, Red-necked Grebes and Pied-billed Grebes. A Bullock's Oriole, Eastern Kingbird and a Red-naped Sapsucker inhabited the brush near the lake. An attempt to call in a Williamson's Sapsucker was unsuccessful.

The large cattail swamp had Virginia Rail, Sora, blackbirds, and Marsh Wrens. The prairie potholes did not contain much waterfowl, but we did find a pair of Trumpeter Swans and a Sandhill Crane. The Bandy Reservoir was full but there weren't many birds. We saw Buffleheads, Lesser Scaup, and a Red-necked Grebe. Yellow-rumped Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were singing but no Western Tanagers. We ended up with 60 bird species.

May 22nd - 23rd: The field trip to Freezout and Benton Lake was preceded by heavy rain in Missoula and snow and cold temperatures in eastern Montana. Half of the people signed up for the trip canceled due to the weather report and the road conditions on Rogers Pass. The rest of the group met in Lincoln and ventured over the snowy pass. There was about 3 – 4 inches of snow on the east side which improved the birding. The first stop was at the historic stop along highway 200 where we always look for Upland Sandpipers. We ended up with 4 sandpiper and 3 Long-billed Curlews that stuck out like a sore thumb against the snow. Continuing onto Freezout, the only places that were free of snow were along the roadways,

and the birds were concentrated in these areas. The first stop at Freezout was the dike south of the outhouse. There were numerous American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, White-faced Ibis, Wilson's Phalaropes, Forster's Terns, White Pelicans, Willet, and waterfowl. Outstanding birds included 2 Red-necked Phalaropes and 2 Black-crowned Night-Herons. We then went to the "garage" and flushed a Short-eared Owl and 2 Great Horned Owls. It became obvious that the snow had created a fallout condition. Next to the parked cars, where the snow had melted and exposed some grass and dandelions, there were Vesper Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows, a Clay-colored Sparrow, and Pine Siskins. Other birds at the garage included Mourning Doves, Swainson's Thrushes, a Common Yellowthroat, a Yellow-rumped Warbler, a Gray Catbird, and a Blue Jay. Continuing past the outhouse, we called for an American Bittern and not only did we get a response, but we were also able to locate the bittern in the grass. At the "neck", we had Least Sandpipers, a Sanderling, a Semipalmated Plover, and a Clark's Grebe. At the second outhouse, there was a Snowy Egret which was the best bird of the trip. It had a black bill and yellow feet. Along the sidewalk, there was a shrub without leaves that contained Tree, Bank and Cliff Swallows, and a White-crowned Sparrow. We also saw an American Pipit by the outhouse. At Pond 1, there was a good variety of ducks, a Northern Waterthrush that was in the open, a Sora that responded to a Virginia Rail call, and a fly-by of 4 Black-crowned Night-Herons. On the dirt road just north of Pond 1, we had 2 Ferruginous Hawks and 2 Swainson's Hawks. The Duffy place had several Swainson's Thrushes, 2 Lincoln's Sparrows, a Common Grackle, and 2 Ferruginous Hawks doing a mating display. The Golden Eagle nest on Rattlesnake Butte was occupied. The drive up Bellview Road did not produce either longspur, but we did see 2 grizzly bears at the turnoff to the Pishkun Reservoir. We had 96 species on Saturday.

Sunday turned out to be rainy and foggy. As we drove towards Great Falls on highway 89, we got under the fog and decided to continue onto Benton Lake. It rained while we were at Benton Lake, but we did manage to hear a Pied-billed Grebe, saw 2 Short-eared Owls and a



Short-eared Owl

Marbled Godwit. On the return trip to Missoula, we birded highway 434 and had 2 Sandhill Cranes, 2 Turkey Vultures, a Clark's Nutcracker, and lots of Swainson's Thrushes. At Nevada Ogden, we had an American Dipper but no Ovenbird. Total species for the 2-day trip was 107.



Chestnut Collared Longspur

On May 27th - 28th, I made a second trip to Freezout and Benton Lakes for the people that canceled. Although the overall birding wasn't as good, we did get Chestnut-collared and McCowan's (thick-billed) Longspurs.

June 10th - 13th: The 4-day field trip to Bowdoin turned out to be a very interesting trip. The participants included

Jean Duncan, Dan Brzozowski, Jill Davies, Jeff Ibsen, Alex Kearney, Paul Hayes, Rose Stoudt, and the author. The first stop was on highway 87 near Windham but the Ferruginous Hawk nest was inactive. The second stop was at Roy where we found Common Nighthawks and Bobolinks. Rather than driving straight to Malta, we camped at the James Kipp Recreational Area the first night. We were able to find Field Sparrows and Green-tailed Towhees before it started to rain. Yellow-breasted Chats were signing all around the campground, but we never saw them. We stopped at the Dry Fork Road the next morning to look for a Burrowing Owl, but it was too windy. However, several participants saw a flock of Sage Grouse and some Sharp-tailed Grouse. We then stopped at The Nature Conservancy Matador Ranch, but Jason Hanlon was unable to lead a field trip for us due to the 20 – 30 mph winds. However, he did take us to a large prairie dog town where we were able to find a Burrowing Owl. Just 3 days before we arrived at the Matador Ranch, they experienced 3-inch hail which destroyed 5 vehicles and punched holes in all the building roofs. After birding the prairie dog town, Jill suggested that we go to the Camp Creek Campground at Zortman to escape some of the wind. The birding was very good, and we got Ovenbird and Veery along with a good variety of forest birds. We then walked into a marsh on the TNC property and found Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Killdeer, and Wilson's Phalaropes. Midale Road had had many Lark Buntings which was a life bird for some. At the recommendation of a birding couple that we had met earlier, we drove further up Midale Road to another prairie dog town and saw a second Burrowing Owl. We also got an outstanding look at a Grasshopper Sparrow.

The group camped at Trafton Park in Malta for the next 2 nights. That evening, I walked around the park playing for Eastern Screech Owl when all of a sudden, I was attacked by the owl. It hit me twice on the head and once on the shoulder before I escaped. The following night, it attacked Dan. The 3rd day, on the drive to Bowdoin NWR, we had a Baltimore Oriole. The water level at Bowdoin was down about 2 feet which left the water's edge well out into the

lake. There was a good assortment of ducks, shorebirds and gulls, and a flyover of a flock of White-faced Ibis. Then to Nelson's Reservoir where we had a first-year male Orchard Oriole and a Brown Thrasher in the campground. At Cree Crossing, we had a very good look at another Baltimore Oriole. An attempt to call in a Red-headed Woodpecker along the Milk River was unsuccessful, but we did see 3 Loggerhead Shrikes. Several participants saw the Chimney Swifts in downtown Malta at about 9:15 pm. The group broke up on the last day. Jill went to look for dinosaur bones, Jean and Dan went to the Antelope Creek Campground on the American Prairie Preserve, and 5 birded with Jason for an hour before heading home.

When Alex went through his photos from the Bowdoin trip, he found that he had photographed a Dickcissel on Stagecoach Road. He also had a photo of an adult Orchard Oriole that he had taken at Nelson's Reservoir.

July 8th - 11th: The participants on the Glacier camp out gathered at the Chewing Black Bone Campground on the shore of Lower St. Mary Lake. After a dinner of chicken fajitas, we birded the campground and found Veery, Northern Waterthrush, Sora, Black-headed Grosbeak, and a very friendly beaver. We were also joined by a couple (Debbie & Peter) who were camped next to us and were from Florida. At 5:00 am the next morning, we were awakened by the call of a Common Loon and the ever-present song of the White-crowned Sparrow. We left camp at 6:45 am to be assured of a parking spot at the Grinnell Lake trail head. As expected, the parking lot was nearly full. Surprisingly, the foot traffic on the trail to Grinnell Lake was not any worse than in past years. The best birding is along Lake Josephine, and we had Fox Sparrow, MacGillivray's Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Rufous Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Waterthrush, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. As we approached Grinnell Lake, we heard several Pacific Wrens. I was able to locate 4 big horned sheep on the mountain across the lake. On the return trip, we had a cow and calf moose in the stream between the 2 lakes. After dinner, some of the group drove to the St. Mary Falls trail head but the parking lot was full. My car ended up at Sun Point which has scenic views of St. Mary Lake. When we returned to the car, there was a red fox that had just killed a ground squirrel in the parking lot.



Red Fox

On Saturday, we hiked a 3-mile loop that included a beaver pond and part of the Red Eagle Lake trail. Birds included Boreal Chickadee, Red-naped Sapsuckers and their calling young from cavity nests, Bufflehead, Red-winged Blackbirds, Western Wood-Pewee, Sandhill Cranes, and a Common Nighthawk. After lunch in the parking lot, we drove to the Glacier Campground which is 1 mile west of West Glacier. After dinner, we drove to the Avalanche Campground and hiked the Trail of the Cedars. The Varied Thrush was the best bird on the hike. On Sunday, the group split up into a variety of destinations. Two headed to Missoula because their entrance permit had expired, three decided not to hike because of the smoke and three decided to do rafting trips. So, I was the only one that hiked the Howe Lake trail and Christenson's Meadow at Camas Creek. I did not find a Northern Hawk Owl, but I did find 7 Spruce Grouse. The chicks were in the trail, and I just had to wait for mama to show herself. It happened in 2 different locations. Other interesting birds included Ring-necked Duck, Lewis's Woodpecker and Olive-sided Flycatcher. The total number of birds for the trip was 93.

Saturday, July 31st: The focus of the trip to the Deer Lodge Valley was shorebirds. The areas birded included the Job Corps Ponds and 2 ponds behind the Warm Springs Hospital. The shorebirds were not present in the numbers that had been observed in the past at this time of year. We only had 6 species of shorebirds, and the only migrating shorebirds were Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. Whereas last year, we had 14 species of shorebirds. The author and Alex Kearney had over 30 American Avocets and a Pectoral Sandpiper on a July 19th scouting trip. Other birds included a White Pelican, Sandhill Cranes, and a family group of Red-necked Grebes. Alex also found a Common Nighthawk sleeping on a horizontal cottonwood branch. Eight people participated on the trip, and we had 42 bird species.



Swainson's Hawk

Birding the Flint Creek Valley by Jim Brown

On June 15, our Chapter conducted a bird survey on a 4,500-acre ranch just west of Hall, MT in the Flint Creek Valley. This was part of an ongoing effort to conserve ranchlands and wildlife habitat in the Flint Creek Valley. We hoped that results of the bird survey conducted by a volunteer group of citizen birders would provide a boost to the competitive effort by Five Valleys Land Trust to acquire grant funding for purchasing a conservation easement on the ranch. For us the challenge was to adequately sample the bird population to determine the bird species that were breeding on the ranch or utilizing the ranch for part of their life cycle. This largely grassland ranch is in the rolling foothills of the John Long Mountains. The habitat varied from extensive grassland interspersed with patches and stringers of conifers to riparian areas supporting lush willow and sedge plant communities. We divided our group of birders into four teams that spent three hours birding the various niches on selected portions of the ranch. The team participants were:

- Northeast Zone: Rose Leach, Weber Greiser, Nancy Menning, & Lena Viall
- Northwest Zone: Andrea and Don Stierle, Rob and Sharon Holden, & Ryan Stutzman
- Southeast Zone: Jim Brown, Roger Hogan, Cathy Ream, & Brad Johnson
- Southwest Zone: Rose Stoudt, Travis Brakefield, Jeff Ipsen, & Susie Wall

After birding, we assembled at Hall Mercantile for lunch and to compile our findings. We observed an impressive diversity of 63 species, many being migrant songbirds. Highlights included a surprising seven species of warblers, Cassin's Vireo, Dusky and Willow Flycatchers, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, Spotted Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow and six raptor species including Golden Eagle and Swainson's Hawk. We also observed a large diversity of forbs, many being wildflowers including extensive areas of Bitterroot that produced a lot of wow comments.

A growing number of landowners in the Flint Creek Valley would like to see a ranching lifestyle maintained in the Valley, one that favors a rich diversity of wildlife. Besides supporting birds, mammals and other forms of wildlife, this area forms a continuity link between the Northern Continental Divide and Yellowstone ecosystems that is important to species such as the grizzly bear. Bird surveys can help bring attention to the important wildlife resource of an area and gain support from those contemplating and facilitating conservation.

THE ANCIENT ART OF AUGURY

Reprinted from *A-Wing and A-Way* 2017

Patterns exist throughout nature. For people ages ago, such things were considered messages from the gods. Decoding these encrypted communications was at the heart of ancient divination, a common practice of early civilizations.

Divination methods in antiquity varied in scope. Nearly anything could be viewed as an expression of divine will and available for interpretation, including dreams (oneiromancy), heavenly bodies (astrology), and entrails of sacrificed animals (haruspicy). Ornithomancy or augury, as it's more commonly known, covered the domain of avian activity.



Primarily associated today with the Roman Empire, ancient augural forms concentrated on certain types of birds, using their appearance, flight, calls, and feeding to anticipate the likelihood of favorable or unfavorable occurrences. An owl perching near a public square signaled ominous potential; chickens gobbling grain before a possible battle suggested divine support for a military incursion. Most signs were sought (impetrative), but some were not (oblative/prodigal). In the case of the latter, the gods were interpreted as making statements through extraordinary incidents, usually as a harbinger to some punitive calamity.

Popularity and Possible Origins: Much of what is known about augury in the classical world comes from the writings of the ancient Romans. The subject played a critical role in that culture's politics and religion. Romulus, the mythical founder of Rome, was said to have selected the site of his city based on a sighting of twelve large raptors, either vultures or eagles. The story is recounted by Cicero, the first-century BCE Roman orator, in his *On Divination* (Book 1). Cicero's contemporary Virgil relates several instances of augury in his *Aeneid*, the principal politico-literary work of the Roman Empire.

"Sacred chickens" were integral to the augural activities of the empire. Senior officials consulted their feeding habits (to eat = positive; to not eat = negative) for decisions involving military and administrative action. The birds even traveled in cages with armies, requiring a chicken-keeper (pullarius) to maintain and care for the fowl. The

Roman historian Livy (64/59 BCE–17 CE) details aspects of this augural practice in Book 10 of his *History of Rome*. There he also provides an account of the capital punishment inflicted on an augor/auspex for relaying a false reading. The Romans took their chickens seriously!

The use of birds for divining purposes however predates the rise of Rome. Thousands of years old, the practice appears to have developed earlier in Asia Minor (Turkey). The first-century Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder attributes augury's origins to a single person, an ancient king of this region. While all-too convenient and simple, this dubious reference in his *Natural History* (Book 7) may hint at the practice's long-venerated status in that area.

Application and Eventual Demise: Reported instances of augury occurred throughout the Anatolian peninsula and in other places along or near the eastern Mediterranean. Some of the earliest writings on this form of divination come from this region's ancient Hittites, more than a couple millennia prior to Pliny. Homer's *Iliad* describes the practice among both the Greeks and Trojans. For example, an eagle sighted clutching a small fawn, released for sacrifice to Zeus, inspires valor in the Greek warriors (*Iliad*, Book 8). One of the oddest accounts regarding birds and divination is by Dionysios of Halikarnassos, a first-century BCE Greek historian. He writes of a temple where a woodpecker and doves serve as oracles.

For the ancient Romans, though, conducting auspices was not about predicting the future. It was a formal system, more ceremonial than prognostic, developed for gauging whether the gods felt positively or negatively about a proposed action. In essence, think Magic 8 Ball rather than crystal ball. Before matters such as calling forth a public gathering or advancing troops in combat, consultations were routinely made. The official then could either heed or ignore the assessment. Since augury was sanctioned by the government, checking again later was advisable to simply disregarding the reading. After all, the gods could change their minds and circumstances turn favorable.

In time, major societal shifts and upheavals led the Romans to abandon their gods and ritualized augury practice. Only a few everyday reminders of that ancient pastime remain. One is through language, with words such as auspicious and inauguration. Another, though not directly related to Roman augury, exists in similar but less complicated avian divination forms in folklore (e.g., weather forecasting).

To read the article online or review source notes, visit <https://awingandaway.wordpress.com/2017/01/03/the-ancient-art-of-augury/>.

Welcome New Members



V.J. Abrams	Armand Fangsrud	Camarin Metcalf	Susan Rothermel
Vick Applegate	Kathy A. Frantzreb	Alice Miller	Zachary Schlanger
Laurie Baefsky	Gist Communications	Jody Miller	Diana Six
Ryan Barone	Anne Greene	Dan Misciagna	Grace Spella
Constance Bauer	Nina H Harbine	K. Scott & Barbara Morgan	Ralph Stone
Linda Bowman	Janet Hegedus	Nancy Mori	Meredith B. Summers
Virginia & Frank Brier	Kenneth Hunzicker	Robin Tawney Nichols	Donna Syvertson
Jo Burris	Jeffrey Ipsen	Brent Noel	Mary Vero
Curtis Carter	Charles Janson	Charity O'Connor	Birdie Warnken
Ivy Chloros	Patricia Johnson	Christine Oakenshield	Alvina F Willison
Jerry & Carey Conover	Adair Kanter	Holly Oncken	Don Winston
Harry Croft	Julie Kotschevar	Constance Pray	Richard Wolff
Rita Docken	Marshall R Kyle	Carol Reeves	Sheila Wright
Pamela Ebel	Carla Majernik	Sandra Robbins	Teri Zanto
Joan Egan	Patrick McDonald	Anne Robertson	

Five Valleys Audubon Society Membership Application

Please support Five Valleys Audubon Society (FVAS). There are several ways to donate. Any method ensures that you will receive our *Birding Observer* newsletter and may participate in all chapter activities. *Please help us reduce our \$3,700 annual newsletter cost by signing up for email delivery. FVAS is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit.

Make checks out to Five Valleys Audubon Society and mail to: PO Box 8425, Missoula, MT 59807

Or donate on our website: fvaudubon.org/join

\$ _____ \$15 FVAS membership only, includes newsletter sent via email.

\$ _____ Legacy Fund, creating and supporting local urban bird habitats for citizen enjoyment without leaving the city.

\$ _____ \$25 FVAS membership only, includes newsletter sent via USPS.

\$ _____ Total contribution

\$ _____ General Fund, use as needed for conservation, field trips, education and outreach.

_____ Volunteer - Please contact me. I would like to know more about how I may help birds and FVAS.

\$ _____ Phillip L. Wright Fund, small grants for student research.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: (Required to receive the newsletter and birding alerts via email.) _____

Please note: FVAS does not share email addresses with anyone except Montana Audubon. Your email address is safe with us!

Please be aware that membership in Five Valleys Audubon Society (FVAS) alone does not confer membership in the National Audubon Society (NAS). FVAS and NAS are separate 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations. To become a new member of NAS and receive Audubon magazine (or to renew a current or lapsed membership) visit the website: fvaudubon.org/nas. Using this website will ensure that FVAS receives a \$20 one-time credit for your NAS membership. All NAS members become members of FVAS. A third organization, Montana Audubon (MTA), is also an independent organization and receives no financial support from NAS. MTA handles statewide issues and is responsible for its own fundraising. To assist in this important statewide work you may contact MTA through their website: <http://mtaudubon.org/>. Please give generously to each organization. Although independent, we work together to protect what we all love.

Five Valleys Audubon Society
PO Box 8425, Missoula, MT 59807



TO:

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
MISSOULA, MT
59807
PERMIT NO. 490

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Five Valleys Audubon Society
PO Box 8425, Missoula, MT 59807
www.fvaudubon.org

OFFICERS:

President, 2021-2024	Rose Leach	(406) 721-0779	rleach-2@bresnan.net
Vice President, 2020-2023	Jeffrey Ipsen	(406) 493-2586	jeffaipen@gmail.com
Secretary, 2021-2024	Andrea Stierle	(406) 782-6419	andrea.stierle@mso.umt.edu
Treasurer, 2020-2023	Jean Duncan	(406) 396-1171	treasurer@fvaudubon.org

DIRECTORS:

2020-2023	Jim Brown	(406) 549-8052	brownjs2@bresnan.net
2021-2024	Larry Weeks	(406) 549-5632	bwsgenea@gmail.com
2019-2022	Ed Monnig	(406) 549-0580	emonnig01@gmail.com
2019-2022	Rose Stoudt	(406) 880-8060	ras120656@yahoo.com
2020-2023	Jacob Glass		jacobpglass@gmail.com
2021-2024	William Boggs	(406) 274-3880	boggsandfoleylaw@gmail.com

COMMITTEES:

Archivist	Barbara Ross		bjmross@gmail.com
Audubon Adventures	Scott Kluever	(907) 854-3192	sjkluever@gmail.com
Christmas Bird Count	Larry Weeks	(406) 549-5632	bwsgenea@gmail.com
Education	Larry Weeks	(406) 549-5632	bwsgenea@gmail.com
Field Activities	Larry Weeks	(406) 549-5632	bwsgenea@gmail.com
Habitat Protection	Jim Brown	(406) 549-8052	brownjs2@bresnan.net
Habitat Protection	Gerhard Knudsen	(406) 251-2765	gmk@bresnan.net
Membership Promotion	Scott Kluever	(907) 854-3192	sjkluever@gmail.com
Newsletter Circulation	Hedwig Vogel-Wright	(406) 549-7251	hedwigvw@fastmail.fm
Newsletter Editor	Beverly Orth	(303) 944-0183	orthbev@hotmail.com
PL Wright Endowment	Andrea Stierle	(406) 782-6419	andrea.stierle@mso.umt.edu
Program	Susie Wall	(406) 274-0548	susiewall2@gmail.com
Publicity	Cathy Nolan	(206) 920-2288	canolan4@outlook.com
Social Media	Thomas Kallmeyer		thomaskallmeyer@yahoo.com
University Liaison	Chad Bishop	(406) 243-4374	chad.bishop@umontana.edu
Web Site	Pat Little	(406) 493-7115	roughleg@gmail.com

Montana Audubon
PO Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
(406) 443-3949
www.mtaudubon.org

Larry Berrin, Executive Director
lberrin@mtaudubon.org

Heather Bilden, Master Naturalist
Coordinator hbilden@mtaudubon.org

Boaz (Bo) Crees, Avian Specialist
bcrees@mtaudubon.org

Cathie Erickson, Accounting Specialist
cerickson@mtaudubon.org

Robin Larson, Office Manager
info@mtaudubon.org

Amy Seaman, Director of Policy & Science
aseaman@mtaudubon.org

Gabi Morey, Audubon Center Director
gmorey@mtaudubon.org

Emily Chilcoat, Audubon Center Volunteer
Coordinator echilcoat@mtaudubon.org

Rachel Van Wingen, Board President