

## **Montana Audubon Wildlife Fund Past Grants Awarded**

### **2017 Projects Funded (amount allocated: \$1,640):**

1. **Montana Avian Night Flight Project:** this project will use a recording device to involve students at Seeley Lake High School and Salish Kootenai College in nocturnal migration research. Students will be trained to maintain the equipment, use open-source software to extract the bird calls, classify calls to species, and look for patterns in the data. Grant amount: \$500.
2. **Bitterroot Audubon:** this project expands a project that started in 2011 to monitor overwintering eagles. New capture sites throughout the Bitterroot Valley will be found. The collected data will provide information on the distribution of eagles in the valley, age-class structure, behavioral observations, and re-sighting of marked eagles. Grant amount: \$240.
3. **Bird Ecology Lab, University of Montana:** this project uses schoolyard bird feeders to engage third grade students at Lewis and Clark Elementary in Missoula in a wintering bird population study. Teachers will be provided with scientific expertise and curriculum material. Students will learn to identify resident bird species collecting data, and communicate results. Grant amount: \$400.
4. **Montana Natural History Center:** this project will create a training program and school curriculum using Ospreys for middle school students and educators. Classrooms will be visited to introduce science role models and lead field trips to local Osprey nests. The relationship with teachers will continue throughout the school year. Grant amount: \$500.

### **2016 Projects Funded (amount allocated: \$1,600):**

1. **Glacier National Park:** this project will track 6 pairs of Harlequin Ducks in Montana using transmitters as part of an international effort to examine local and broad movement patterns and habitat use of these ducks in Western North America. Grant amount: \$500
2. **MPG Ranch/Darby High School:** this project will use a recording device to involve students at Darby High School in nocturnal migration research. Students will be trained to maintain the equipment, use open-source software to extract the bird calls, classify calls to species, and look for patterns in the data. Grant amount: \$700.
3. **Salish Kootenai College:** this project gives the Tribal college funds for wildlife education and research, including paying for students to attend professional meetings, field trips, and bring in guest lectures. Grant amount \$400.

### **2015 Projects Funded (amount allocated: \$1,740):**

1. **Salish Kootenai College Wildlife Collection:** the college will purchase much needed wildlife skull replicas, egg replicas, tracks, and field guides that would be used in wildlife-related courses and community outreach. Grant amount: \$200.
2. **Montana Audubon Pilot Project on Monofilament Recycling:** this pilot project will build, place, and monitor a monofilament recycling tube at the fishing access site associated with Missouri Headwaters State Park (an Important Bird Area (IBA)). Grant amount: \$300.
3. **Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes Bird Festival:** this grant supports expanding the 2015 Bird Festival in Pablo. Grant amount: \$490.
4. **Nocturnal Bird Migration Monitoring in Florence, Montana:** this grant supports using high school students to use autonomous recording units to document bird migration phenomena. **MPG Ranch/ Florence-Carlton High School.** Grant amount \$750.

### **2014 Projects Funded (amount allocated: \$1,730):**

1. **Citizen Scientists at Salish Kootenai College, Pablo:** the college will purchase much needed equipment (e.g., binoculars) so students can contribute to citizen science projects on Long-billed Curlews and more. Grant amount: \$555.

2. Montana's Vulnerable Wetlands: **Montana Audubon** will develop a report describing our state's most vulnerable wetlands, targeted to decision-makers and conservation efforts. Grant amount: \$675.
3. Northern Hawk Owl Breeding in Montana: the **Owl Research Institute** will continue their long-term monitoring of Northern Hawk Owls nesting in Glacier National Park and the Flathead National Forest. Grant amount: \$500.

**2013 Projects Funded (amount allocated: \$1,100):**

1. Clark Nutcracker Research: for a Beartooth Plateau study on nutcrackers, the "Johnny Appleseed" of declining whitebark pine. Results on where these birds cache seeds should help pine regeneration work in a changing climate. Graduate student **Soledad Díaz, University of Colorado**. Grant amount: \$500.
2. **Lee Metcalf Refuge** Education Project: as matching funds to print 300 workbooks for Bitterroot Valley third 3rd -graders. Grant amount: \$250.
3. Black Swift Monitoring Project: to support citizen scientists in locating nests of this little-known Species of Concern, which nest behind waterfalls in western Montana. Black Swifts are probably Montana's most vulnerable bird to climate change. **Montana Audubon**. Grant amount: \$350.

**2012 Projects Funded (amount allocated: \$1,420):**

1. *Montana Bird Distribution*: Funds will support development of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Montana Bird Distribution, which is the primary source of information about the current and historical distribution and status of birds in Montana, with maps indicating breeding, migration, and wintering areas for each species. This is a cooperative project between **Montana Audubon**, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the Montana Natural Heritage Program, and the Montana Bird Records Committee. Grant Amount: \$500.
2. Osprey Project: Establish baseline nesting population estimates, reproductive success rates, and contaminant levels in Osprey along the Yellowstone River. This project will be done utilizing citizen science volunteers from the **Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society and students from Rocky Mountain College**. Nestlings will be tested for mercury (Hg) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) levels. Grant amount: \$600.
3. Black Swift Monitoring Project: citizen science monitoring of Black Swift, a species of conservation concern, in Western Montana. This species is a poorly studied in the state—largely because it nests behind waterfalls. Information on nests found will be turned over to the Montana Natural Heritage Program. **Montana Audubon**. Grant amount: \$320.

**2011 Projects Funded (amount allocated: \$1,400):**

1. *Montana Bird Distribution*: Funds will support development of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Montana Bird Distribution, which is the primary source of information about the current and historical distribution and status of birds in Montana, with maps indicating breeding, migration, and wintering areas for each species. This is a cooperative project between **Montana Audubon**, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the Montana Natural Heritage Program, and the Montana Bird Records Committee. Grant Amount: \$1,200.
2. **Matthew Larson of the Owl Research Institute**, is monitoring Short-eared Owls in western Montana, with an emphasis on developing roadside survey techniques that can be used by volunteers. Grant amount: \$200.

**2010 Projects Funded (amount allocated: \$1400):**

1. **Katharine Stone**: Small owl distribution in the Bitterroot Valley - a Citizen Science Project: purchase equipment for a Citizen Science project that will improve our knowledge about the distribution of small owls, primarily on private land in the Bitterroot Valley. All information will be entered into the Montana Natural Heritage database. Grant Amount: \$250

2. **Jeff Marks:** Travel to visit the bird collection at Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology to examine first-hand the extensive collection of Montana birds taken near Great Falls by Robert Statham Williams in the 1880s and 1890s. The information will be used in the *Birds of Montana* book. Grant Amount: \$750
3. **Brittany Mosher:** Travel for a graduate study on the implications of a recent mountain pine beetle epidemic on habitat and populations of cavity-nesting birds. Grant Amount: \$400

**2009 Projects Funded (amount allocated \$2,000):**

1. **Flathead Audubon**, Glacier High School Native Habitat for Field Studies: purchase plants, planting materials and equipment to create a native habitat for the purpose of field studies. Grant Amount: \$500
2. **Mathew Seidensticker**, Flammulated Owl: investigate the breeding status/biology, nest site characteristics, and breeding habitat in the Missoula Valley and surrounding areas. Grant Amount: \$400
3. **April Craighead**, Resurvey of historic pika locations related to climate change: produce a baseline map of pika population distributions from known historic locations in Southwestern Montana, develop a map of current population distribution showing changes from historic distribution. Grant Amount: \$700
4. **Malta Dirt Daubers Garden Club**, Milk River Bird Sanctuary: install bird houses, feeders, and baths; benches, steps, and paths; and plant trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers. Grant Amount: \$400

**2008 Projects Funded (amount allocated \$2,800):**

1. Osprey monitoring and heavy metal testing, a project of the **Raptor View Research Institute** of Missoula. Grant Amount: \$500.
2. Population genetics, amphibian declines, and the boreal toad in Glacier National Park, a project by **Michael Machura, graduate student, University of Montana**. Grant Amount: \$500.
3. Home range and habitat selection of porcupines in the Bitterroot Valley, a project of **Katie Mally, graduate student, University of Montana**. Grant Amount: \$250.
4. Breeding success of Flammulated Owls in the Five Valleys Area of western Montana, a project by **Mat Seidensticker, graduate student, University of Montana**. Grant Amount: \$250.
5. Manning Lake Wetlands Tribal Wildlife Refuge - brochure and website, a project of **Jeanne Spaur, Fort Peck Tribes**. Grant Amount: \$500.

**2007 Projects Funded (amount allocated \$2,800)**

1. Binocular purchase for education programs for the **Montana Outdoor Science School**. Grant amount: \$600.
2. Mercury Testing of Bald Eagles for the **BLM and Montana State University**. Grant amount: \$1,000.
3. Nature Exploration Travel Fund for Billings: A project of **Montana Audubon**. Grant amount: 1,200.

**2006 Projects Funded: (amount allocated: \$1200)**

1. *Squeezer Creek Watchable Wildlife Site Restoration* project of **Swan Ecosystem Center**. Grant amount: \$200.
2. The Ephemeral Important Bird Area Concept in Burned Forests: A project of **Montana Audubon**, in cooperation with the Bitterroot National Forest. Grant Amount: \$1,000.

**2005 Projects Funded: (amount allocated: \$1000)**

1. Tongue River Cottonwood Gallery Forest Bird project of **Montana Audubon**. Grant amount: \$500.
2. **Montana Audubon** education program. Burned forests in the Bitterroot Valley; using citizen scientists to monitor bird populations after a fire. Grant Amount: \$500.

**2004 Projects Funded: (amount allocated: \$1150)**

1. **Ryan Killackey**. Film on Montana reptiles and amphibians. Grant amount: \$300.
2. **Rick Kolscher**. Resource and habitat conservation project in the Gallatin Valley. Grant amount: \$100.
3. Debbie Anderson, **Helena Forest Foundation**. Nature Watch Program. Grant amount: \$300.
4. **Sylvia Miller, Kinderhaus Montessori School**. Grant amount: \$100.
5. **Swan Ecosystem Center**. Squeezer Creek Watchable Wildlife Site Restoration project. Grant Amount: \$350.

#### **2003 Projects Funded: (amount allocated: \$1000)**

1. "Birding in a Box." Kathy Tribby, **Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge** (near Malta) towards creating a "bird trunk" to be used by school and youth groups on field trips. Grant amount: \$300.
2. "Tailed Frog Populations." **Nathan Stone, University of Montana** towards equipment and transportation for a research project on Rocky Mountain tailed frog populations in burned and unburned streams in the Bitterroot Mountains. Grant amount: \$300.
3. "Common Loon Mount." Lynn Kelly, **Montana Loon Society** (Polson) to pay for the preparation of a portable Common Loon mount that can be used in education programs. Grant amount: \$300. 4. "Smithsonian Summer Study." Hilary Turner, Helena towards her travel expenses for a three-week apprenticeship in the Division of Birds at the Smithsonian Institute this summer. Grant amount: \$100.

#### **2002 Projects Funded: (amount allocated: \$1000)**

1. "Undergraduate Research of Bathhouse Placement and Design in Western Montana" - two HOBO TEMP H8 data loggers for the studies. **Amy Kuenzi, Montana Tech.**, Butte (\$180)
2. "Riparian Restoration - Plant Purchase" Landscape and Wildlife Plantings, Paige Spalding, **Yellowstone River Parks Association**, Billings (\$270)
3. "Outdoor Classroom," Bird field guide and observations classes. Dalene Normand - **Frenchtown Elementary School**, Frenchtown (\$300)
4. "Interpretation of Wildlife Resources in Northeast Montana," USFWS, TNC Challenge Cost Share project - MAWF dollars to assist with interpretive kiosk - Jake Ivan - USFWS Kenmare, ND (\$250).

#### **2001 Projects Funded: (amount allocated: \$900)**

1. "Swan Ecosystem Center Everchanging Forest Visitor Center and Trail" - educational exhibits, **Swan Ecosystem Center**, Condon, Montana (\$400).
2. "Flathead Lake Peregrine Falcon Study" - research project on Peregrine populations and nesting sites. Byron Crow, **Salish Kootenai College**, Pablo, Montana (\$200).
3. ""Beaks, Feet, and Feathers" Program and "The Life of a Bird" Program - educational materials. **Big Sky Wildcare**, Bozeman, Montana (\$300).

#### **2000 Projects Funded: (amount allocated: \$1,200)**

1. "Initiating and American Dipper Nest Box Network and Hands-on Environmental Education Program in Bozeman, Montana." **Marmot's Edge Conservation, Belgrade, Montana** (\$400)
2. "Undergraduate Research of Bat Activity in West-Central Montana." **Dept. of Biology, Montana Tech, Butte, Montana**. To obtain two ultrasound bat detectors to be used by students for senior thesis projects focused on studying bat activity in west central Montana (\$510)
3. "Migration Mania Festival." **Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge**, Stevensville, Montana. Specific Objectives (\$290)

#### **1999 Projects Funded: (amount allocated: \$1,200)**

1. Creation of "bird trunk" for Students at Montana School for Deaf and Blind: Steve Martin, **Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge** (\$300)
2. Impact of population and land use on water quality and fisheries in Bitterroot Valley: **Troy Brandt, U of M** (\$200)

3. Publication of "A Key to the Wetland Plant Genera of Montana": Charles van Hook, **Montana Wetlands Trust** (\$500)
4. Prairie nesting raptors research: **Mike Neal, Bozeman** (\$200)

**1998 Projects Funded: (amount allocated: \$1,200)**

1. Olive-sided Flycatchers in Western Montana: **Amy Cilimburg; U of M** (\$300)
2. Polson High School Native Habitat Restoration Project: **James Rogers; Polson High School Science/Geography teacher** (\$100)
3. Bat Surveys in Northcentral Montana: Kristi DuBois; **Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks** (\$400)
4. A Forest of Plants, Animals and People: Anne Dahl; **Swan Ecosystem Center** (\$400)

**1997 Projects Funded: (amount allocated: \$1,950)**

1. Montana Common Loon Banding Program: Lynn Kelly; **Montana Loon Society** (\$650)
2. Cottonwood regeneration demonstration proposal: Joseph Fidel; United States Department of Agriculture (**Powder River Conservation District**) (\$650)
3. Comparison of Bird Communities in Developed and Undeveloped Riparian Areas in Missoula area: **Kelley Segars, U of M** (\$650)

**1996 Projects Funded: (amount allocated: \$1,000)**

1. Printing nature trail brochure: **Friends of the Wild Swan** (\$275)
2. Enhance nature trail and outdoor classroom at Jeremy Bullock Memorial Soccer Complex: **Margaret Leary Elementary School, Butte** (\$250)
3. Traveling Education Trunk program, **Montana Natural History Center** (\$200)
4. Sharp-tailed grouse in Blackfoot Valley: **Ben Deeble, U of M** (\$275)

**History**

September, 1981 - First appearance in Montana Audubon Council minutes

May, 1982 - First Board appointed and donations solicited (Board: Harriet Marble, Upper Missouri Breaks; Gordon Weber, Yellowstone Valley Audubon; Dave Hudak, Flathead Audubon)

Spring, 1995 - \$20,000 reached, which was the agreed upon fundraising level before grants could be given out.

Fall, 1995 - Solicited first grants

January, 1996 - Awarded first grants