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[mtaudubon.org/center](http://mtaudubon.org/center)

September 2020

Dear Friend,

On a brisk spring morning in May, kids returned once again to the Montana Audubon Center for on-site programming through our Fledglings Preschool and Homeschool Science programs. Even wildlife has flocked to the Center now more than ever. We've seen an abundance of monarch butterflies fluttering around our showy milkweed, and were able to observe and band three young osprey chicks who were reared on-site.

**What a joy it has been to witness the Center teeming with activity and growth!**

In lockstep with the natural world around us, the Montana Audubon Center has been brimming with life this summer, even in light of seemingly insurmountable coronavirus and economic challenges. Because of your involvement, we possessed the strength, capacity, and agility necessary to prevail amid such steep challenges.

Here are some highlights from over the last few months:

- **Provided virtual nature education programming** to 150 students through our Audubon Naturalists in the Schools (ANTS) Program
- **Planted more than 100 trees and shrubs**, seeded for native wildflowers, and removed invasive weed species
- **Served more than 300 kids** through our Audubon Adventure Summer Camps
- **Expanded Shepard's Nature Play Space** to accommodate social distancing
- **Engaged volunteers** through more than 500 hours of service to Center restoration and education
- **Hired our new Center Director**, Gabi Morey
- **Involved more than 400 people** in our programs for families and adults from June to August



**Thanks to you, great things continue to happen at the Montana Audubon Center!**

As always, we are looking toward a bright future and have been eagerly yet cautiously preparing for fall programs. Our current line up includes providing preschool, homeschool and a new kindergarten class, while also navigating and modifying school programming options, hosting our first fall Master Naturalist Class and continuing monthly bird strolls and family programs.

Typically, this time of year, we are preparing for our largest annual fundraiser, *Evening Under the Big Sky*. This important event raises more than 10% of the Center's annual operating budget, empowering us to provide educational experiences for nearly 3,000 participants.

Because your health and safety is our top priority, we have decided to cancel this year's in-person event. To help us continue to be an amazing resource to the Billings Community, we need your help! Support us by:

Donating \$75, the price of one *Evening Under the Big Sky* ticket, or more. Donate online, [www.mtaudubon.org/give](http://www.mtaudubon.org/give), or via the enclosed remittance envelope.

Participating in our online auction which will be held September 18 through the 27 via [www.biddingowl.com/MontanaAudubonCenter](http://www.biddingowl.com/MontanaAudubonCenter)

Please consider a contribution to the Montana Audubon Center today! All proceeds will directly support our vital services to the Billings area schools and the local community in the upcoming year. And thanks to the CARES Act, you will be able to take an above-the-line deduction for 2020 charitable contributions up to \$300.

Thank you for your support, which empowers us to provide high-quality nature education experiences along the Yellowstone River in Billings.

Sincerely,



Heather Bilden  
Adult Programs Coordinator



Sarah Chatwood  
Preschool Coordinator



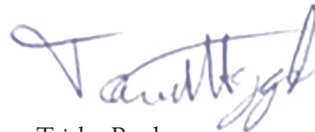
Emily Chilcoat  
Volunteer Coordinator



Hannah Finch  
Youth Programs Coordinator



Alina Garner  
School Programs Coordinator



Taisha Rocha  
Family Programs Coordinator

**P.S. Donations of \$75 or more will be entered in a raffle to win Blue Nest Beef's Audubon-Certified Premier Flyway Beef Box, including 13 lbs of mixed steaks, roasts, and ground beef.**