

Montana Audubon News Release

For Immediate Release: June 24, 2015

PO Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
406-443-3949

www.mtaudubon.org

Contact: Steve Hoffman: 406.461.5714, shoffman@mtaudubon.org

Montana Audubon Appoints Interim Director of Center

BILLINGS, MT—June 24, 2015—Montana Audubon announces the appointment of Rachel Van Wingen as Interim Director of the Montana Audubon Center (MAC). Rachel brings a wealth of management experience and great passion for connecting youth and families with nature. Van Wingen has extensive experience in organizational planning and implementation, and staff management. “I am honored to be a part of such a wonderful resource for the Billings community. I am excited to help the Center continue providing outdoor environmental science education programs, including this summer’s diverse array of nature camps.”

Steve Hoffman, Executive Director of Montana Audubon, emphasizes that Rachel will provide outstanding leadership and support to the Center. “Rachel, is not only a MT Audubon Board Member, she is also an experienced manager and strong advocate for outdoor education. Her professional talents will be a great help in this time of transition.” Rachel will be filling the position left vacant by Darcie Howard, former Center Director. “I have had the pleasure of working with Darcie since 2010” says Steve Hoffman. “She did so much in her five-year tenure, including expanding programs, increasing capacity, and developing new, much-needed resources for the community, such as the Shepard Nature Play Space.”

A nationwide search for a new center director is now underway. The search process is anticipated to take two to three months.

The mission of [Montana Audubon](#) is to promote appreciation, knowledge and conservation of native birds, other wildlife, and natural ecosystems to safeguard biological diversity for current and future generations. Founded in 1976 Montana Audubon has built effective programs in public policy, education, and bird conservation to serve Montana’s conservation-minded citizens and visitors. As part of this mission, in 2004 MT Audubon partnered with Yellowstone River Park Association to establish the Audubon Conservation Education Center. Today the Center provides programs to over 5,000 children and families annually, including summer camps, a yearlong Audubon Naturalist-in-the Schools program, a new preschool program, weekend family programs, and much more.

“Children are our future,” says Rachel. “In my short time here I look forward to helping them develop meaningful, lifelong connections to nature.”

For more information about the Audubon Center please call (406) 294-5099, or visit [mtacec.org..](http://mtacec.org)