










CITIZEN SCIENCE REPORT 2017-2018

Montana Audubon has become a leader in using citizen science to advance conservation in Montana. By leveraging funds from entities like the LEAW Family Foundation, the Glacier National Park Conservancy, the Sargent Endowment, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the Cadeau Foundation, UM Bird Ecology Lab and other generous donors, we have built durable conservation partnerships centered around a dynamic volunteer network. Specifically in fiscal year 2017-2018 we leveraged support to:

-  Design a new citizen science website to upgrade our ability to communicate with our volunteer network and the communities we serve throughout Montana.
-  Continue citizen monitoring of Long-billed Curlews in the Mission Valley; recruiting 12 volunteers and recording 86 curlew sightings during 25 surveys, and in the Helena Valley; recruiting 38 volunteers and recording 101 curlew sightings during 38 surveys.
-  Expand our Long-billed Curlew survey region to include the Blackfoot Valley where we recruited and trained 9 new volunteers that conducted 7 surveys, recording 33 sightings.
-  Recruit and train 19 citizens to survey for Black Swifts in and around Glacier National Park, Northwestern Montana, the Bitterroot Mountains and the Beartooth Plateau.
-  Present a program titled “Swiftling up high and under waterfalls Year II” at the Montana Audubon Wings Across the Big Sky Festival in Kalispell MT, reaching about 250 individuals.
-  Present a program on the Long-Billed Curlew Conservation Partnership to the Flathead Conservation District– reaching 35 individuals with Best Management Practices for grassland birds.
-  Monitor secretive marsh birds like the Sora and Virginia Rail within a wetland restoration site in the Madison River IBA.
-  Survey for Harlequin Ducks in Glacier National Park, helping tag 4 pairs of Harlequin Ducks with geolocators and radio-transmitters to inform west-wide conservation efforts.
-  Recruit and train 34 volunteers to survey for Chimney Swifts in eastern Montana; 16 chimneys were surveyed yielding 7 new breeding locations. Volunteers went on to conduct 70 surveys of 51 unique locations.



Volunteers participate in Black Swift survey training near Holland Lake, MT, July 2018



Our new citizen science website streamlines communication with volunteers.



Marsh Wrens were a common marsh bird detected in restored habitat along Madison river



A male Harlequin Duck along Sprague Creek that received a transmitter antenna and leg-band