



Technician Jack Toriello training four volunteers at Black Swift survey training near Holland Lake, July 2019. Photo courtesy of Jeff Van Tine.

## 2020 CITIZEN SCIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

[www.montanabirdsurveys.com](http://www.montanabirdsurveys.com)

You don't need to be a professional biologist to contribute to science and conservation. Consider joining one of our citizen science efforts to start collecting valuable data now!



**BLACK SWIFTS** - In 2020 we are continuing to partner with MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Glacier National Park, and Glacier National Park Conservancy to survey Black Swifts. We will be hosting one field training for volunteers at Holland Lake in July. Surveys will occur at waterfalls throughout western Montana during "Swift Search" a two-week period, July 27<sup>th</sup> - August 10<sup>th</sup>. Searching for Black Swifts requires experienced backcountry travel around creeks and waterfalls, in bear country, and during the evening. Surveys occur at dusk and may require camping.



**CHIMNEY SWIFTS** - In 2020 we will again work to survey for Chimney Swifts throughout eastern Montana. These surveys are very easy to conduct, as they primarily take place in and around towns containing large buildings with chimneys! Surveys occur for 30 minutes before and after sunset, mid-June through July, and can be conducted in any eastern Montana town. Keep an eye out for training opportunities announced on the web!



**CLIMATE WATCH** - In 2020 we launched National Audubon's *Climate Watch* program here in Montana. We will track backyard species like nuthatches and bluebirds to understand how climate change is affecting the common birds we know and cherish. Surveys can occur state-wide, so we will work with individuals to find an area that works best. Surveys are simple, as they consist of 12, 5-minute stops, searching for just a few species at a time. Winter surveys take place January 15<sup>th</sup> - February 15<sup>th</sup> and summer surveys take place May 15<sup>th</sup> - June 15<sup>th</sup>.



**GREAT BLUE HERONS** - In 2020 we are partnering with Montana Natural Heritage Program to survey for Great Blue Herons along Montana's major river systems, Important Bird Areas, and important colonial waterbird sites. Surveys consist of hour-long visits to historic and well-known rookery (nesting) sites, and will take place April - May. We are still developing this project, but do have one survey training planned at our Billings education center April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.



**LONG-BILLED CURLEWS** - In 2020 we will continue to offer citizens the chance to monitor Long-billed Curlews in the Mission, Blackfoot, and Helena Valleys. Surveys are five to seven mile driving routes that require approximately 10, five-minute stops during which you look and listen for Long-billed Curlews and Sandhill Cranes. Surveys take place April 8<sup>th</sup> - May 31<sup>st</sup>.



**CUCKOOS** - In 2020 we are piloting a project in collaboration with the University of Montana Bird Ecology Lab and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, to remotely survey for both Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos along the Yellowstone River. Surveys at select river locations will include the set-up, monitoring, and take-down of bird-call recording devices, as well as play-back surveys. We will help connect you with a great survey location. Surveys take place mid-July through mid-August.



**MONTANA EBIRD** - Since 2018 we have supported [ebird.org/Montana](http://ebird.org/Montana), a Montana-based portal for the well-known citizen database, [ebird.org](http://ebird.org). This site supports monitoring for all of Montana's 430+ bird species, and you can enter any and all of your bird sightings, all year long. Just sign up at [ebird.org](http://ebird.org)

We wish to thank Glacier National Park, Glacier National Park Conservancy, the Cadeau Foundation, the LEAW Foundation, the Sargent Endowment, and our supporters for helping make this work possible! Please contact Amy Seaman to participate, and visit [www.montanabirdsurveys.com](http://www.montanabirdsurveys.com) for more details.