

fall 2020



PROTECTING GRASSLAND BIRDS THROUGH CONSERVATION RANCHING

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A WIN FOR
SAGE-GROUSE

page 6

Our mission is to promote appreciation, knowledge and conservation of Montana's native birds, other wildlife, and natural ecosystems to safeguard biological diversity for current and future generations.

Founded in 1976, Montana Audubon seeks to create an environment in which all of Montana's native bird species have healthy, sustainable populations, ensured by long-term habitat security. Montana Audubon uses science, conservation education, and public policy work to protect our state's incomparable wildlife and landscapes.

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Montana Audubon is a proud member organization of Montana Shares, a partnership of Montana-based nonprofits devoted to improving the quality of life in the Big Sky state.

THE VIEW FROM ABOVE

I think it's safe to say this has been a strange year. As we look back on our accomplishments in light of a pandemic, we are proud that we didn't make excuses but rather leaned in to new opportunities to make an impact on conservation in our state. There is an old Chinese proverb that says "it is better to light a candle than curse the darkness." It is in that spirit that we dedicate this issue to the *candles* we have lit together this year. In a time of darkness, we hope our stories of success bring you hope for the future.

We begin with our lead story about an exciting new project to protect grassland bird habitats across the state by working with ranchers to ensure bird-friendly regenerative grazing practices through a certification program called *Audubon Conservation Ranching*. This new market-based approach is a win-win as ranchers will benefit from the new Audubon green seal that will separate their product in the marketplace and we will benefit from knowing some of the most imperiled species of grassland birds are better protected.

This year we also won our first lawsuit to protect the Greater Sage-grouse by pushing back on oil and gas leasing on our federal lands. Finally, we helped pass perhaps the most important piece of conservation legislation in our lifetime that will ensure dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund in perpetuity.

We all know how hard it can be to stay positive in times like this, but we hope this issue and these stories help. We feel honored and grateful to be able to continue our work during these difficult times and to continue to be stewards of this conservation movement and to keep it moving forward regardless of the obstacles we face. You may not be able to help us in all aspects of our work but I hope you can find just one way that is meaningful to you – to light just one candle. And thanks to your support and our tireless efforts, we can one day say in confidence – that is a light that will never go out.

Yours in Conservation,

Larry Berrin
Executive Director



We feel honored and grateful to be able to continue our work during these difficult times.

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On the cover:

Hay field near Avon John Lambing photo

Sage-grouse Bob Martinka photo

CONSERVATION

RANCHING



Evan Barrientos

**THE VAST MAJORITY OF
AMERICA'S GRASSLAND BIRDS
BREED ON PRIVATE LANDS.**

**WORKING WITH RANCHERS
IN MONTANA IS OUR BEST HOPE
FOR CONSERVING THEM.**

Amy Seaman probably never expected to be sitting down around a breakfast table with ranchers discussing grazing techniques and habitat needs of grassland birds, but such is the life of our Director of Policy & Science now that we have taken on a new project called **Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR)**.

A few years back, the National Audubon Society approached us about bringing their innovative ACR program to Montana and we had our concerns. We are after all a bird organization. What impact could we have on ranching in Montana? So we did a deeper dive into what a market-based

approach would look like and the potential positive outcomes for grassland birds.

North America's grasslands are among the most imperiled ecosystems in the world. Consequently, grassland birds have suffered an unparalleled decline over the past half century, stemming from widespread development in these critical habitats. Nation-wide surveys indicate that 70% of grassland birds, species like the Long-billed Curlew, Mountain Plover, Sprague's Pipit, Golden Eagle, Burrowing Owl, Baird's Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and Thick-billed Longspur are undergoing

continued...

widespread population declines. With threats like sod-busting, invasive and noxious vegetation, unsustainable grazing or agriculture, and intensive pesticide use operating at a national and landscape-scale, we must seek to address those threats at an equally large scale. Because the vast majority of America's grassland birds breed on private lands, working with ranchers in Montana is our best hope for conserving them.

To combat the negative effects of grassland degradation—and to keep grass on the landscape—Audubon has developed the Conservation Ranching Initiative. The ACR program aims to counter dramatic grassland bird population declines by enlisting ranchers to diversify the landscape and enhance bird and wildlife habitat. This market-based conservation approach offers incentives for good grassland stewardship through a certification label on beef products. The Audubon certification seal brings a broad market appeal that enhances demand by consumers that want options for beef that is sustainably raised and benefits wildlife habitat. For the first time, consumers can contribute to grassland conservation efforts by selectively purchasing beef from Audubon-certified farms and ranches.

Innovative land management and ranching practices, and regenerative grazing techniques that mimic historic



Blue Nest Beef is one of our partnering retailers

bison herds, creates habitat mosaics for grassland birds and landscape benefits, including cleaner streams, increased carbon storage, and improved habitat for native wildlife and pollinators. As a market-based approach, ranchers achieve a “bird-friendly” certification by implementing an approved Habitat Management Plan, and meeting four standards: habitat management, forage & feeding, animal health & welfare, and environmental sustainability. The Audubon “green seal” differentiates and increases market access for producers at both the regional and national retail level.

Audubon understands that connecting producers with eco-conscious consumers is a sustainable strategy to become competitive in the marketplace while conserving grasslands. Demonstrating the potential opportunity across the country, Audubon has already enrolled nearly 100 ranches, across 2.2 million acres, in thirteen states. And in our state, there are already 60,000 enrolled ACR acres with opportunity for even further growth. Across Montana's 94 million acres, grasslands cover about one third of the

landscape, representing some of our nations' most extensive and intact native prairies remaining today. Many of the species declining nationwide also adorn our state Species of Concern list, and face similar threats.

That is why we started working with the National Audubon Society to expand the effort to enroll Montana's producers. Conservation at this scale takes teamwork and commitment. What we have learned through this process is that ranchers are also concerned about the health of the lands they manage. As one rancher from an Audubon-certified ranch put it, “included in the mission of our ranch is the idea that good stewardship is important for the long-term financial

health of the ranch, as well as the health of the

“Partnering with Audubon to promote conservation ranching is an exciting opportunity to help educate the public about what we are doing to improve prairie ecosystems.”
— participating rancher

ecosystems that are critical to many species of birds and other wildlife.”

ACR also supports Montana's rural way of life as one of the primary goals of the ACR program is to help connect ranchers to strategies to remain competitive in the marketplace and we know that consumers are increasingly interested in how their food is produced. Consumer demand can influence the scalability of “bird-friendly beef,” and we want consumers to understand the potential impact of their purchases on grassland bird conservation and environmental sustainability.

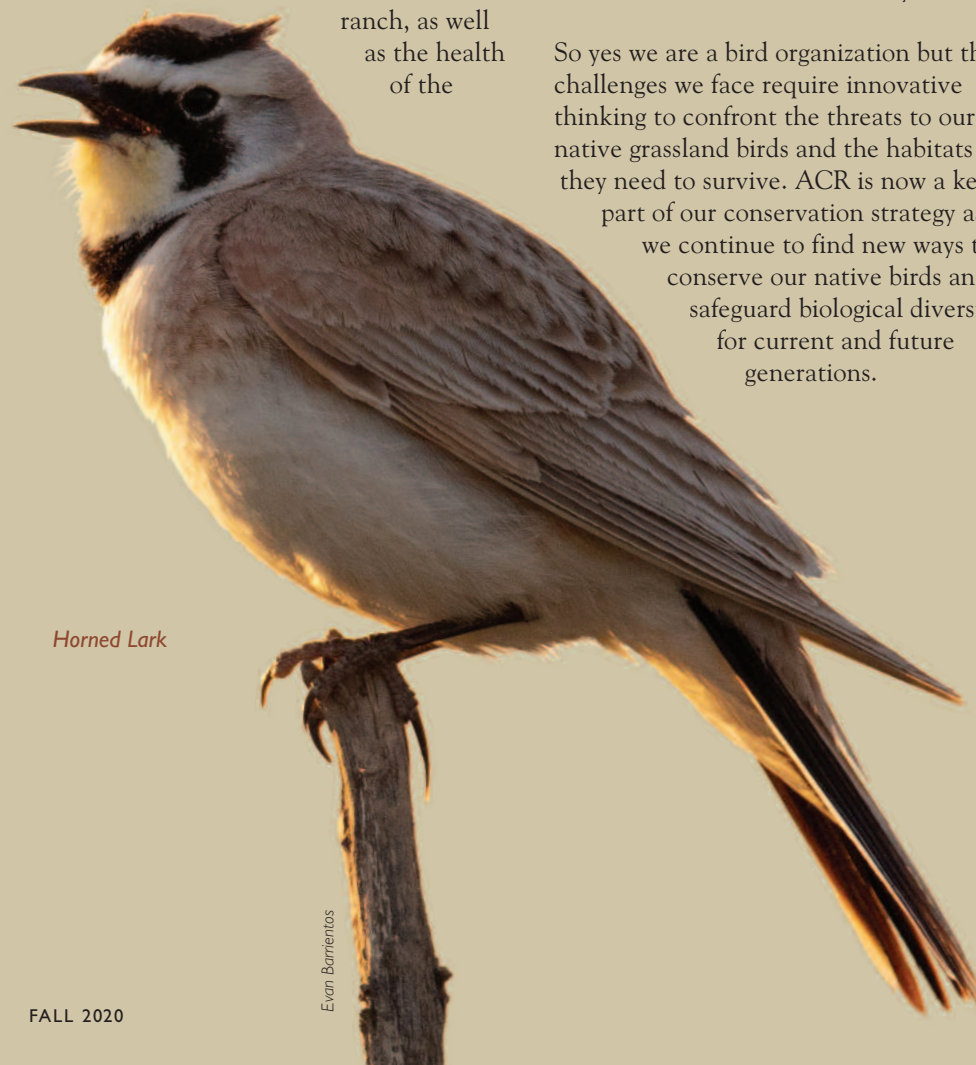
So yes we are a bird organization but the challenges we face require innovative thinking to confront the threats to our native grassland birds and the habitats they need to survive. ACR is now a key part of our conservation strategy as we continue to find new ways to conserve our native birds and safeguard biological diversity for current and future generations.



Meet our new Range & Wildlife Conservationist

Tori Chulyak was raised in Tehachapi, California. She attended college at Montana State University in Bozeman where she received her bachelor's degree in Natural Resources and Rangeland Ecology. While attending MSU she was a member of the Range Club, and enjoyed being on the plant identification team. Tori and her husband Tim now live in Laurel with their energetic Labrador, Farley. Tori's position is in partnership with Pheasants Forever and will implement Habitat Management Plans for ACR.

Horned Lark



Evan Barrientos

A WIN FOR MONTANA AUDUBON IS A WIN FOR SAGE-GROUSE

A handshake goes a long way in Montana because Montanans understand that your word is your bond.

That's why we were so taken aback a few years ago when an attempt was made to steamroll sage-grouse conservation plans that were developed years ago as we worked with ranchers, industry groups and our fellow conservation partners. But the federal government apparently wasn't keeping up its end of the deal so Montana Audubon joined with our partners and took action.

We could not stand by and let this happen because we consider the Greater Sage-Grouse the "canary in the coalmine" when it comes to the fate of some of the most imperiled lands in the west that this species calls home. So for the first time in our history, Montana Audubon was a plaintiff on a lawsuit challenging the federal government's irresponsible energy development plans in an attempt to protect the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat.

We are happy to report that a U.S. District Court judge ruled in our favor, striking down sales in Montana and Wyoming that included 440 oil and gas leases, covering about 336,000 acres (525 square miles).

Our first win was a big win for Greater Sage-Grouse and these fragile habitats. Thank you for supporting us through this long process and rest assured that we will continue to make sure conservation plans are upheld because we all know that in Montana – *a deal's a deal.*



Sage-grouse chick

Bob Martinika

✓ Migratory Birds Head South with Court Support

There is no act that is more foundational to Audubon than the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Recently it has been under attack, specifically MBTA's "incidental" take clause which states that activities creating indirect sources of bird mortality (think oil spills) was challenged by the Solicitor General. But after continual public push-back, and a legal battle, August 2020 brought one ruling Audubon groups nationwide were waiting for.

A U.S. District Court judge denied the Department of Interior's attempt to reinterpret the MBTA. This ruling

supports the interpretation of incidental take that it is prohibited by the MBTA, whether intentional or not, unless by permit. The August 11 opinion brought to close a case brought in 2018 by eight states and multiple conservation organizations, and supports an interpretation that has operated as the status quo and basis for misdemeanor prosecution since the 1970s.

The judge's denial of the reinterpretation reminds us that the act is more than symbolic. At heart, the act exists to protect migratory bird populations passing through and residing in our

communities from destruction. As the MBTA historically comes down on the forcing side of industry, it's no surprise that weakening the law would push forward public and private development projects. But we know from experience that when incidental take reaches intolerable levels, industry, our communities, and our bird populations suffer. That is why having a strong incentive for industries to avoid the incidental take of millions of migratory birds continues to find support.

This victory alone cannot protect our migratory birds from future attacks. In fact, the Department of Interior insists enforcing incidental take allows the

Trumpeter Swans

MBTA too far a reach.

Fortunately, at least one vehicle exists to strengthen this particular provision. The bipartisan federal Migratory Bird Protection Act, introduced in January, seeks to clarify the role of incidental take, in-line with the judge's ruling. As our skies fill with migrants and we work to navigate a turbulent political climate, we'll work to support this effort and keep migratory bird protections strong.



Bob Martinka

✓ The Great(est) Land Conservation Legislation in a Generation

On August 4 of this year, the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) was signed into law resulting in \$900 million per year in perpetuity for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This has been a major campaign for us over the last two years, and while it doesn't *feather our nest*, it will ensure the protection of our favorite lands and waters in Montana and across America. Thank you all for voicing your support for this historic win.

As we have learned, nothing this important happens without a great deal of effort and support. This is a result of Montana Audubon and our partners flying to Washington D.C. to meet regularly with our congressional delegation; conducting Flock Together for Conservation rallies in Great Falls and Billings; setting up postcard signing tables, and a full throated outreach campaign that included producing an original documentary film on the origins of LWCF featuring Mike Penfold, the son of Joe Penfold, who helped craft the legislation in 1964.

In addition, GAOA will have a positive economic impact on Montana, not only in creating access for recreation, but through investment in national parks infrastructure projects in our state. But the conservation impacts of this act are what is really most important to us, and will be felt for generations, so thank you for helping us get it passed!

Senator Jon Tester speaking at a GAOA event in Great Falls



✓ 2020 Legislative Preview

What does a legislative session look like for wildlife during a pandemic?

Certainly in all our years working hard to protect wildlife during the biennial Montana Legislative session, we have not had a global pandemic as a backdrop. It is likely to impact our state's law-making session as much as changes in leadership, there are a lot of unknowns heading into Montana's 67th legislative session.

Importantly, we know Montana legislators need to come together to pass the state's biennial budget. Wrapped up in that process are important financial authorizations that support conservation in the state, including bills to reauthorize funding for Habitat Montana, Upland Game Birds, Fishing Access Sites, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), pollinators and their habitat, Greater Sage-Grouse conservation, and more. Our voices will still need to be heard to support these good programs, and you can believe we will be tracking these issues as closely as ever; though likely from zoom meetings rather than the capitol halls.

This summer's legal victories for both migratory birds and Greater Sage-Grouse

measures in Montana, will lend support to our continued advocacy for strong state protection of this unique bird and all others that cross our state borders. And we can hope that perhaps the limits on meeting in-person, imposed by the pandemic, will help us avoid unnecessary attacks towards Montana's native predators, wild herds, and land protection laws.

No matter how we push ahead, you can be sure Montana Audubon will be keeping an eye out for our top priorities:

- Protecting our most important resource: water
- Fighting against legislation that negatively affects habitat, habitat management, and management funding
- Fighting to support responsible energy and industry development
- Fighting anti-predator, anti-wildlife regulations

But, we will still need your help. By joining our online action network, you can help us speak up for the issues that matter most to birds and wildlife in our state this coming session. No matter the setting, our Action Alerts will be there to keep you informed of the issues coming forward.

2020 FIELD PROJECTS BY THE NUMBERS

GREAT BLUE HERONS

- 30 Volunteers worked remotely through a brand new Great Blue Heron project
 - 50 Locations surveyed across 12 of the state's watersheds.
 - 278 Nests and 161 herons recorded by volunteers; 23 of 50 sites during the pilot season were occupied, 27 were abandoned or undetected
 - 5 Important Bird Areas surveyed remotely, detecting 17 rookeries; eight that were previously unknown
- Partnered with Montana Natural Heritage Program and Big Sky Watershed Corps

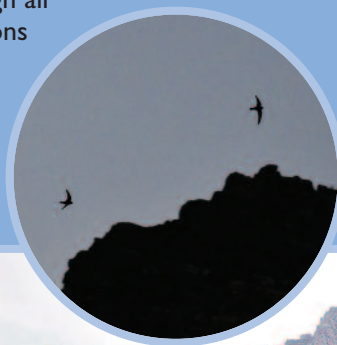
CHIMNEY SWIFTS

- 3 Trainings hosted in eastern MT, working with 20 volunteers in small groups in Billings, Glendive and Lewistown

BLACK SWIFTS

We have now paddled canoes, piloted small motorboats, navigated pack rafts and lugged ourselves through all types of water to reach remote waterfall locations

- 20 Morning surveys and 14 evening surveys
- 9 New nests found!
- 4 New technicians and three volunteers trained



Amy Seaman

Paddling a pack raft to reach remote Black Swift nest locations



Amy Seaman

Madison River IBA

MADISON RIVER IBA

- 100 Point counts conducted and two dozen call-back surveys for secretive marsh birds like the Sora and Virginia Rail – locating two of each along the way

LONG-BILLED CURLEWS

- 94 Curlews detected by 19 volunteers along 17 routes in the Mission Valley, 5 routes in the Blackfoot Valley, and 19 routes in the Helena Valley
- 9 Adult curlews fitted with tracking devices in partnership with Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
- 26 Sandhill Cranes recorded by volunteers as a secondary target species during curlew surveys
- 482 Observations collected by citizen scientists since April 2018



Amy Seaman

Long-billed Curlew

RUBY RIVER

- 99 Species, including 10 of conservation concern, detected during six days of surveys conducted along 3.5 miles of the Ruby River

Searching for Elusive Cuckoos with New Technology

Over the years, Montana Audubon has learned (the hard way) that the Black Swift is not easy to locate due to its high altitude foraging grounds and waterfall-bound nesting habitat. Across the divide, Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoos hold a similarly elusive title, being uncommon, secretive, and habituated to use dense thickets and swaths of lush riparian vegetation. Detecting either is like finding the proverbial needle in the haystack, and traditional birds surveys like point counts and area searches often don't give us detection data we need. But, that's the fun part and that's when avian researchers get creative.

In the case of cuckoos, surveying their preferred cottonwood gallery habitat using point-counts or call-back surveys is logistically complicated and time consuming, as access by river is often the most convenient method. But river surveys require a lot of planning, and much can go wrong. For example, water levels and flow conditions ideal for travel may not coincide with peak cuckoo activity, and adverse weather can make a multi-day river float extremely challenging. Besides, you can only wait in one patch of habitat for so long!

Our last targeted survey effort, in 2013 and 2014, yielded sparse data despite a large effort.

So this summer we got creative. Partnering with Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, the University of Montana Bird Ecology Lab, and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, we experimented with an exciting new technology to find these mysterious cuckoos along the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers – Automated Recording Units (ARU).

The devices are small and inconspicuous, enabling us to passively “hear” and record bird calls and songs from 150 meters away (or more) without effecting bird behavior. Compared to traditional surveys, ARUs have several notable advantages. They can be installed any time, programmed to record at multiple times throughout the day, rain or shine, hundreds or even thousands of times over the course of several months, and the entire installation process takes just minutes. Compare this to the just one or two brief survey visits technicians can carry out in-person a season after hours of logistics and travel.

Though we are just starting to process the data, we can already claim success. We collected eight new cuckoo observations just during ARU deployment, including our Avian Specialist's life sighting of a Black-billed Cuckoo, and it turns out the ARU's worked! We have at least one unit that clearly recorded the birds unique echo – in the middle of the night! Needless to say, we're on to something here!

Black-billed Cuckoo



Bo Grees

Welcome Our New Center Director

Gabi Morey has been in the field of conservation education for more than 20 years, working for both governmental and non-profit organizations. Her career has taken her all over the country, and before moving to Montana in 2019 she was the Education Outreach Director for a conservation non-profit for 13 years in southwest Colorado. She has always enjoyed teaching people of all ages, mentoring volunteers and staff, and collaborating with community organizations.

While in Colorado, Gabi was founding steering committee member of a coalition who facilitates a more holistic approach to getting youth into the outdoors in Montezuma County. She was also a



member of the Southwest Colorado Environmental Education Leadership Council.

She has a Master's degree in Wildlife Biology from Michigan State University, and an undergraduate degree in Biology from the College of Wooster in Ohio. In her spare time, Gabi and her family can often be found exploring Montana while hiking, skiing, rafting, mountain biking, and picking huckleberries!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

It's always great to highlight those who contribute to our work. We'd like to introduce and appreciate two of them:

First is a long time Center supporter and volunteer, **Jerry Dalton**. Jerry has been active in tackling landscape restoration projects, providing continual demonstration garden maintenance, and offering insight into our ever-evolving volunteer program. In addition to being an advocate of the Center, Jerry also helps maintain the gardens at Zoo Montana, is a Certified Master Gardener, and Osprey Monitor with the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society.

Jerry is retired from his days traveling around to different locations and schools as the Billings Public Library Bookmobile Librarian. Jerry's community connection and passion for many of our communities' tremendous assets is just one of the many reasons we love having him as a member of our Center's volunteer community.



Our next volunteer has been with us for just one year but has already made a significant impact. **Jan Shorthill** came to us during our Earth Day Celebration in 2019 and fell in love with our mission and goals. A retired Special Education Teacher, Jan has filled a void within our high school Inclusive Restoration Volunteer Program, which aims to get those with special needs outside and giving back. Jan is also an avid birder, participating in our Annual Christmas Bird Count and integrating herself into our Audubon Naturalist in the School (ANTS) Program. This coming year, in addition to helping us continue our Inclusive Restoration Program work, with integrated COVID protocols, she is also aiding this year's Homeschool Science Program. Jan's dedication and enthusiasm for what we do is just one reason we are excited to have her as an asset to our nature education team.





The Important role an Audubon Center plays during a Pandemic

Despite the challenges and uncertainty that the COVID-19 pandemic has created, it has also been wonderful to be reminded of the adaptability of human beings. Masks have transitioned (somewhat) from being an annoying necessity to the new accessory, catching up with friends via Zoom is commonplace, and with all their newfound time, people have rediscovered the outdoors. Stores can't keep bikes and kayaks on their shelves, trailheads might be just as busy at 9am on a Tuesday as they are on a weekend, and safe, outdoor, in-person programming is continuing and thriving at the Montana Audubon Center, meeting the needs of the community.

The excitement is palpable

If you're walking the trails at the Montana Audubon Center this fall, you are likely to hear the sounds of discovery. "Look what I found!", "Come over here!", and "What is this?" ring out from the juniper forest as our Youth Program participants explore their surroundings. Summer Camp, Afterschool, and Homeschool Science have seen more participants this year than ever before.

Though the school year may look very different, Afterschool Nature Club is able to provide a consistent natural space for exploring, learning, and playing. Our afterschool fall session is full for the first time in years, as parents continue to recognize the importance of nature programming and the need of their children to spend time outdoors.

"Thank you for starting up this fledglings Flyers class. It is a true game changer and blessing to our family with benefits that I know will last and continue to blossom for a lifetime."

—Anna R., Flyers parent

Club members are spending time in the fields, forests, and water. Playing games, learning to canoe, and exploring the habitat all around. Two participants loved canoeing so much that they brought their parents to Open House to teach them how to canoe!

Continuing on the trend of increased Youth Program participation, Homeschool Science is offering eight classes to students aged kindergarten to 7th grade, with over 85 students enrolled in fall classes. The excitement of the kids to be

back together and learning is palpable. Not only can you see the enjoyment of students, but they are not shy to tell you either. One student enthusiastically said, "Thanks for today, I had fun and learned so much!" as he held tightly onto his science notebook with his discoveries from the day.

From Fledging to Flyers

The preschool classes of 'Fledglings' at the Center are full, as usual, with one more addition – Kindergarten! Recognizing that many parents of our preschool graduates were choosing to do virtual or homeschool learning with their new Kindergarteners, the Center has added a Kindergarten enrichment class to our normal lineup.

BY THE NUMBERS

14

Afterschool participants for fall session

133

Homeschool participants signed up for school year

303

Summer campers in 25 unique camps

56

Enrolled Preschool/ Kindergarten friends

This class of 'Flyers' has been enjoying their afternoons with friends in the outdoors, exploring and connecting with others and with nature.

The value of nature programming and outdoor activities is crucial during this time. The Montana Audubon Center is able to provide students of all ages the chance to gather, socialize, and share their experiences of the natural world around them. To learn more about the programs we're offering please visit our website at mtaudubon.org/center.



Alina Garner

Update From Our Travel Partner:

MERLIN BIRDING & NATURE TOURS

As most of you may already know, Merlin Birding & Nature Tours, LLC, based in Bozeman, has suspended all international birding tours until it has been determined that it is once again safe to travel to one or more of our preferred destinations (including Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama and Ecuador).

I am currently developing detailed itineraries and pricing for birding tours in 2021–2023. Outstanding birding locales likely to be included in these upcoming Merlin Tours are Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Mexico, Newfoundland-Nova Scotia, Panama, South Africa and Trinidad-Tobago.

Stay tuned for tour updates through Montana Audubon's website, eNews and hard-copy newsletters, as well as Merlin Tours' eNews and website (merlinbirding.com).

If you have been dreaming about where you would like to go birding next (globally!) please do not hesitate to be in touch (steve@merlinbirding.com or call 406-461-5714).

Thank you, and stay safe and happy!!

– Steve Hoffman, Owner



Ferruginous Pygmy Owl

Sohell Zender

Wildlife Grants Available

Montana Audubon will again make available small grants from the Audubon Wildlife Fund of Montana, a permanent endowment. The application deadline for the 2021 grant cycle is December 18, 2020. For information and a grant application, visit: mtaudubon.org/about/wildlifegrants/

Projects funded through this program in 2020 included supporting Surveys of Mountain Plovers in Rosebud and Garfield Counties, the Jewel Basin Hawkwatch, the Alpha-Batz: A-Z, Everything You Need to Know about Bats education trunk, a 7th grade project on Osprey: A Watershed Health Parameter, and Planting, Protecting and Nurturing Native Shrubs on the Missouri Riverbank.

WINGS ACROSS THE BIG SKY BIRD FESTIVAL 2021

We are tentatively planning the 2021 Wings Across the Big Sky Bird Festival to be held in **Lewistown June 4–6, 2021**.

In our efforts to comply with health and safety guidelines, the format of this year's festival will most likely look different, but rest assured that the safety of our participants and staff is our highest priority.

Please stay tuned for more information in the coming months.



Star Volunteers

These Montana Audubon volunteers have offered time, expertise, passion, elbow grease, advice, and a sense of humor as they've helped with recent events, projects, programs, and more. Thank you!

Montana Audubon Center Volunteers

Corinne Addy
Dan Altmaier
Haley Ash-Eide
Tony Bailey
Megan Barber
Isabel Baretta
Erin Bean
Teresa Bessette
Bart Bilden
Alison Blee
Joe Chilcoat
Kate Cochran
Carris Corkish
Jerry Dalton
Sherri Dayton
Robert Dayton
Pamela DeBartolo
Brycen Deines
Peggy Detienne
Bailee Feild
Heather Gaitonde
Jack Gilles
Mike Giovani
Chase Greenfield
Brandon Haggard
Chuck Hall
Kaitlyn Harper
Max Haynes
Kira Hegg
Brian Henderson
Harper Howe
Carolyn Jones
Jonas Lanchbury
Saydee Larsen
Bruce Larson
Andrew Lincoln
Marian Lyman-Kirst
Bob Mackin
Zoe Mangus
Steve McConnell

Alex McKibben
Alisha Merfeld
John Miller
Nora Moran
Bruce Morey
Micki Morrow
Danielle Mues
Dave Mullen
Mary Mullen
Dave Mullen
Ryland Nelson
Ryan Noack
Spencer Noble
Julie Ossland
Patty Palaro
Mike Penfold
Tayven Penninger
Megan Poulette
Melody Quade
Jim Quade
Grant Rickard
Josie Rising-Sun
Anna Rogers
Ava Romee
Bernie Rose
Andy Rutz
Eddie Salcedo
Laine Salcedo
Gwen Satterfield
Ashlee Scherr
Tia Schlosser
Aiden Schneider
Lyle Schoenthal
Norm Schoenthal
Patric Scott-Wilson
Lydia Selvey
Jan Shorthill
Bev Silkwood
Harold Silkwood
Ron Smith
Robin Snyder
Jack Sterins

John Sugden
Bri Sullivan
Tori Tindel
Joan Trent
Daisy Trout
Renee Verbeck
Dan Vukonich
Gene Wade
Campbell Walker
Sam Walter
Chuck Ward
Madi Weber
Dynasti West
Shelly Whorley
Roger Williams
Chrissy Willis
Don Worth
Mia Yegan

Interns

Amanda Allen
Cassidy Dinkle
Tim Herzog
Padon Little
Kane Smith

Groups

Billings Catholic
Young Adults
Billings Church
of Christ
Boys Scouts of America
COR
Girl Scouts of America
Leadership Billings
MSUB
National Honors Society
Rocky Mountain College
Skyview High School
Life Skills
West High School
Life Skills

Volunteers

Ser Anderson
Logan Aytes
Glenda Barnes
Kristen Bontadelli
Annie Buchwald
Gerard Byrd
Elaine Caton
Peggy Christian
Mark Cress
Dee Dee Cress
Kari Eneas
Kari Eneas
Connie Geiger
Erick Greene
Judy Halm
Cindy Holder
Carolyn Jones
Wendy Kamm
Libby Langston
Becca Marshall
Megan Martinez
Janice Miller
Mary Mullen
Dalene Normand
Cindy Parker
Barb Pitman
Martha Powers Swanson
Sherry Ritter
Ryan Rose
BLSW
Sue and Joe Rothermel
Don Skaar
Kristina Smucker
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Mobilize your Passion for Birds

You can make a meaningful impact for the birds of Montana by choosing the Bird Habitat License plate. The initial cost is \$40 which includes a \$20 donation that directly supports our work to ensure long-term protection for critical wildlife habitat.

As a proud owner of this eye-catching plate, your vehicle will feature an American Avocet, Ruddy Duck, Lewis's Woodpecker, and a trio of Black-billed Magpies—on a Rocky Mountain Front backdrop. Proudly show your support for bird conservation and support Montana Audubon's work to ensure long-term protection for critical native bird and wildlife habitat!

For more details visit www.mtaudubon.org



BECOME A MEMBER OF MONTANA AUDUBON THROUGH OUR ANNUAL CONSERVATION FUND

Your membership* helps support one of the most effective conservation organizations in Montana. Enjoy a year of benefits including timely conservation updates, invites to special events, our biannual print newsletter and the peace of mind knowing that you're actively contributing to the protection of birds, other wildlife and their habitats across our vast state.

For more information email us at info@mtaudubon.org or call 406-443-3949.

*Montana Audubon is registered as a nonprofit organization without members. Participation in this program does not include voting responsibilities.



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