

spring 2021



SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

page 2



**Connecting People
with the Land**

page 12

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.



*On the cover: Eastern Kingbird
Britney Higgs photo*

THE VIEW FROM ABOVE

Every spring we have an opportunity to start fresh. As the ground thaws, the weather warms, and we gain new opportunities to do what we love – to get outdoors and see our feathered friends return home! How fortunate we are to live in Montana where there are endless opportunities to hop on a trail, stretch our legs, and breathe fresh air.



We've been blown away by the commitment and dedication of our statewide community.

As we welcome the season this year, there is a profound sense of gratitude flying around at Montana Audubon. Over the past several months this feeling has only deepened as we've been blown away by the commitment and dedication of our statewide community.

We've joined conservation partners of all sizes to hold the line at the state legislature on critical environmental programs and protections while staying focused on important federal activity in DC such as protecting the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Thousands of acres of pristine grasslands are being preserved, which in turn is protecting critical grassland birds, as more and more ranches are joining us by ensuring their livestock is grazing on Montana Audubon certified bird-friendly lands.

Our Montana Audubon Center staff in Billings have continued to show up (masked!) day in and day out to make sure children and families can engage and connect with the outdoors. We've seen registration for our educational programs fill up in a matter of hours. And recently, we were humbled to receive a generous gift from a donor whose legacy will live on by supporting our important work.

In this issue of our newsletter, we invite you to join us as we give thanks to this community for helping us advance our mission. Taking action for birds, wildlife, and our natural places is what unites us, and we are excited to share our recent accomplishments with you. This is also a special opportunity to look toward the future at everything we can achieve with such a dedicated network of volunteers, partners, and supporters standing with us.

Yours in Conservation,

Larry Berrin

spring 2021

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THANKS TO YOU,
Montana Audubon continues to impact the conservation of native birds, other wildlife and their habitats across The Treasure State.

In 2020 we accomplished so much together, from pivoting to virtual classrooms at our Audubon Center to expanding our partnerships throughout Montana and creating new citizen science programs. We have more work to do, and are poised to have an even greater impact in the years to come.

Discover some of the highlights that we accomplished together in 2020.

SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

2020

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CITIZEN SCIENCE & RESEARCH



- **Deployed and retrieved 100 remote recording devices** to detect Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoos along Montana's major eastern waterways.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo



Bob Martinka

Great Blue Heron

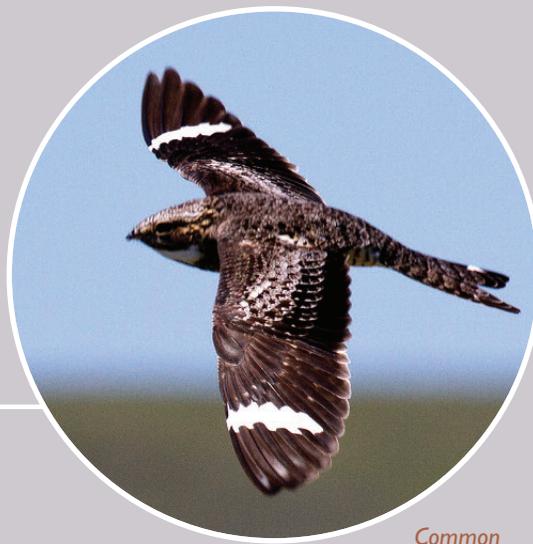
- **Started a new citizen science project** for a state Species of Concern: Great Blue Herons. We surveyed 50 locations in Montana with 30 volunteers.
- **Mobilized 13 volunteers** for the 2021 Climate Watch Winter Survey at 21 locations across Montana.
- **Spotted 94 Long-billed Curlews** in the Helena, Blackfoot, and Mission valleys with 19 volunteers.
- **Hosted a virtual raptor identification workshop** with 72 participants.
- **Fitted nine adult curlews** with devices in partnership with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute.
- **Reviewed nearly 170,000 Species of Concern records** for MT eBird including entries for Great Blue Heron, Trumpeter Swans, Long-billed Curlew, and others.



Trumpeter Swans

SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Bob Martinka

Common Nighthawk

PUBLIC POLICY

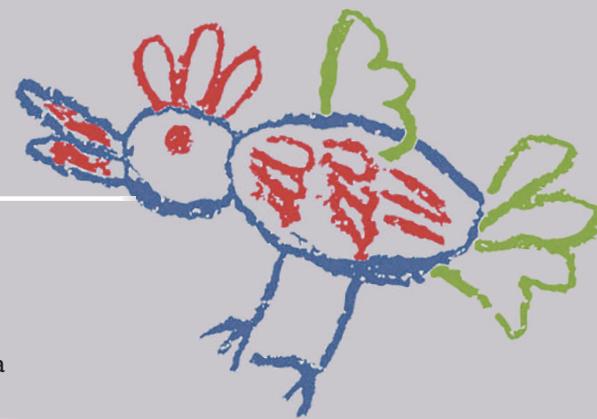
- **Challenged the Bureau of Land Management** in a lawsuit and succeeded in protecting more than 336,000 acres of Greater Sage-grouse habitat from future oil and gas development.
- **Educated Montanans** about the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, our most important federal bird protection, and defended it against the Trump Administration's regulatory changes. *See more on page 8.*

- **Continued to elevate the need** for nongame funding in Montana by supporting Recovering America's Wildlife Act, a federal bill which would bring much needed funding to the state for research, habitat conservation, and wildlife protection.

American Avocet



Bob Martinka



EDUCATION

- **Amidst a challenging year** for in-person activities, the Montana Audubon Center still connected more than 13,000 people with nature through on-site visits and programs.
- **Reached more than 340 children** through 34 different summer camps.
- **Held weekly programming for families** with our Nature Nuts program and added a new Kindergarten Enrichment class.
- **Pivoted our ANTS** (Audubon Naturalists in the Schools) program to take place virtually in 50 classrooms in Billings, reaching approximately 1,300 students.
- **Worked with the MT WILD Center** on a new exhibit on bird watching and Montana eBird.
- **Taught 50 children** a hands-on and nature-based curriculum through our Fledglings Preschool.

“Meadowlark birdies make the prettiest sound of spring ever”
 – Mabel, age 3



SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

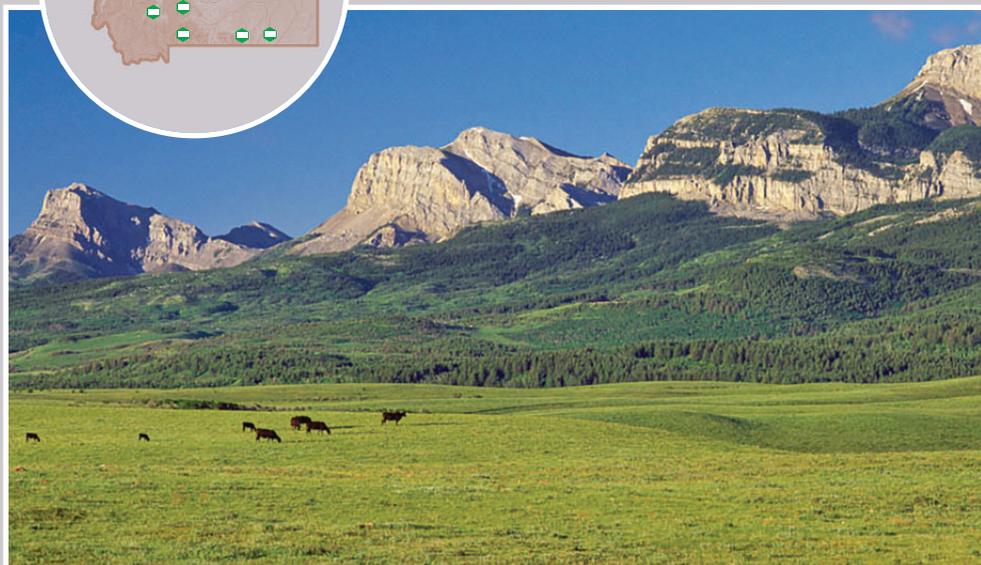


Black Swift

PARTNERSHIPS

- **Continued partnership** with an international Black Swift conservation working group, and strong research connections with Glacier National Park.
- **Partnered with the National Audubon Society** to launch the Audubon Conservation Ranching program in Montana. To date, we've enrolled approximately 36,000 acres across nine bird-friendly ranches in diverse regions of the state. See related story page 8.
- **Continued partnership** with University of Montana's Bird Ecology Lab on elevating the latest ornithology research for our Montana eBird website.
- **Continued partnership** with the State Library/MT Natural Heritage Project on data sharing between Montana eBird and the state bird database and state Species of Concern research projects.

■ 2020 Annual Report continues on page 17.



John Lambing

Because of your dedicated support

Amidst a difficult year, your participation in 2020 helped ensure our continued success. With your help, we built new partnerships, provided nature education to thousands of children and families, collected data and led citizen science projects on our state's species of concern, and advocated for environmental protections that will benefit us today and for years to come.

In 2021, new challenges have emerged. From dozens of bills that threaten public lands and wildlife protections to declining bird populations, we need your continued support. Please consider making a tax deductible donation today.

All contributions, big or small, help us achieve our mission and support our statewide conservation programs.

Bob Marzinka



Red-breasted Nuthatch

Thank you.

Conservation Ranching Enters its First Growing Season

After a long winter of planning and meetings with ranchers, we are flying full steam into our first season of bird monitoring on Audubon Certified ranches and eager to see what we help our landowners find. We have been hard-pressed to locate a ranching partner not enthusiastic about the “little brown jobs” like the Grasshopper and Baird’s Sparrows we are searching for, and so our staff is busy making sure we are ready to decipher tinkling songs and short sip call notes in the field.

To monitor the benefits of Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR) for birds, we use what is known as the Integrated Bird Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (or IMBCR) approach. Data collected with this method informs our enrolled ranches about bird diversity and abundance, and as part of the IMBCR program, the data contributes to one of North America’s largest breeding bird survey efforts. With almost 35,000 acres of new Habitat Management plans in the works, we have our monitoring work cut out for us. But even as we dust off our binoculars, we are continuing to accept

new ranches into the program, connecting with new ranchers all over the region.

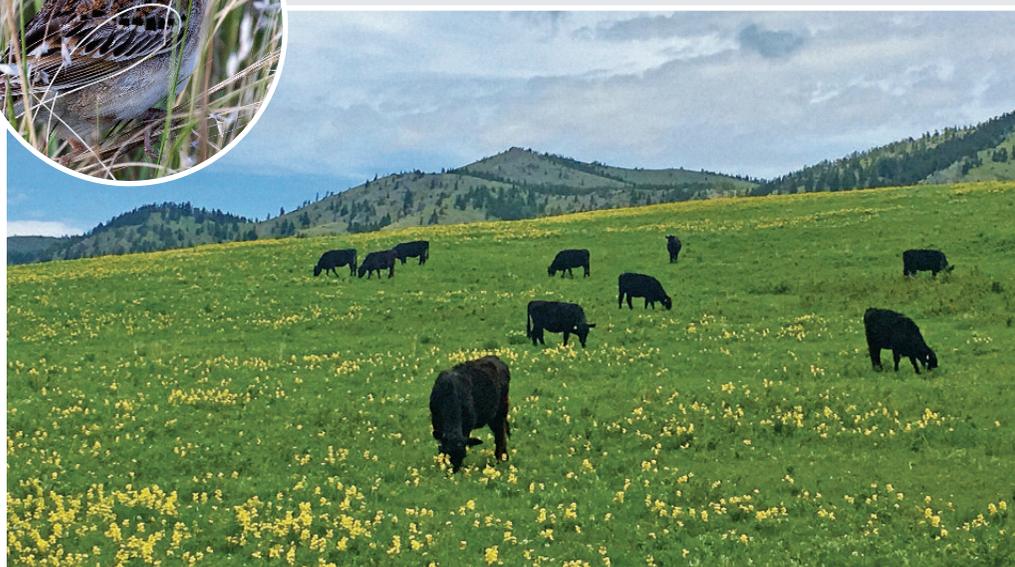
In just a short time ACR has become a key part of our conservation strategy to safeguard biological diversity, and especially grassland bird diversity, for current and future generations. By tracking the birds present where we work, our enrolled ranchers can adapt their management strategies to improve species diversity and habitat quality over time.

To find out more about ACR or where to buy ACR-certified beef, visit: audubon.org/conservation/ranching

Saddle Butte Ranch, a safe harbor for the endangered rare breed, the Native Scottish Aberdeen Angus, has joined the Audubon Conservation Ranching Program to become a sanctuary for grassland birds. “It is with great excitement that we look forward to our collaboration with Audubon to establish best grazing practices, not only to protect our endangered bird species, but also to become better stewards of our soils and native grasses.”

Grasshopper Sparrow

Saddle Butte Ranch in central Montana



Bob Merrinika

Lynne Spiggs

Citizen Science Projects Take Flight

From our statewide Great Blue Heron rookery and Climate Watch projects, to western Montana Long-billed Curlew surveys, and Chimney Swift surveys in the east, our citizen science opportunities are diverse, and geared up for 2021. There is a project for everyone, and by participating you join Montana Audubon in collecting important data on species of concern, and species we know little about. Plus, you make great eBird lists along the way, capturing evidence for each and every bird you identify.

Citizen science is a matter of scale. Researchers would otherwise not have the capacity to observe so much.

And beyond bird numbers, citizen data includes information about dozens of important nesting sites for Black Swift, Great Blue Heron, Chimney Swift, and more. That’s why, working with the Montana Natural Heritage Program and our Avian Specialist Bo Crees, we have made sure your hours of observation are entered in our state wildlife database where they inform land-use proposals, species conservation status reviews, and other management decisions.

Working together to collect this data allows us to tackle ecology’s most basic question: why things are the way they are when they are.

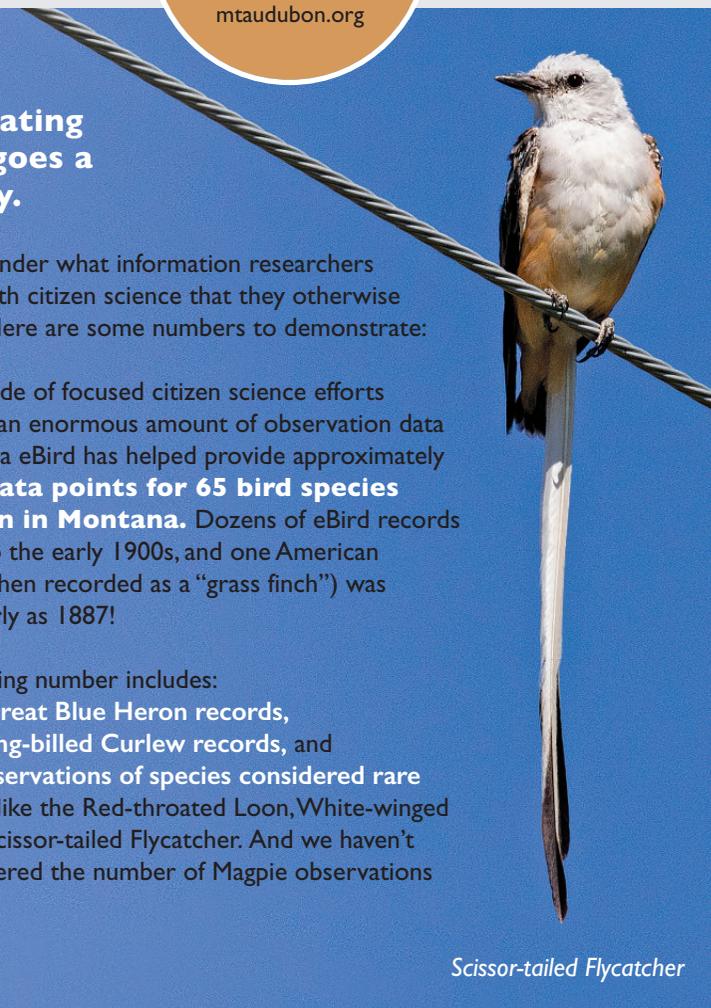
Learn more, get involved, and support our projects by visiting our “Citizen Science” webpage at mtaudubon.org

Participating a little goes a long way.

You may wonder what information researchers can learn with citizen science that they otherwise could not. Here are some numbers to demonstrate:

Over a decade of focused citizen science efforts paired with an enormous amount of observation data submitted via eBird has helped provide approximately **170,000 data points for 65 bird species of concern in Montana.** Dozens of eBird records date back to the early 1900s, and one American Goldfinch (then recorded as a “grass finch”) was noted as early as 1887!

This staggering number includes: **20,500+** Great Blue Heron records, **5,200+** Long-billed Curlew records, and **1,100+** observations of species considered rare in the state like the Red-throated Loon, White-winged Dove, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. And we haven’t even considered the number of Magpie observations out there.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

Bob Merrinika

The 67th Legislature – a remote whirlwind of anti-wildlife & anti-environment proposals

Reviewing the thousand plus bills

proposed during this legislative session reveal one consistent view towards the rules protecting our wildlife and their habitats – deregulation! Efforts to relax policies range from changing wolf harvest regulations to allow snares, trap baiting, hunting at night, and unlimited take, to nullifying the public’s right to oppose nuclear energy, removing public participation and regulatory oversight of open cut mines like gravel pits, and efforts at passing regulatory takings legislation (described in more detail below). This activity has kept us bouncing between committees on everything from Fish and Game, to Agriculture, to Highways and Transportation, Taxation, and more.

At this point we have testified on 62 bills, opposing 46 and supporting 16. And, all this during a global pandemic that finds many legislators and lobbyists working remotely.

One of our top issues has been protecting Montana’s long-standing habitat and wildlife conservation program, Habitat Montana, which found itself – once again – pinched by the authority of the Land Board. As we see April come to a close, conservation easements valued over \$1 million through the Habitat Montana program will need Land Board approval



to move forward. Fortunately, funding for the state’s Greater Sage Grouse program is intact at this point, and has been proposed as a shared cost between MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Other issues we’ve been following involve wolves, grizzly bears, trapping, and more.

As session nears its close, we will continue following these issues all the way to the finish line and trying to eke out a few wildlife victories. Keep an eye out for our final alerts, some asking for direct outreach to the Governor’s office. Learn more, get involved, and support our projects by visiting our “Conservation Policy” web page.

Policy Deep Dive

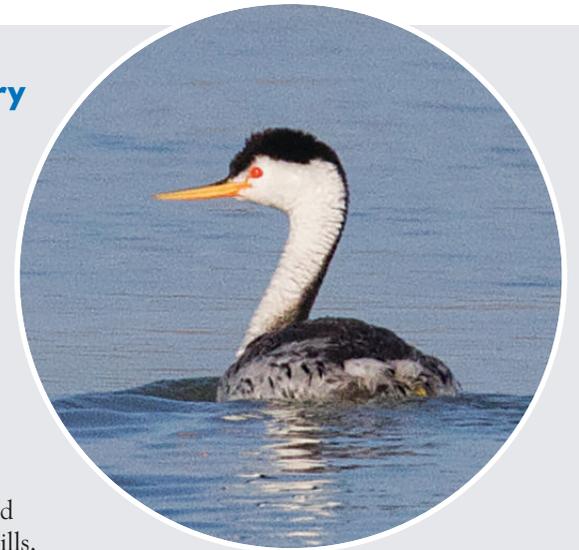
While “takings” is a wonky term, it’s very worrisome for conservation. The concept impacts all Montanans, property owners, and non-owning taxpayers alike. Coined to refer to takings of real or physical property by government entities, the concept is expanding to include any limit to a property owners’ use of their land for profit. If takings were enforced for every environmental or public good regulation (e.g Clean Water Act provisions) it would be too expensive for governments to compensate, essentially stalling the enforcement of environmental regulations. For example, a fishing outfitter could sue Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks for fishing quotas that keep wildlife populations healthy by demanding payment for fish not caught or trips not launched because of restrictions. This session, legislators have proposed (through SB 260) that a diminution of personal property of 25% or more caused by a policy or rule, in some instances, warrants a takings claim against that government entity. This could have serious consequences as it relates to environmental protections.

Montana Audubon’s legislative team of Amy Seaman (left) and Carmen Borchelt.

Restoring the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Biden Administration has recently taken crucial steps to restore the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In case you missed it, the previous administration had reinterpreted the MBTA to allow for the “incidental” killing of birds, significantly undercutting our ability to protect bird species from industrial activities and to hold companies accountable for bird deaths caused by power lines, oil spills, and more.

For decades, the MBTA has protected more than 1,000 bird species and has been interpreted to include both accidental and intentional bird deaths. The Trump administration’s



Clark’s Grebe

reinterpretation went against decades of bipartisan interpretation of the law. Join us in celebrating the Biden Administration’s commitment to restoring and strengthening the MBTA.

Bob Martinica

CALL FOR VEHICLE DONATIONS

Are you looking to upgrade your vehicle this year? Before you trade in or scrap your old one, consider donating it to conservation.

Montana Audubon is looking for vehicle donations to support our science and education programs. Our top priority right now is securing a pickup truck to support restoration and maintenance at the Montana Audubon Center in Billings. If you have a vehicle and are interested in learning more, contact us using the form at mtaudubon.org.

All vehicle donations are tax deductible.



MOBILIZE YOUR PASSION FOR BIRDS

Make a meaningful impact for the birds of Montana by choosing the Bird Habitat License plate, which features an American Avocet, Ruddy Duck, Lewis’s Woodpecker, and a trio of Black-billed Magpies—on a Rocky Mountain Front backdrop.

For an affordable price, you can support Montana Audubon and our bird conservation work while cruising under the big sky.

For more details visit mtaudubon.org



Connecting People with the Land at the Montana Audubon Center

It may be difficult to envision the environmental education campus where the Montana Audubon Center sits being a gravel pit, but that’s exactly what it was just two decades ago.

Through many years of vision and effort, the land around the Center has been transformed into a flourishing conservation and education area. By working with many organizations and community volunteers we’ve created a space where people of all ages can connect with the natural landscape. In a world where screens dominate our lives, it’s nice to know children in Billings have a place to “unplug” so close to home.

Originally acquired from the Long Family Trust by Yellowstone River Parks Association (YRPA), the Montana Audubon Center opened in 2009 with funding and support from YRPA, Montana Audubon and our partners. Over the years a myriad of volunteers have tirelessly worked on this land and transformed it to become an amazing microcosm of eastern Montana ecosystems. With the guidance of Norm Schoenthal and countless others, the land has been restored to match a vision of what a nature education campus could look like. Fields were plowed and sown with native

prairie grasses, and almost every tree and shrub on site was planted by the hands of volunteers. In fact, community volunteers have planted more than 70,000 trees and shrubs on the property, 300 of which were planted in 2020.

The groundwater ponds left over from the gravel mine required some attention as well. Montana Audubon Staff, YRPA and countless volunteers transplanted willows, cattails, sedges, and rushes along the

Community volunteers have planted more than 70,000 trees and shrubs on the property, 300 of which were planted in 2020.

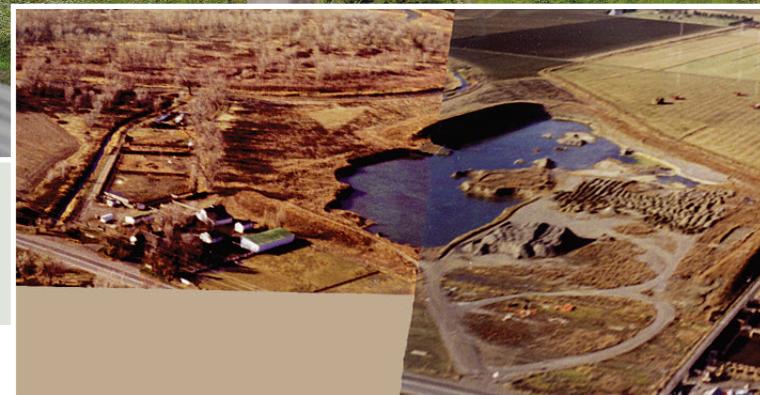
shores of the ponds. These marshy areas are now home to various aquatic invertebrates that help to feed the many creatures that call this area home. With the help from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Pikemasters, and Floating Islands International,

the ponds were stocked with fish and aerated to allow amateur fishers a place to practice. An osprey platform and numerous bird houses were erected on the grounds providing beneficial nesting locations on this young landscape. In addition, secluded bird blinds situated on two of the ponds provide optimal viewing platforms for avian spring arrivals, wildlife visitors, and summer fledglings.

Norm Schoenthal Field Lab

Over a decade ago and through a tremendous collaborative effort, the Norm Schoenthal Field Lab was constructed. Inside, our educational programs have grown fast, and outside the beautiful demonstration gardens have grown almost as vigorously. Volunteers and community partners have been critical to installing and maintaining these native gardens and engaging students and community members over the years. The Helen Carlson Cummins Bird Garden and Thoughtful Birding Station were installed just outside the building in 2018, providing a location for all ages to observe and enjoy birds up close.

“Many hands create light work” –John Heywood



Left: Photo taken before restoration work began two decades ago

A Community Created by Volunteers

Thanks to community leaders and volunteers, the Montana Audubon Center has been able to grow and provide critical resources for local environmental education. Even today, there is a great energy to help sustain this historical initiative. Much of what we accomplish is due to our supportive and enthusiastic volunteers. In 2020, volunteers accumulated over 1,600 hours working on restoration initiatives such as native seed collecting, demonstration gardening and planting of trees and shrubs, in addition to projects such as Nest Watch, Project FeederWatch, Monarch Watch, and fish surveys. Volunteers have also provided added capacity, support and enthusiasm with on-site educational youth programs, and have offered their skills

in helping to make the Center a more effective and organized workspace. The Montana Audubon Center is what it is today thanks to the interest and dedication of community volunteers and their desire to preserve public areas and wildlife habitats for generations.

“We are so grateful to our volunteers, whose efforts benefit all of our programs and the whole community.”

– Emily Chilcoat,
Volunteer Coordinator

The Center’s landscape is an illustration of how a community can transform a small piece of undesirable land into a thriving education campus that helps create a culture of conservation in the largest city in Montana.



In 2020, community volunteers accumulated over 1,600 hours.



Bob Martinka

Montana Audubon Grants Support Wildlife Habitat

Rufous Hummingbird

For over 25 years, Montana Audubon has awarded grants to organizations in support of research and education projects directed toward wildlife habitat conservation. Funds are awarded from earnings generated by the Audubon Wildlife Fund of Montana, a permanent endowment. Supported 2021 projects include:

Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary Wingspan Mural

This wingspan display will feature five of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem's native birds: rufous hummingbird, turkey vulture, sandhill crane, golden eagle, and great horned owl. The mural will be placed inside the sanctuary near the gift shop, in an area where groups often gather to wait for tours to begin, so will be a focus of interest. During talks on Montana birds, especially raptors, the mural may be incorporated into the program as a tactile-visual aid.

Jewel Basin Hawk Watch

For the 14th year in a row, Flathead Audubon Society will conduct raptor monitoring at the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch, tracking long-term changes in Northern Rocky Mountain raptor populations.



Bob Martinka

Northern Goshawk

The Montana Moth Project

Moths comprise a significant part of global biodiversity and serve ubiquitous roles in terrestrial ecosystems as herbivores, pollinators, and prey. The Montana Moth Project seeks to document the diversity, distribution, abundance, and ecology of moths in Montana through scientific research, education, and citizen science.

Farm to School of Park Country Native Pollinator Habitats

This project will build native pollinator habitats at all of the park County school gardens and downtown farm. All of these sites grow produce that goes directly back to local students in school lunches and farm to school lessons. Montana native shrubs will be planted in our growing spaces to support the native habitat and draw in pollinator species. Plants were selected for the pollinators they attract and aesthetics, including flowers, edible berries, and foliage.

BIRDING ECUADOR

with Merlin Birding & Nature Tours and Holbrook Travel



Plate-billed Mountain Toucan

THE CHOCÓ-ANDES REGION

January 16 – 25, 2022 (from \$3,198)

Discover the amazing contrasts of cloud forest and high-elevation Andean landscapes on this 10-day birding extravaganza.

Explore Ecuador's northern cloud forest and high-elevation Andean landscapes. Accompanied by an expert local guide, you'll observe resident and migratory avifauna, view the snow-capped Antisana Volcano, enjoy a lecture by a famed ornithologist, and journey along the well-known Yanacocha and Quinde Eco-routes.

- **Explore numerous public and private reserves**, including Alambi Cloud Forest Reserve, Milpe Bird Sanctuary, Antisana Ecological Reserve, and more.
- **Observe dozens of stunning hummingbirds**, including the Giant and Sword-billed Hummingbirds, Tourmaline Sunangel and so many more.
- **Enjoy many unique and rare target species**, including Andean Condor, Long-wattled Umbrellabird, Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, the rare Moss-backed Tanager, and more.
- **Visit private reserves** for spectacular viewing of the Andean Cock-of-the-rock, several antpitta species, dozens of colorful tanagers, and more.

THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

January 24 – 30, 2022 (from \$2,585)

Optional Extension: Pair this trip with the tour above to experience even more of Ecuador's amazing avian diversity!

Embark on an unforgettable journey into the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Begin in the eastern foothills of the Andes Mountains at WildSumaco Wildlife Sanctuary, then descend into the lowland, primary forests of Sacha Lodge's 5,000-acre ecological reserve. Enjoy a variety of resident and migrant avian species. In addition to a superb wildlife experience, you'll have a chance to connect with local indigenous communities.

- **Search for a mix of mid-elevation species** in Sumaco, including Gray-tailed Piha, Blue-rumped Manakin, Chestnut-crowned Gnateater, and the endangered Military Macaw.
- **Take a canopy walk** within the heart of the Amazon Basin to enjoy close views of Scarlet and Red-bellied Macaws, Many-banded Aracari, Magpie Tanager, Gilded Barbet, etc.
- **Canoe the flooded Amazon rainforest** while watching for birds, monkeys, sloths, caimans, river otters, and other wildlife.
- **Walk through the pristine lowland Amazon forest**, containing a plethora of orchids, bromeliads, palm trees and 150-foot kapok trees.

In addition to your expert Ecuadorian guide, Steve Hoffman, former Director of Montana Audubon, will serve as your U.S.-based trip leader. For more information please contact Steve at 406-461-5714 or swhoffman0322@gmail.com.

For information on other exciting trips, visit Merlin Birding at merlinbirding.com.

Creating Peace of Mind

Joe and Lana Batts

Both raised in Montana, Joe and Lana Batts are longtime birders that have a deep rooted appreciation for the treasure state. Like many great Montana love stories, their lifelong partnership is situated within their shared love for Montana, and while they pursued careers elsewhere, they knew they'd always find themselves back here.



Joe and Lana Batts in Glacier National Park

After settling in Lakeside, they initially got involved with Audubon through their local chapter, the Flathead Audubon Society. "It was the Bird Festival that first introduced us to the state chapter," Lana said. Ever since, Joe and Lana are regulars at the annual Wings Across The Big Sky festivals, traveling around the state on field trips and abroad on birding trips. Some of their most treasured bird festival memories include spotting their first Lazuli Bunting and seeing their first Common Yellowthroat.

It was when they started to learn more about Montana Audubon's science, policy, and education work that they were inspired to get more involved. As they put it, "We went from being passive to active birders." They realized that if they were going to love and appreciate birds they needed to actively support conservation and preservation of the environment. It became less about "finding more birds" and more about "how can we get involved in the organizational side of birding."

Now, several years later, Joe serves as Vice President of Montana Audubon's Board of Directors and Lana regularly volunteers

her decades of professional expertise. As they put it, "We are not retired; we are redirected." The couple has also made the decision to make a planned gift in support of Montana Audubon.

When it comes to planned giving, Joe and Lana are humble in that the word "legacy" makes them cringe a little. Instead, they agree that leaving money behind for a cause that they care deeply about provides them with some peace of mind. "Nonprofit organizations generally operate on a shoestring budget. It's amazing how much can be done with so little. If we can help Montana Audubon accomplish their mission it is important for us to do so, and it ensures that our contribution goes beyond us."

Their advice to those who are considering a planned gift: "It's actually pretty easy." Adding Montana Audubon to your estate plan gives you the opportunity to leave behind something that you know will be appreciated and used to further a cause that you believe in. If you're considering a planned gift or want to learn more, please contact Angela Swatek at angela@mtaudubon.org.

"If we can help Montana Audubon accomplish their mission, it ensures that our contribution goes beyond us."

CONTINUE YOUR LEGACY WITH A PLANNED GIFT

Core to Montana Audubon's vision is that birds and other wildlife will be protected for generations to come. Planned gifts are instrumental in helping our organization achieve this goal and help you leave a lasting legacy. Together we can ensure the long term sustainability of our conservation programs.

Please consider Montana Audubon in your estate planning. Your generous gift will benefit Montana's native birds, other wildlife, and their habitats today and into the future.

For more information and to pledge your support please contact Angela Swatek at angela@mtaudubon.org.



Bob Martinka

SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

Thank You for Supporting Montana Audubon

We are truly appreciative of your continued and generous support of Montana Audubon. Together, we can achieve our mission and conserve Montana's native birds, other wildlife, and natural ecosystems for current and future generations. Thank you for sharing in these accomplishments with us. We could not do this work without you. The following people generously contributed \$100 or more between March 2020 and February 2021.

\$2,500 & Up

Lysbeth Anderson
Ron & Cheryl Farmer
Richard Gillette
& Susan Hinkins
Dennis & Roleene Fergus
Bernard McHugh
& Frances Clark
Jennifer Speers
Jean Setter
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Marsh Wren

HONORARIUMS

Special recognition to the following individuals for recent gifts in their honor

Evelyn Acton
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Jon Siddoway,
Tom Siddoway
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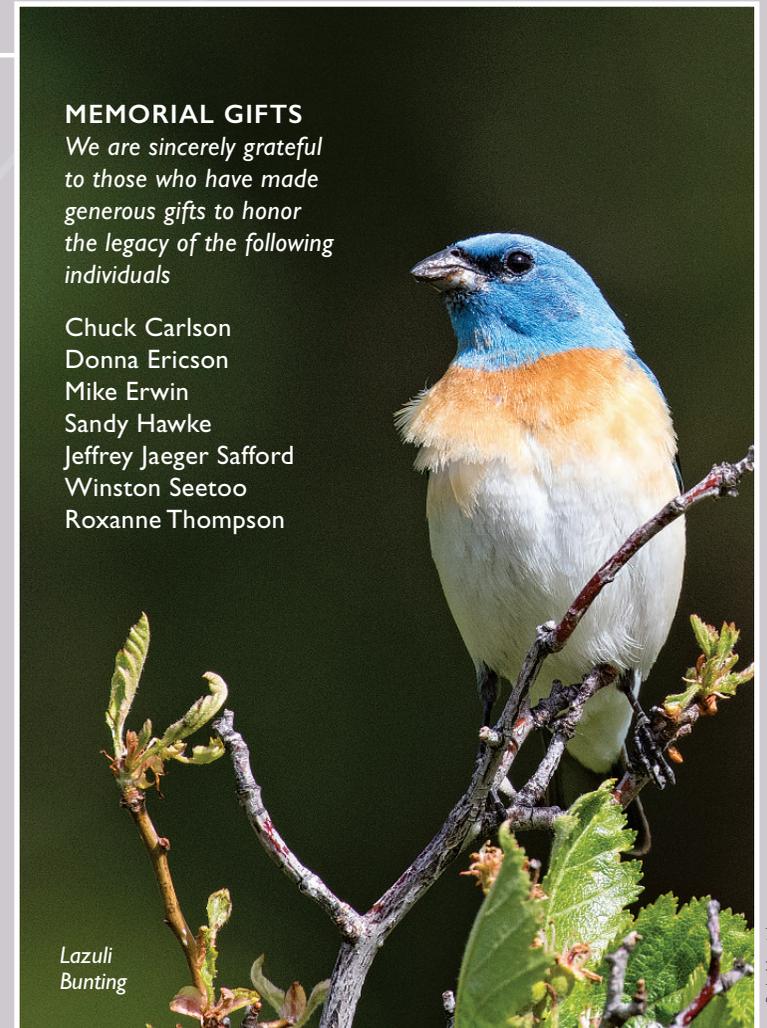
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MEMORIAL GIFTS

We are sincerely grateful to those who have made generous gifts to honor the legacy of the following individuals

Chuck Carlson
 Donna Ericson
 Mike Erwin
 Sandy Hawke
 Jeffrey Jaeger Safford
 Winston Seetoo
 Roxanne Thompson



Lazuli Bunting

Bob Marinka

Please note: Due to space constraints, we are only able to list donors who gave \$100 or more. However, we express sincere appreciation to all of our donors, as every donation makes a difference.

Also, this list does not include event registration fees, sales, auction purchases below fair market value, or endowment gifts. If you notice any inaccuracies with the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact us.

2020 FINANCIALS

Thanks to all of our faithful supporters, Montana Audubon has maintained a strong financial position, which empowers us to continue the conservation of native birds, other wildlife and their habitats across Montana. You make this possible through your much-appreciated support of our vital conservation work. Thank you!

Statement of Financial Position

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 514,834
Board Designated Endowment	\$1,082,683
Restricted Net Assets	\$ 93,535
Total Net Assets	\$1,691,052

12-month Fiscal Year Ending 9-30-20

Revenue

Earned Income	\$ 254,083
Grants & Contracts	\$ 223,516
Contributions	\$ 221,361
Investment Income	\$ 117,165
Total	\$ 816,125

Expenses

Programs	\$ 632,148
Administrative	\$ 97,304
Fundraising	\$ 34,101
Total	\$ 763,553

83%
of funds directly support conservation programs

Montana Audubon is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. This financial information is drawn from audited financial statements by the accounting firm Douglas Wilson & Company, PC.

Special Thanks

With sincere gratitude, we thank you, our institutional supporters and partners. Thanks to your engagement, our critical work is made possible and is ever more impactful.

Montana-based Audubon Chapters

Bitterroot Audubon Society
Five Valleys Audubon Society
Flathead Audubon Society
Last Chance Audubon Society
Mission Mountain Audubon Society
Pintler Audubon Society
Sacajawea Audubon Society
Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon Society
Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society

Foundations

Better Billings Foundation
Billings Community Foundation
Cadeau Foundation
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Yellowstone Naturopathic Clinic, P.C.
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MT Dept. of Commerce
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American Prairie Reserve
Billings Arts Association
Billings Catholic Schools
Billings Gymnastics School
Billings Junior Woman's Club
Billings Parks and Recreation
Billings School District #2
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Burlington Elementary School
Canyon Creek School District #4
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Montana State University - Billings
Montana Wilderness Association, Eastern Wildlands Chapter
Montana Wildlife Society
National Audubon Society
Rocky Mountain College
School Services of Montana
The Sunshine Academy
University of Montana
Yellowstone River Parks Association
ZooMontana

Thank You, Volunteers, for Giving Your Time

Thank you, Montana Audubon volunteers, for so freely giving your valuable time to help us meet our conservation mission. You have not only offered your time, but also your expertise, humor, perspective, and so much more.

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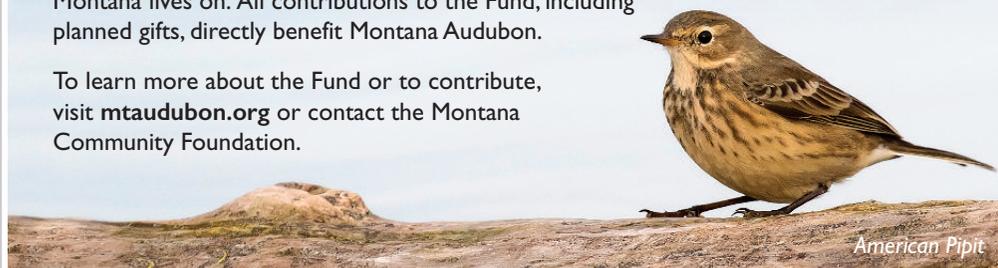
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PROTECTING BIRDS TODAY AND BEYOND

The George and Laurene Engler Montana Audubon Conservation Fund was created as a memorial for two very special people: George and Laurene Engler.

The fund is meant to provide a sustainable funding source for bird conservation, habitat protection, and public policies that are consistent with these conservation goals. Thanks to this generous gift, George and Laurene's legacy of furthering conservation work in Montana lives on. All contributions to the Fund, including planned gifts, directly benefit Montana Audubon.

To learn more about the Fund or to contribute, visit mtaudubon.org or contact the Montana Community Foundation.



American Pipit

Bob Marzinka

Bob Marzinka

WINGS ACROSS THE BIG SKY – REGIONAL FIELD TRIPS 2021

Join Montana Audubon for a unique field trip in your area on Saturday, June 5!

- Choose a field trip with a Montana birding expert in the region of your choice.
- Get an all-access pass to educational and instructional workshop videos led by Montana Audubon scientists and experts.
- Receive a full color Birding Guide of Montana's most common bird species, and other Montana Audubon goodies.

Mark your calendar! Registration opens April 12 with all trips occurring on Saturday, June 5, 2021 rain or shine.

Visit mtaudubon.org starting April 12 for detailed field trip information and to register for a unique birding experience.

Register early. Field trip participation is limited.

Bob Martinka

Pintails

For the health and safety of our supporters, the Lewistown 2021 Festival will be postponed to 2022. In lieu of the annual gathering, Montana Audubon is hosting Regional Field Trips at various locations throughout the state.



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