






Montana Audubon continues to be a leader in using citizen science to advance conservation in Montana. By leveraging funds from entities like the Glacier National Park Conservancy, the Sargent Endowment, LEAW Family Foundation, the Cadeau Foundation, and generous donors, we have built durable conservation partnerships centered on a dynamic and growing volunteer network. Specifically, in fiscal year 2019-2020 we leveraged support to:


 Continue leading an international working group to standardize Black Swift survey protocols, create new survey methods, increase personal safety, share natural history data, and coordinate conservation efforts throughout North American. Efforts resulted in new data collection methods built to detect large-scale, well-informed population estimates and trends. We trained 2 volunteers, 3 Glacier National Park (GNP) biological technicians, and 2 MT Audubon technicians. Over three years we have trained 79 individuals.

 Survey 20 waterfalls with GNP biologists and volunteers during 22 days of intensive dusk and dawn surveys along the Continental Divide in GNP. This effort monitored 15 known colonies, characterized habitat at five new waterfalls, and more than doubled the number of known nesting niches.

 Collaborate with The Nature Conservancy to survey waterfowl and songbirds along 3.5-miles of the Ruby and Jefferson Rivers; to support permanent conservation through the North American Wetland Conservation Act. Using vantage surveys and intensive area searches, we observed 99 bird species, 10 of conservation concern, breeding or migrating in the area.

 Start a new citizen monitoring project for a state Species of Concern, Great Blue Herons, reaching 17 volunteers that surveyed 23 locations in western Montana. And, we continued Long-billed Curlew monitoring in the Mission, Helena, and Blackfoot Valleys, working with 19 volunteers and detecting 94 curlews.

 Collaborate with the University of Montana Bird Ecology Lab to survey a restoration site in the Madison River Important Bird Area by conducting ~100 point-counts, and 2 dozen call-back surveys for secretive marsh birds like the Sora and Virginia Rail, locating 2 of each along the way.

 Initiated a new citizen science project, National Audubon's *Climate Watch*. This survey aims to document species' responses to climate change by looking for common birds, like bluebirds, where Audubon's climate models predict them to be through the 2020s. This winter, our first 7 volunteers surveyed 9 new locations.



A team of 4, made up of Montana Audubon and Glacier National park researchers, surveyed for Black Swifts at 20 waterfalls in Glacier National Park.



We completed over 100 point-counts along restored sections of O'dell Creek.



Shorebirds like the American Avocet are a focal group in the O'dell Creek surveys.



Volunteer, Annie Buchwald, counted 56 nests and 47 active birds while monitoring a rookery in Manhattan, MT.