

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 2020-2021 we leveraged support to:



Continue leading an international working group to standardize Black Swift survey protocols, improve survey methods, increase personal safety, share natural history data, and coordinate conservation efforts throughout North American. Work included bringing several Idaho wildlife biologists into working groups and continuing to work with biologists in Canada, Colorado, and Montana, to refine protocol documentation. We trained 4 new volunteers, 7 Glacier National Park (GNP) biological technicians, and 1 MT Audubon research technician.



Survey for Black Swift nesting colonies at 58 waterfalls across western MT and into northern Idaho. 39 waterfalls were assessed for habitat and 19 were surveyed during repeated dusk and dawn periods. This effort monitored 13 known colonies (10 in GNP), surveyed 6 new locations in MT's Yaak region, and gave our researchers and up close look at nesting and feeding behavior!



Collaborate with Flathead Audubon Society to permanently conserve almost 450 acres of wetland and riparian areas in northwestern Montana, promote raptor conservation, and support a record breaking count season at the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch. Work included presenting an advanced raptor identification class to 117 people and spending 10 days supporting migration surveys for 17 species of raptor.



Continue leading citizen monitoring projects for state Species of Concern like the Great Blue Heron and Long-billed Curlew, continue leading National Audubon Society's citizen's *Climate Watch*, and begin partnering with Sageland Collaborative's *Rosy-Finch Project*; working with over 50 volunteers throughout FY 2020-2021.



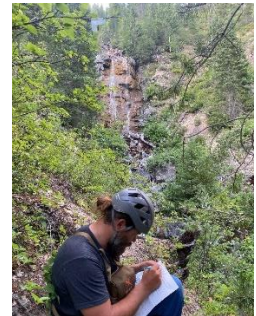
Collaborate with Audubon Conservation Ranching partners near Kila, MT, to develop a unique Habitat Management Plan and conduct a first year of bird and vegetation monitoring. 62 species were detected, including 2 Species of Concern, the Evening Grosbeak and Common Loon.



Collaborate with Flathead Audubon Society to present an online raptor identification class to 117 people and spend 10 days supporting migration surveys for 17 species of raptor at Jewel Basin and Mount Brown Hawk Watches.



MT Audubon technicians finally got a rare and close look at a large, well-hidden, Black Swift nestling while surveying in mid-August.



Returning technician Jack Toriello describes the habitat of a western MT waterfall.



We found 62 species of birds near Kila, utilizing just one ranch in northwestern MT that is enrolled in the Audubon Conservation Ranching program.



Long-term raptor migration data from sites like the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch help track the population of MT's 17 primary raptor species, including the Golden Eagle.