

fall

2023

MONTANA
AUDUBON



KEEPING WILDLIFE ON THE LANDSCAPE

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**BIRD-FRIENDLY
RANCH
ENROLLMENT
UP AGAIN**

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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 still recall meeting with the National Audubon Society years ago about the idea of partnering with ranchers in Montana to assist us in protecting grassland habitats. At the time, I didn't fully understand how a market-based approach could work to protect species like Chestnut-collared Longspurs. Four years and 16 ranches later, this grassland habitat initiative known as Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR) has become one of our largest programs, protecting nearly 140,000 acres of the most vulnerable habitat in our state. The ACR certification distinguishes wildlife-focused grassland management and recognizes rotational grazing that creates a mosaic of habitat for grassland birds.

This formula of rotational grazing works because it's modeled on how native bison herds once roamed and foraged. In a way, we can think of Montana as one large *quilt* as we hope to *stitch* together areas that have been freshly grazed, areas that were grazed months ago, and areas that haven't been grazed all year. Instituting intensive, rotational grazing with these herds helps achieve the goal of increasing the health of the grasslands. Creating this variety of habitat benefits the biggest array of grassland bird species and other wildlife. To do this, we not only work with Montana ranchers on a specific habitat management plan for their lands that addresses rotational grazing, but on all aspects of the program, including bird and environmental monitoring.

This year, we added North Bridger Bison to the ACR family to become the first Audubon certified bison ranch in Montana. I found it interesting that we started working with cattle to mimic what bison have done naturally for centuries when they roamed the west. Now we will be working with bison to mimic what their ancestors did. So in a way we have come full circle as we are now just allowing bison to be bison!

We've come a long way from that initial discovery meeting when we had to ask ourselves if a bird conservation organization could develop a mutually beneficial relationship with ranchers in Montana. Not only did we learn that the answer is yes, but we also learned that wildlife and livestock can live in harmony as part of this wonderful patchwork place we call Montana.

Yours in Conservation,

Larry Berrin
Executive Director



We learned that wildlife and livestock can live in harmony as part of this wonderful patchwork place we call Montana.

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On the cover:
Burrowing Owl
Bob Martinka photo

KEEPING

WILDLIFE

ON THE

LANDSCAPE

Montana Audubon is Leading a Coalition to Protect Vulnerable Species

The **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** (RAWA) aims to provide proactive funding for wildlife conservation at the state level. Though it sounds like something a cartoon dinosaur would say, RAWA is no child's play. If passed, its cumulative impact on conservation in the United States will be on par with the Endangered Species Act.

How is RAWA different from other models of conservation funding?

What makes RAWA different from other conservation funding models is that it will provide money to states and tribes to conserve at-risk, nongame species that are not currently covered by the Endangered Species Act.

"We've all heard the saying an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and this is really the vision of RAWA," said Larry Berrin, Montana Audubon's Executive Director who is leading the Montana RAWA Coalition. "We know the more we can fund and fuel efforts to protect vulnerable species before they become endangered, the better chance we have of avoiding the costly measures we face once a species is listed."

RAWA funds have the potential to protect thousands of species across the U.S. before they are at risk of extinction – which is good for wildlife as well as taxpayer wallets, avoiding the regulatory burdens and costs that come once a species is listed under the Endangered Species Act.

A lot of state-level conservation is funded by hunting and fishing licenses, as well as taxes on related items such as guns, ammo, and other gear. This means that, as numbers of hunters and anglers fluctuate, the amount of funding available for conservation also fluctuates. In recent years, this has meant a decline in national funding.

continued...

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act provides funds that help conserve vulnerable species like the Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Bob Martinka photo

Visit the Montana RAWA website to see a full list of the Montana Coalition members: www.mtrawa.org

Often, states have used these funds to prioritize species of interest to these groups, such as elk and trout. While this work is important, it leaves out many nongame species. “Passage of this legislation would benefit all Montanans and provide opportunities for future generations to see amazing wildlife, live surrounded by healthy wildlife habitat and enjoy the outdoors,” said Kristina Smucker, Nongame Bureau Chief with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

How much money? And how does it get divvied up?

RAWA would allocate just under \$1.4 billion dollars every year to wildlife conservation. This money would be divided up among tribal and state wildlife agencies based on factors including the acreage, human population, and number of federally threatened species. Montana would be one of the top states with the highest funding estimates due to these factors. The idea is that this money would fund about 75% of each state’s Wildlife Action Plan, and the state would match the remaining 25%. These plans, wildlife conservation strategies which include both assessments as well as recommended actions, are developed with public input and are unique to each state. States would have the option to use funds for conservation efforts on both state and private lands, depending on the goals within their specific Wildlife Action Plan.

Current status

In late 2022, after years of advocacy and bipartisan support, the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act was dropped from a federal omnibus spending bill. Though it ultimately had 47 cosponsors and passed successfully out of committee, it never received a floor vote. The reason: Congress couldn’t agree on how to fund it. Originally, it was proposed that funds would come from closing a tax loophole around cryptocurrency, but legislators couldn’t come to a consensus on the final details, so the bill was dropped.

From the time it was first introduced, RAWA has always had strong bipartisan support. During its time in both the House and Senate, there has not been opposition to the essential elements of the bill in either chamber. The main issue is coming to an agreement on a funding mechanism.

Almost as soon as the 118th Congress began, the bill was reintroduced in the senate by Martin Heinrich (D-New Mexico) and Thom Tillis (R-North Carolina). Crucially, this version does not include a funding mechanism, which means that the critical issue of how to fund the Act is still unresolved. Since its introduction, more senators have joined Heinrich and Tillis as cosponsors, including Montana’s Senator Jon Tester, who was also a cosponsor on the previous version of the bill. As of this publication, there are a total of 15 cosponsors, including five Democrats, eight Republicans, and two Independents.



U.S. Senator Jon Tester received Montana Audubon’s 2023 Conservationist of the Year award at the 2023 Wings Across the Big Sky festival in June, partially due to his support for RAWA.

Strong support in Montana and beyond

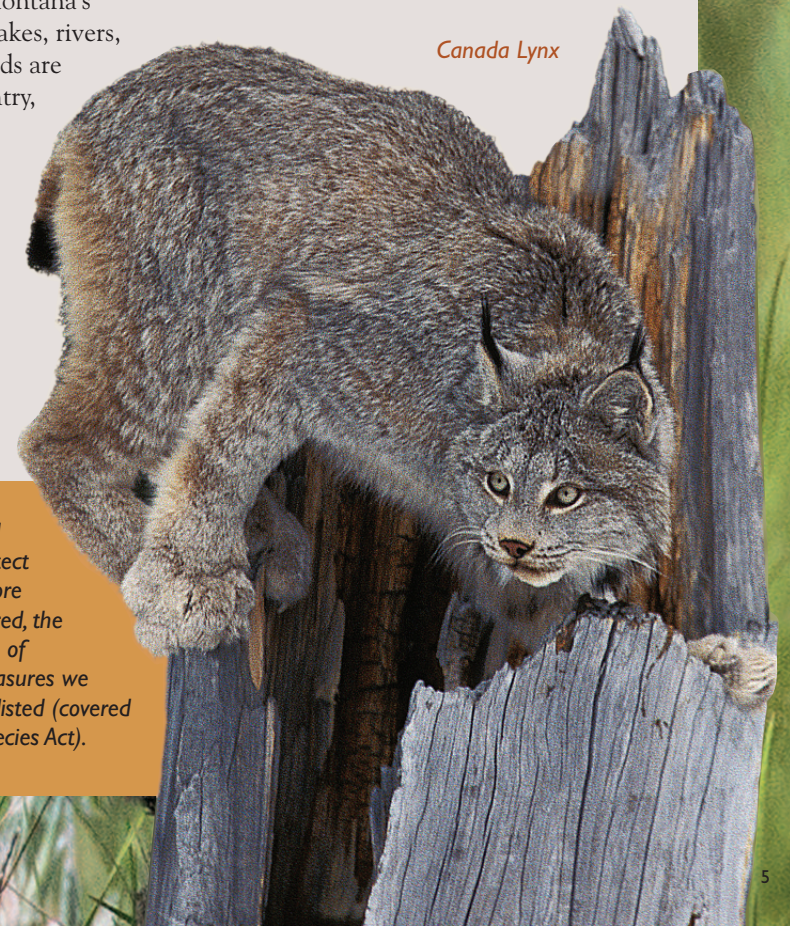
RAWA has the strong support of state fish and wildlife agencies, conservation groups, hunters and anglers, and businesses. Here in Big Sky Country, Montana Audubon leads the coalition of RAWA supporters, including Montana Trout Unlimited, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Hellgate Hunters & Anglers, and the Montana Wildlife Federation. Nationally, RAWA is supported by over 1,500 organizations and businesses including REI, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Bass Pro Shops, Cabella’s, Toyota, and over 60 tribes.

“Passage of this legislation would benefit all Montanans and provide opportunities for future generations to see amazing wildlife.”

“We anticipate an aggressive bipartisan and bicameral strategy to advance the bill this fall/winter,” said Sean Saville with Alliance for America’s Fish & Wildlife, who is leading the national RAWA coalition. “Senators Heinrich and Tillis are committed to leading the bill to the Senate floor as soon as possible and we are encouraged by both Congresswoman Dingell’s and Chairman Westerman’s leadership and prioritization of RAWA for action in the House Natural Resources Committee.”

Though RAWA seemingly has been overshadowed by other issues at the federal level, we are hopeful it will continue to find bipartisan support in the months ahead. We encourage you to visit the RAWA website and follow the Montana Coalition’s efforts as we work to try and get this across the finish line. Said Berrin, “Montana’s mountains, forests, lakes, rivers, streams and grasslands are the envy of the country, if not the world, but I wonder what those landscapes would be like without the birds and other wildlife that animate them? Let’s just hope we never have to find out.”

Canada Lynx



The more we can fund and fuel efforts to protect vulnerable species before they become endangered, the better chance we have of avoiding the costly measures we face once a species is listed (covered by the Endangered Species Act).

BIRD-FRIENDLY WORKING LANDS



Matt Skoglund

In 2023, North Bridger Bison became the first bison ranch in Montana to earn the Audubon Certified bird-friendly designation. Owners and operators **Matt and Sarah Skoglund** started their ranch in 2018, and use rotational grazing with their herd, with the goal to increase soil quality and plant diversity, and to improve carbon storage in the soil.



Matt Skoglund

To learn more about the ranch and the ACR program, visit our website: mtaudubon.org/ranching/

There you can also view a short video about North Bridger Bison and Bird-Friendly Ranching.

The Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR) program in Montana grew significantly in 2023, both in acres and in impact.

This year, four more Montana ranches became Audubon Certified, bringing the total number of enrolled ranches up to 16 and the total acreage to 139,509 acres. Also, for the first time we helped fund on-the-ground ranch infrastructure projects and grazing management systems. These projects benefit three ranches, and include installing

stock water pipeline, bridge construction, and riparian restoration projects. Similar projects on other ranches are already being planned, including low-tech water retention structures and more riparian restoration.

When a ranch first enters the ACR program, Montana Audubon works with the rancher to write a customized adaptive Habitat Management Plan for the property, outlining ways to maintain, create, and enhance grassland bird habitat while also prioritizing livestock management.

“The Habitat Management Plan is good not only for birds and cattle, but benefits soil structure and function, plant diversity, pollinators and other wildlife,” says Christian Meny, Montana Audubon’s Director of Conservation. “The plan is all about using cattle to increase forage productivity, and to improve the ecological health of the land. After all, healthy grasslands need grazers!”

Once goals for habitat improvements are reached and a ranch is third-party certified, they earn Audubon Certification. This includes the use of the Audubon Certified seal- a designation that can be used in marketing, and on packaging that shows consumers that products come from lands that were managed for birds and biodiversity.

To track the effectiveness of habitat management plans on bird abundance and diversity on certified ranches, Montana Audubon staff conduct bird monitoring surveys across the ranches. This year we conducted 31 surveys on 13 ranches across the state of Montana, the results of which will be used to create a Bird Friendliness Index for each ranch, which is shared with landowners. Some of this year’s ACR survey highlights:

- Identifying six Black-Billed Cuckoos on one ranch – a rare breeding bird species in the state.
- Identifying an all-time high of 76 different species on a single ranch. (On average, we detect 48 species per ranch).

Strengthening relationships

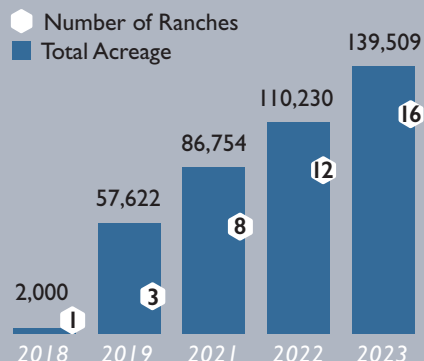
Good stewardship extends beyond the boundaries of a single ranch. The ACR program also works to strengthen state-wide collaborative partnerships within the state. This year, we connected with groups including the World Wildlife Fund, Rancher Stewardship Alliance, Western Sustainability Exchange (WSE), and Piikani Lodge Health Institute (Blackfeet Nation), among others. This work included sponsoring the WSE Expanding Markets Conference, and supporting enrolled Montana ACR ranchers to attend the conference.



Black-Billed Cuckoo

Bo Crees

ACR enrollment as of 9/23



Advancing Harlequin Duck Research Using eDNA

In August, we worked with a research project in Big Timber focused on Harlequin Duck survey techniques. The Harlequin Duck program is utilizing environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling alongside traditional methods to assess the feasibility of these new techniques. eDNA in particular would have sounded like science fiction 20 years ago. The traditional method, in this case ground-based surveys, can be quite grueling. On the Boulder River, this means scrambling for up to five miles through a freshly

overturned tributary of the Yellowstone River, climbing over massive downed trees, wading through deep pools, and maintaining some semblance of balance in chest waders and boots. eDNA, which in this instance simply requires pumping water at marked points along the channel to determine presence, has the potential to reduce hazards for researchers and decrease the necessary work load to conduct large scale research. Projects like this are some of the best places for us to leverage our skills and resources to benefit bird conservation as a whole.



Grizzly Bear Management Update

Though the 68th Montana Legislative Session adjourned on May 2, 2023, Montana Audubon continues to monitor legislative work and advocate for our state's wildlife and landscapes.

Currently, we're keeping a close eye on the state's new grizzly bear regulations. During the Session, we opposed SB295, the state's proposal for grizzly bear management if the species is ever delisted. Unfortunately, the bill passed with several glaring issues.

On September 22, the Fish and Wildlife Commission released draft rules for grizzly bear management in Montana. Montana Audubon is actively monitoring and advocating to oppose the passage of these rules as they are currently written.

As it stands, the management plan would:

- Fail to define key terms relating to the issuance of kill permits
- Create a quota system for take by private individuals on public land
- Emphasize sport hunting of bears over non-lethal management

- Create a scenario where bears killed outside of Demographic Monitoring Areas would not count towards the commission quota.

Though the management plan will not take effect unless the grizzly bear is removed from the Endangered Species list, we oppose the passage of these rules until the Commission addresses the concerns that Montana Audubon and other conservation organizations have consistently voiced since the legislative session. We would like to see the Commission create stronger rules to support livestock owners in taking non-lethal conflict resolution measures, designate department experts to manage bears on public lands, and bring the plan closer to Federal guidelines for recovery.

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission voted to postpone the scheduled public hearing, and moved the public hearing to November 17 at 9 am.

Visit the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks website for more information on how to attend and submit comments.

✓ **Black Swift Surveys: 2023 Season Update**

Over 25 days in July and August, Montana Audubon biologists surveyed 28 sites in western Montana and northern Idaho, including 26 waterfalls and two lakes. In total, 156 Black Swifts were detected at all of the sites, including 24 individual birds at Leigh Lake in the Cabinet Mountains – the most we’ve ever seen at a single location!

Though the number of detections were high, we also had some sobering observations.

One of our survey sites is Morning Star waterfall, located in the backcountry of Glacier National Park. When last surveyed in 2020, the waterfall was at high flow, and had two distinct parts: what we labeled as Morning Star #1 and Morning Star #2

One of the biggest threats to Black Swifts is the loss of glacier-fed waterfalls – and therefore suitable nesting habitats – due to climate change.

(photo on left). In 2020, we observed three Black Swifts using Morning Star #2, suggesting there were most likely two nests at this waterfall. In 2021, we again observed Black Swifts at Morning Star #2, though only two individuals.

According to our waterfall assessment data, 2020 and 2021 had comparable flow levels.

However, this year Morning Star #1 has a noticeably reduced flow, and Morning Star #2 has disappeared entirely (photo on right). No Black Swifts were detected at this site in 2023. Although #2 drying up this year may be a result of annual variation in precipitation, long-term trends indicate that we’ll likely be seeing more of this in Glacier National Park in the future.

Black Swifts can be a challenging species to observe and research, one of the reasons they are a Species of Greatest Inventory Need in Montana. Though they are the largest swift in the United States, they are hard to detect because of their behaviors: they are quiet, tend to feed at high altitudes, and nest in remote locations in relatively small numbers. Their nesting sites also make them hard to find, as they nest behind waterfalls in open cup nests made of moss, safely tucked away from terrestrial predators high on slippery rock ledges and crevices. They show strong site fidelity, and adults will often use the same nest for many years.

We have active plans to pursue new research angles, including organizing larger collaborative efforts with Black Swift researchers across the West and into Canada. One of the biggest threats to



Amy Seaman

Black Swifts in the Northern Rockies is the loss of glacier-fed waterfalls – and therefore suitable nesting habitats – due to climate change. Our observations at Morning Star waterfall this year serve to underscore the importance of continued region-wide monitoring, while our overall observations have helped to establish a strong baseline of nest site locations and occupancy. Ultimately, we hope our work leads to better understanding of how climate change is impacting this species that seems to be dependent on glacially-fed waterfalls.



2020



2023

Fledglings Preschool: Nurturing the Naturalists

It's hard to believe, but 2023 marks the beginning of the 8th year of Fledglings Preschool! This year, we added one more class, bringing the total to eight classes, with 64 students (16 are on-site at a time). The students and staff continue to spend 80% of their learning time outdoors, and the teaching

team – all returning teachers – continue to find new and inventive ways to explore the Center grounds.

One example: this fall, the students and staff have been enjoying trapping the sunfish in the ponds, and getting hands and eyes up close to the fish! The students learn how to bait and lock the traps, how to throw them into the water and then, the hardest part: how to wait. After a long ten or fifteen minutes the traps can be retrieved. The students readily point out which fish are the same and which are different, quickly learning the names and identifying features of each fish. They take great care with the fish, often holding their own breath as they hold the fish out of the water to remind themselves to put the fish back where they can breathe quickly.

This fall, the students and staff have been enjoying trapping the sunfish in the ponds, and getting hands and eyes up close to the fish!



Our preschool alumni families continue to be strong supporters of the Center as a whole. They advocate for us in the community, and enroll their preschool graduates in our other programs such as summer camp, after-school programs, and homeschool programs.

“Each of the families that attend our preschool become part of our fabric and we continue to connect with them as their children grow,” said Sarah Chatwood, Fledglings Preschool Coordinator. The families frequently reach out to us with thoughtful donations, showing a keen understanding of our specific needs.

“Many of our families have commented that they consider the Audubon Center their happy place, long after their children have flown the nest,”

“Each of the families that attend our preschool become part of our fabric and we continue to connect with them as their children grow.”

shared Sarah. “Many tell me that they return to our space to reconnect with nature, to center themselves and to fill their need for calm.”

These families remain dedicated members, contributing to the ongoing success of the Center and our educational programs.

We're grateful for their support of the Center, and for their role in nurturing conservation in our Billings community and beyond!



Evening Under the Big Sky Gala Soars

We had a fantastic time at this year's Evening Under the Big Sky gala, which was held on September 16, 2023 at the Montana Audubon Center in Billings. Huge thanks to our event sponsors, Phillips 66 and Crowley Fleck Attorneys!

Eighty-three attendees joined Montana Audubon staff to enjoy a fun night of community and celebration, featuring a catered dinner and live music by Brian Murphy. We enjoyed live and silent auctions, a raffle, and excellent food, music, and company. All funds raised directly support our educational programs, helping promote

environmental education and nature programming in our Billings community.

A highlight this year were the gorgeous decorations – we're still talking about how amazing the tent looked! Many thanks to Terry Lee Zee with Sky, Wind & World for sharing 26 hand-made bird kites, and to Anna Rogers for the table decorations (utilizing locally sourced and Center specific items).

Save the date – next year's Evening Under the Big Sky is set for September 14, 2024. We hope you can join us!



Board Profile

Rachel Van Wingen

After growing up in Kansas, outgoing Montana Audubon board member Rachel Van Wingen lived in major cities around the world- Tokyo, New York City, London, and Washington D.C., where she settled for over 34 years and raised a family. After working as a librarian, agency records manager for the Environmental Protection Agency, vice-president of a software company, and consultant, she retired and moved to Ennis, Montana in 2011.

In 2014, a few years after she moved to Montana, she was approached by Steve Hoffman, the Montana Audubon Executive Director at the time, about joining the board. "Conservation is something that's major for me," she said. "I wanted to do my part, and serving on the board was something I could do."

In her time on the board, Rachel has served as both Vice President and President, the latter a role she served in for four years. Her final term ended in September 2023, as she has moved back to Kansas.

Though she's only been back in Kansas for a little over a year, she's already identified 51 species in her yard. "I'm really into it here," she laughed. She does as much as she can to share that love with her family and especially her grandchildren. She bought her oldest grandson, who is now 12, his first pair of binoculars "ages ago," she said. "My 3-year-old granddaughter has her first binoculars, which [my son] bought for her so I didn't have to. He had her watching birds before she could talk."

When asked about meaningful moments during her time on the board, she immediately mentioned the Center in Billings. During a period of transition at the Montana Audubon Center while high-level staff positions were being filled, Steve Hoffman asked if she would act as the interim director of the Center. Taking temporary leave from her board position, she ultimately was in the role for six months, a time she said was very meaningful.

"It allowed me to really understand what [the Center] was all about, how important it was, who the major players were, and what we needed to keep it going. Later, during my tenure as board president, there was a move to separate the Center from Montana Audubon, and we were able to work through that."

Rachel Van Wingen and her brother Stan Senner.

Though there were some major ups and downs over the years, "I like to think that what I've accomplished is maintaining some stability," she said. "And I firmly believe that we came out stronger – we're in a much stronger position now than when we were when I started on the board."

Thinking about Montana Audubon's future, Rachel is excited about the Conservation Ranching Program. "I see it as having a rippling effect," through all three legs of Montana Audubon's mission of science, policy, and education, she said. "We have to understand the science of Conservation Ranching, and then hopefully see the positive effects on the land and livestock, and the economic benefits of that. And then, we need to understand how policies encourage or overrule the practice of conservation, so that we vote for conservation measures, and educate the greater public to see the benefit from the changes."

While we will certainly miss Rachel's presence here in Montana, she's already planning a trip back. After having such a great time at the 2023 Wings Across the Big Sky festival in Great Falls, she's decided to make the festival an annual trip!

All of us at Montana Audubon wish to thank Rachel for her years of dedicated service, and we look forward to seeing her next summer in Helena!



Staff Update

Welcome to our new Communications Specialist!

Lauren Smith is a science communication specialist with nearly eight years of professional experience with science & research nonprofits. Her background is in writing and editing, environmental education, and bird research (songbird banding is her favorite, and she has handled wild birds ranging in size from Rufous Hummingbirds to Trumpeter Swans). Originally from Ohio, she has called Montana home for about a decade now.

She has extensive experience in accessible print and online communications, and loves finding creative ways to share and engage around bird research and information. Prior to joining Montana Audubon, she did communications and development work for the Owl Research Institute. She has also previously worked at the Research & Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities at the University of Montana, University of Montana Bird Ecology Lab, Clark Fork Watershed Education Program,



Teton Science Schools, and other research and nature-focused organizations.

She's excited to be joining Montana Audubon and to help connect more people with birds and important conservation issues!

Other Staff Updates

To better reflect their enhanced roles and impact, we're excited to share that **Christian Meny** is now Montana Audubon's Director of Conservation, and **Peter Dudley** our Policy & Conservation Ranching Specialist. They are both already embracing their new roles, and we're excited for what the future holds!

IN MEMORY Jean Setter

Montana Audubon extends our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Jean Setter, who passed away at the age of 101 on August 30, 2023 in Great Falls. Jean has supported Montana Audubon's work since 1980. She leaves an incredible legacy of conservation, and we are honored that she chose to support and protect Montana's birds, wildlife, and landscapes through our organization.



WILDLIFE GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD NOW OPEN

For more than 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.

2023 recipients include Jewel Basin Hawk Watch, lead-free ammo educational materials, and a graduate student at the University of Montana studying male hummingbird breeding behavior.

The application deadline for the 2024 grant cycle is December 15, 2023. To apply, visit mtaudubon.org/about/wildlifegrants

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



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Birding Ecuador's Chocó-Andes Region • February 17 – 26, 2024 • From \$3,750

Discover the amazing contrasts of cloud forest and high-elevation Andean landscapes on this 10-day birding extravaganza. Accompanied by our expert local guide, you'll observe resident and migratory avifauna, with a particular focus on species unique to the Chocó region. We hope to see 30+ colorful tanager species and 40+ species of hummingbirds!

Birding Ecuador's Amazon Rainforest • February 24 – March 2, 2024 • From \$3,510

OPTIONAL EXTENSION: Pair this trip with the Chocó-Andes tour!

Embark on an unforgettable journey into the Ecuadorian Cloud Forest and Amazon Basin. Beginning in the Cloud Forest at WildSumaco Wildlife Sanctuary, we'll descend into the lowland forests of Sacha Lodge's exceptional ecological reserve in the heart of the Amazon. We will also connect with the local indigenous community to learn about their close relationship to the surrounding forest.

South Africa • May 1–20, 2024 • From \$9,900, double occupancy

This fabulous trip takes participants on eight days of safari, including three days in the world-famous Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve on the edge of Kruger National Park. You'll experience spectacular Cape Town, relax in gorgeous wine country and touch the southeastern most point of the continent at Cape of Good Hope. The trip concludes with seven full days of safari.

BECOME A MEMBER OF MONTANA AUDUBON

Your membership helps support core operations for one of the most effective conservation organizations in Montana!

Enjoy a year of benefits including: timely conservation updates; invites to special events; discounts to programs, events, and our annual birding festival; and two issues of our biannual print newsletter.

As a Montana Audubon member, you'll be actively contributing to the protection of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats across our vast state.

For more information, see our website or contact us at info@mtaudubon.org, or call 406-443-3949.



Clark's Grebe

Bob Martinka

Creating a conservation legacy

Montana Audubon's vision is that birds and other wildlife are protected for generations to come.

Planned gifts are critical to helping our organization achieve this future, and help you leave a lasting conservation legacy. Together we can ensure the long-term sustainability of these precious Montana landscapes and wildlife.

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



Rufous Hummingbird

Bob Martinka

For more information about how to add Montana Audubon to your estate, please contact Larry Berrin at lberrin@mtaudubon.org.

23RD Annual

WINGS ACROSS THE BIG SKY

Montana's Premier
Birding Festival

MAY 31–JUNE 2, 2024
CARROLL COLLEGE
HELENA

SAVE
THE
DATE

In 2024, Montana's premier birding festival is coming to Helena! Montana Audubon is partnering with the Last Chance Audubon Society to present this long standing community event, dedicated to celebrating Montana's native bird species, wildlife, and stunning landscapes.

Join birders and wildlife enthusiasts from across the state and beyond for a weekend filled with captivating field trips, a riveting keynote speaker, and engaging presentations. We already have an exciting lineup of field trips in the works, so stay tuned for more details!

Be on the lookout for registration brochures coming your way in March 2024; but for the latest updates sign up for our email list or follow us on social media!

John Lambing

wings 
across the big sky


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