

Montana Audubon

Birdathon Report

In 24 hours our staff and board found **162 species** including 19 Montana Species of Concern, 3 Potential Species of Concern, and 1 Species of Special Status. We surpassed our goal of 150 and saw the majority of species we missed last year, including the Townsend's Solitaire, Steller's Jay, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Orange-crowned Warbler and more. We had staff in the Bozeman, Helena, and Billings areas, as well as along the Missouri River. Board members in the Bitterroot Valley picked up some of our favorite raptors, including American Kestrel, Osprey, and Northern Harrier. See below for more highlights and **our complete bird list!**

Executive Director Larry Berrin started Birdathon in a place he'd never visited, Hauser Dam, north of Helena on the Missouri River. He was rewarded with White-throated Swifts, Rock Wrens, Lark Sparrows, and a **Common Merganser** with her young. Later, on his deck in the Elkhorns he heard a new song from this location: Cassin's Vireo! He ended the day in Grizzly Gulch in Helena and picked up the hard to find **Green-tailed Towhee** just before the clock struck 6pm.

Our Avian Specialist, **Bo Crees** was out on the Missouri and added dozens of birds to our list. He kicked it off with the Field Sparrow, Brown Thrasher, and Cooper's Hawk, **three species we missed last year**. The next day, the highlight was definitely the **Black-billed Cuckoo** that was detected during morning surveys, and then again in the afternoon!

Bo stopped at Lower Carter Ponds Fishing Access site, a reservoir surrounded by grassland just north of Lewistown, and got a nice list of waterfowl, including the Eared Grebe, Gadwall, and others. His last stop was Oka Road, a well-known birding area with extensive grasslands and picked up about 10 more grassland species, including Chestnut-collared Longspur, Sprague's Pipit, and Marbled Godwit, **three other species we missed last year!**

Director of Policy and Science Amy Seaman's highlight was hearing the **Ovenbirds** without hardly ever seeing them, but picturing them flaring their rusty crests while singing.

The Birdathon Team included Larry Berrin, Amy Seaman, Boaz Crees, Heather Bilden, Gabi Morey, Angela Swatek, Danielle Dowden, Mimi Falivene, Micki Long, and Mike Daniels



"Mother Merganser Shuttle" by Dane Madsen

Center Director Gabi Morey got a few local birds during the Saturday Morning Bird Stroll at the Montana Audubon Center in Billings. The ponds at the Center were teeming bird activity. She spotted the Blue Winged Teal, Mallard, Canada Goose, and the Great Blue Heron. Our **Adult Programs Coordinator, Heather Bilden** added the Hooded Merganser to the list, spotting 12 of them, a mom with her fledglings! Heather also spotted the **Great Egret**, an individual that has been seen hanging around the ponds for the past few weeks.

"Common Yellowthroat" by Kim Keating



2021 Bird List

Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Cinnamon Teal
Gadwall
Blue-winged Teal
Canvasback
Common Goldeneye
Green-winged Teal
Hooded Merganser
Ruddy Duck
Ring-necked Duck
Lesser Scaup
Common Merganser
Northern Shoveler
American Wigeon
Redhead
Bufflehead
California Quail
Wild Turkey
Ruffed Grouse
Gray Partridge
Ring-necked Pheasant
Eared Grebe
Western Grebe
Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove
Black-billed Cuckoo
Common Nighthawk
Common Poorwill
Vaux Swift
White-throated Swift
Black-chinned
Hummingbird
Rufous Hummingbird
Calliope Hummingbird
Sora
American Coot
Virginia Rail
Sandhill Crane
American Avocet
Killdeer
Upland Sandpiper
Long-billed Curlew
Marbled Godwit
Wilson's Snipe
Spotted Sandpiper
Wilson's Phalarope
California Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Double-crested Cormorant
American White Pelican
Great Blue Heron

Great Egret
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Golden Eagle
Cooper's Hawk
Bald Eagle
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Northern Harrier
Red-tailed Hawk
Swainson's Hawk
Great Horned Owl
Belted Kingfisher
Williamson's Sapsucker
Red-naped Sapsucker
Lewis's Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
American Kestrel
Dusky Flycatcher
Hammond's Flycatcher
Cordilleran Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Willow Flycatcher
Say's Phoebe
Eastern Kingbird
Western Kingbird
Western Wood-Pewee
Cassin's Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Steller's Jay
Black-billed Magpie
American Crow
Common Raven
Clark's Nutcracker
Horned Lark
Bank Swallow
Barn Swallow
Violet-green Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Tree Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Mountain Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Rock Wren
Marsh Wren
House Wren
American Dipper
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Mountain Bluebird

Townsend's Solitaire
Swainson's Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
House Sparrow
Sprague's Pipit
Evening Grosbeak
Red Crossbill
Pine Siskin
House Finch
Cassin's Finch
American Goldfinch
Thick-billed Longspur
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Baird's Sparrow
Brewer's Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Spotted Towhee
Yellow-breasted Chat
Bobolink
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Red-winged Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Western Meadowlark
Bullock's Oriole
Orchard Oriole
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Grackle
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
American Redstart
MacGillivray's Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Western Tanager
Black-headed Grosbeak
Lazuli Bunting