

2025 Birdathon Report

Black-necked Stilt

We count birds because birds count on us!



Lazuli Bunting

The 2025 Montana Audubon Birdathon took place over a 24 hour period starting at 6 pm on June 25, and ending at 6 pm on June 26. Thirteen staff and one Board Member covered a lot of ground, birding on public, state, and private land. We ranged from the Mission Valley down through Missoula to the Bitterroot Valley, from the Great Falls area to the Elkhorn Mountains, Canyon Ferry, and other Helena-area locations over to the Shields Valley and all across the Billings area- in and around the Center, downtown Billings, Phipps Park, and many favorite birding locations in between.



American White Pelican

We detected a grand total of **156 species**, including **23 Montana Species of Concern!**
(See following page for full list).

Some 2025 highlights:

- Common Poorwill lullabies- one staff member who lives outside of Billings falls asleep every evening to the *poor-willip* song of the Common Poorwill
- Clark's Nutcracker, Steller's Jay, and other high-elevation species in the Elkhorn Mountains near Helena
- Lots of fun backyard feeder birds, including a Red Crossbill and Cassin's Finches in the Jocko Valley
- Yellow-breasted Chats in two locations: Near the National Bison Range, as well as in Billings
- Common Tern spotted on the Missouri River near Giant Springs State Park
- Nesting Lewis's Woodpeckers and a Black-chinned Hummingbird (the only hummingbird species detected) at Council Groves State Park in Missoula

Thank you for supporting our 2025 Birdathon!

Your donations allow us to continue our critical conservation, policy, and education work across the state.

Thank you for making our work possible!

Sage Thrasher



Montana Audubon's 2025 Birdathon List

Geese, Swans & Ducks

Canada Goose
[Trumpeter Swan*](#)
Wood Duck
Blue-winged Teal
Cinnamon Teal
Northern Shoveler
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Mallard
Green-winged Teal
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Ruddy Duck

Quail, Grouse & Pheasants

California Quail
Wild Turkey
Ruffed Grouse
Gray Partridge
Ring-necked Pheasant

Grebes

Pied-billed Grebe
Red-necked Grebe
Eared Grebe
Western Grebe

Pigeons & Doves

Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove

Cuckoos

[Black-billed Cuckoo*](#)

Nightjars & Swifts

Common Nighthawk
Common Poorwill
Chimney Swift
Vaux's Swift
White-throated Swift

Hummingbirds

Black-chinned Hummingbird

Rails & Cranes

Sora
American Coot
Sandhill Crane

Shorebirds

[Black-necked Stilt*](#)

Killdeer
[Long-billed Curlew*](#)
Wilson's Snipe
Spotted Sandpiper
Willet

Gulls & Terns

[Franklin's Gull*](#)
Ring-billed Gull
California Gull
[Common Tern*](#)
[Forster's Tern*](#)

Loons & Cormorants

[Common Loon*](#)
Double-crested Cormorant

Pelicans & Herons

[American White Pelican*](#)
[Great Blue Heron*](#)

Vultures & Osprey

Turkey Vulture
Osprey

Eagles & Hawks

[Golden Eagle*](#)
Bald Eagle
Swainson's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk

Owls

Great Horned Owl

Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher

Woodpeckers

[Lewis's Woodpecker*](#)
Williamson's Sapsucker
Red-naped Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
[Pileated Woodpecker*](#)

Falcons

American Kestrel
Merlin
Prairie Falcon

Flycatchers

Western Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird
Western Wood-Pewee
Willow Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Hammond's Flycatcher

Dusky Flycatcher
Western Flycatcher
Say's Phoebe

Shrikes & Vireos

[Loggerhead Shrike*](#)
Cassin's Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo

Corvids

Steller's Jay
[Clark's Nutcracker*](#)
Black-billed Magpie
American Crow
Common Raven

Larks & Swallows

Horned Lark
Bank Swallow
Tree Swallow
Violet-green Swallow
N. Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow

Chickadees

Black-capped Chickadee
Mountain Chickadee

Nuthatches & Creepers

Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
[Brown Creeper*](#)

Wrens

Rock Wren
Northern House Wren
Marsh Wren

Kinglets & Waxwings

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Cedar Waxwing

Thrushes

Mountain Bluebird
Townsend's Solitaire
[Veery*](#)
Swainson's Thrush
American Robin

Mimics & Starlings

Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
[Sage Thrasher*](#)
European Starling

Pipits

American Pipit

Finches

[Evening Grosbeak*](#)
House Finch
[Cassin's Finch*](#)
Red Crossbill
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch

Towhees & Sparrows

[Green-tailed Towhee*](#)
Spotted Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
[Brewer's Sparrow*](#)
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
House Sparrow

Chats, Blackbirds & Meadowlarks

Yellow-breasted Chat
Yellow-headed Blackbird
[Bobolink*](#)
Western Meadowlark
Orchard Oriole
Bullock's Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Common Grackle

Warblers

MacGillivray's Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
American Redstart
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler

Tanagers, Grosbeaks & Buntings

Western Tanager
Black-headed Grosbeak
Lazuli Bunting

Total Species: 156

[* Species of Concern](#)