

spring

2024

MONTANA
AUDUBON



**A NEW OPPORTUNITY
FOR PROTECTING
THE SAGE-GROUSE**

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**2023
ANNUAL
REPORT**
page 14

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.

spring 2024

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On the cover:
Greater Sage-Grouse
Bob Martinka photo

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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 remember the first time I saw one. I had just moved out west to work at the High Desert Museum in Oregon and, fortunately for me, a field trip to Eastern Oregon with the museum's historian was part of my orientation. I knew that learning about the history and culture of the region was the focus of the trip but as a birder, I had my own goals in mind. This included seeing the iconic denizen of sagebrush country – the Greater Sage-Grouse! Unfortunately, their populations have declined 80 percent since 1965 so my hopes were low. Thankfully I did get to see my first one on that trip and, as with all lifers, it was a memorable moment that still sticks with me today.



This flagship species of the sagebrush now needs our help. We have an opportunity to slow this alarming decline. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is requesting public input as they work to finalize management plans for more than 67 million acres of public lands where most of the sage-grouse live, along with more than 350 plants and animals of conservation concern that also depend on healthy sagebrush-steppe habitat. Efforts should be focused on protecting the last, best remaining intact sagebrush habitat – such as the High Divide region here in Montana – as these unique habitats can't be replaced.

So we dedicate this issue to this iconic bird and hope we can protect its habitat for future generations. After a decades-long planning effort, the BLM must swiftly adopt science-based solutions so that attention can refocus on the implementation of conservation actions before it is too late. So that the next visitor to the west (or for those of us who live here) can not only add the Greater Sage-Grouse to their life list, but also take solace in the fact that this flagship species helped keep the landscapes of the west intact.

Yours in Conservation,

Larry Berrin, Executive Director



IN MEMORY

It is with heavy hearts that we share that Robin Larson, our Office Manager of more than four years, passed away unexpectedly on October 15, 2023.

Robin was an integral part of Montana Audubon, and we miss the energy, joy, and laughter she brought to the office every day.

We join with her family and friends in remembering Robin and celebrating her life. Her passing leaves a void, but we'll remember her fondly every time we hear the cheery song of an American Robin.

A NEW OPPORTUNITY



THE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE, a species that once flourished across Montana and the American West, has long been a signal of the ecological challenges facing the region. Relying on sagebrush habitat year-round for all aspects of their life cycle, this bird's fate is tightly linked to the health of an ecosystem that is also critical for wildlife, rural economies, and cultural traditions.

For over a century, the iconic sagebrush landscape of the West has become fragmented and degraded, largely due to human activity: overgrazing, energy development, residential sprawl, and the relentless march of invasive species. Sagebrush blankets large areas of 11 western states, including Montana, and it is well documented that the loss of this habitat negatively impacts Greater Sage-Grouse populations.

continued...



John Lambing

BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan represents a significant opportunity to safeguard the treasures of the Sagebrush Sea.

SPEAK UP FOR SAGE-GROUSE

To read and comment on the draft plan, visit the BLM website:

www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/blm-sagegrouse-plans

IN MONTANA, Greater Sage-Grouse are listed as a Level 1 Priority and Species of Concern. There are six sagebrush-dominated Important Bird Areas in Montana, five designated for Greater Sage-Grouse and one for several priority species, including the sage-grouse. All six have a globally significant priority designation from Audubon.



Sagebrush-dominated Important Bird Areas

Unfortunately, the Greater Sage-Grouse is not alone in its plight. More than 350 other species, including birds, mammals, and insects, are also affected by the loss of this habitat. Native sagebrush provides critical habitat for several bird species that are also experiencing widespread population declines, including: Sharp-tailed Grouse, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Loggerhead Shrike, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, and more. Habitat management decisions have impact far beyond any single species.

In recent years, a groundswell of conservation efforts has surged forth, uniting Montana and its neighboring states in a shared commitment to protect the sage-grouse and its sagebrush homeland. Collaborations have flourished, as diverse stakeholders worked together to safeguard this vital ecosystem. In February 2013, then Montana Governor Steve Bullock established the Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Advisory Council. Montana Audubon joined representatives from other conservation organizations, ranchers, sportsmen, national resource industries, and wind power advocates to develop a state management plan with the goal of keeping the Greater Sage-Grouse from becoming listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Sage Thrasher



Bob Martinka

SINCE THEN, MONTANA AUDUBON

has continued its efforts to support the state's sagebrush conservation program, helping to strike the right balance between appropriate land use and protecting the bird and its habitat. Several years ago, Montana Audubon developed a Habitat Quantification Tool for development projects that impact or restore sage-grouse habitat and that mitigation requirements actually create a net gain for sage-grouse. We also continue to support the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service's Sage-Grouse Initiative that helps landowners manage their property that promotes and improves sage-grouse habitat while maintaining agricultural production.

BUT THAT HARD WORK

and our commitment to the bird and the land hasn't been enough; as this collective conservation odyssey continues, the recently released Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan emerges as a linchpin in the ongoing effort to protect the sage-grouse and its sagebrush habitat. This plan, with its adaptive management strategies and focus on habitat restoration and protection, represents a significant opportunity to safeguard the treasures of the Sagebrush Sea.

The proposals within the plan are far from perfect but it's imperative that we move forward with various efforts to protect this landscape from future degradation that will only accelerate as the West continues to grow.

As we navigate the evolving landscape of conservation, we must remain vigilant and proactive in our efforts to protect these invaluable habitats. By engaging in the public comment process and advocating for science-based management practices, we can collectively ensure a brighter future for the Greater Sage-Grouse and the landscapes they call home.

Sage-grouse habitat in Phillips County

PROTECTING THE SAGE-GROUSE –

CONSERVATION TIMELINE

Montana Audubon has a long history of advocating for Greater Sage-Grouse conservation in the Montana. Here are some highlights from the past decade:



Bob Marinka

2013

- Governor Steve Bullock establishes the **Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Advisory Council**. Montana Audubon is appointed to the Governor's Council.



2015

- **Montana Sage-Grouse Stewardship Act** signed into law. Montana Audubon helps write and pass this law working with many uncommon allies during the 64th Montana Legislative session.
- Governor Bullock adds **additional sage-grouse conservation** measures to the Executive Order signed the previous year.
- USFWS determines Greater Sage-Grouse does not warrant listing under Endangered Species Act.

2014

- Based on final recommendations from the Council, Governor Bullock establishes the **Montana Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Program**.



Bob Marinka

2016

- **The Montana Land Board** unanimously votes on a provision to prohibit the break-up, or “sodbusting” of native sagebrush within sage-grouse habitat on state lands. Large-scale removal of sagebrush is also prohibited.
- Montana Audubon works with partners to develop a state sage-grouse mitigation program and **Habitat Quantification Tool** for projects that impact or restore sage-grouse habitat.

2017

- Montana Audubon successfully lobbies for **\$2 million in funding** for state-wide sage-grouse conservation.

2018

- Montana Audubon joins other conservation organizations in filing litigation against the Interior Department and BLM to **challenge the agencies’ violation** of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse resource management plan amendments with regard to oil and gas leasing, and in particular the BLM’s failure to prioritize leasing outside of the bird’s habitat.

Core Sage-Grouse Habitat 2015 Executive Order



2019

- Montana Audubon successfully lobbies for over **\$3 million in state funding** for term easements and permanent conservation easements scattered throughout sage-grouse core habitat.

2020

- Litigation success: U.S. District Court judge in Great Falls **nullifies 440 oil and gas leases** in Montana and Wyoming, covering about 336,000 acres (525 square miles) of sage-grouse habitat on public lands.

2022

- Montana Audubon tracks progress of our current effort to **protect more than 336,000 acres** of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat from future oil and gas development.
- Montana Audubon urges the federal government not to continue including a rider on the appropriations bill to keep Greater Sage-Grouse from being petitioned and listed on the Endangered Species Act.

Montana Sage-Grouse Population Thousands



2023

- Montana FWP estimates there are ~51,087 sage-grouse in Montana in spring 2023 – down ~5% from the previous year, and a **27% decrease since 2021**.

2024

- As part of a national **Greater Sage-Grouse Coalition**, Montana Audubon continues to educate and mobilize stakeholders, and advocate for sagebrush conservation.



Bob Marinka

Sage-grouse chick

Montana's Conservation Ranching: A Lifeline for Grassland Birds

Since 1970, grassland bird populations overall have declined by about 53%. Of those, some species have declined by as much as 80%. To help save grassland birds, Audubon is enlisting and assisting ranchers across the country in implementing conservation ranching practices. In Montana, we are working with ranchers to develop Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) that implement regenerative grazing and other bird conservation practices.

Greater Sage-Grouse are just one example of a grassland bird species on the decline. In Montana, they are listed as a Level 1 Priority and a Species of Concern. ACR protocols address sage-grouse habitat, and our HMPs can influence sage-grouse land management practices.

By mimicking historic bison herds, regenerative grazing invigorates diverse plant communities and supports nutrient

The Audubon Conservation Ranching program has a new look!

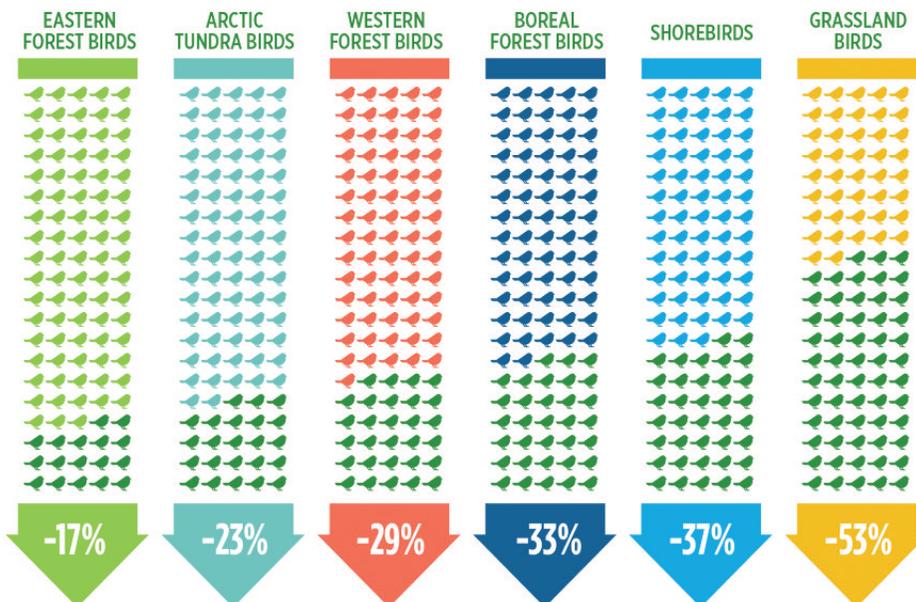


Check out the new Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR) bison logo! This new logo will be used by bison producers in the ACR program. As of April 2024, there is one ACR certified bison ranch in Montana, with two more enrolled but not yet certified. The new logo came out just in time for us to unveil it at the Montana Bison Association meeting at Lolo Hot Springs, on January 5.

cycles that rebuild soil and conserve water, and has the potential to remove carbon from the atmosphere. Every summer, our staff visit enrolled ranches and measure the effectiveness of these practices by monitoring bird diversity and abundance, vegetation change, and soil health.

As of February 2024, there are 16 Montana cattle and bison ranches enrolled in ACR, representing a total of 138,709 acres across the state.

DECLINING BIRD POPULATIONS SINCE 1970



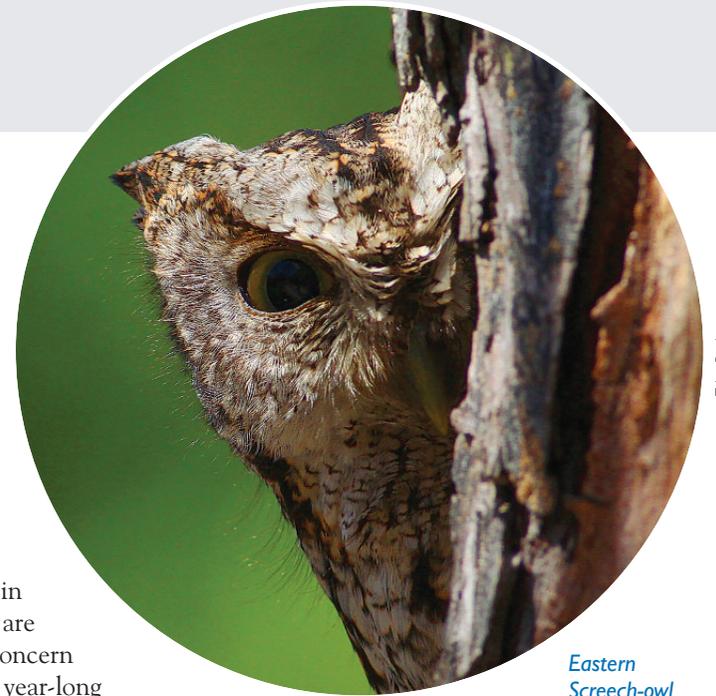
Graphic courtesy of the Audubon Conservation Ranching

Pilot Year for Our New Screech-owl Surveys a Success!

This year we launched a pilot citizen science project collecting occupancy data on both Western and Eastern Screech-owls in Montana. These owls are Potential Species of Concern in Montana. Both are year-long residents in the state, with intersecting ranges along the Missouri River. Generally, Western Screech-owls occur west of Helena, and Eastern Screech-owls are found east of Bozeman.

Citizen scientists from all around Montana joined the project in an effort to gather much needed observational data. Surveys were conducted during screech-owl breeding season, and used playback calls to elicit a vocal response from nearby owls. Each survey consisted of ten points at least a mile apart along a driving route within a designated survey area.

We could not have done this project without our great volunteers! We had 25 sites claimed statewide, and 56 individuals interested in the project. Not only have these surveys detected screech-owls, but volunteers have also detected species including Great Horned Owls, and Northern Saw-whet Owls, among others. All of these observations will go into the Montana Natural Heritage Program's database, and will contribute to the population data and conservation of the species.



Eastern Screech-owl

Tyler Pockette

Ongoing Citizen Science Programs

While citizen science resources like Montana eBird provide valuable data on a large scale, there are a handful of bird species, often state Species of Concern, that require special detection efforts. Each year, volunteers from around the state join Montana Audubon in our citizen science surveys.

- Long-billed Curlew surveys (April – May)
- Chimney Swift surveys and training across eastern Montana (May – June)
- Climate Watch surveys across the state for target species including nuthatches, bluebirds, and towhees (May – June)

This year, there are several projects to get involved with:

For more information about any of these projects, contact Gwynne Rohde at gwynne@mtaudubon.org, or visit the Montana Audubon website.

Eight Years of Fledglings in Flight

Eight years ago, on a bright, blue-skied late August day, six little boys arrived at the Montana Audubon Center. Literally hitting the ground running, they spent the majority of each day outside, getting at times muddy and dirty and wet, but also every day discovering something new about the natural world around them. By October, two more boys had joined the group, and we had our very first full class of Fledglings preschoolers.

That first year was a wild ride, with eight rambunctious boys and dedicated teachers who were still trying to figure out how to create a valuable preschool experience in the outdoors, encouraging hands-on learning while also ensuring those adventurous preschoolers stayed safe.

Kysan, now 12 years old, was 3 when he joined the first Fledglings class. “I remember canoeing and snowball fights,” he shared. “Rainy days and the monster mud. Norm’s Island adventures, painting a fence, and the really sunny days when I didn’t need to wear a jacket.”

Fast forward: eight years later, and we now have eight classes with eight students each, for a total of 64 preschoolers – a number we couldn’t have imagined being able to accommodate as we roamed across the grounds with those original eight boisterous students.

Blazing Our Own Path

As time went on, our teaching staff continued to grow and learn about which elements of traditional preschool fit best with outdoor learning. Forging a new path can be a lonely and difficult journey, especially as there wasn’t really anyone else in town we could consult with – most teachers don’t have guidance to share about if it’s okay to let preschoolers climb in the trees – or how high we should let them go.

Spring is a magical time for our outdoor preschool. We can shed all the layers of gear and run fast and free. Our bodies are now strong which allow us to go on big adventures. We spend our days exploring new places. The return of bugs and worms and leaves on the trees ignite our sense of wonder.

Other questions from those early days: How long can students stay outside? (The answer is, longer than their teachers can!) Can the kids carry their own backpacks when we are walking? (In the early years we pulled a wagon with all of their things, but we’ve since discovered that they are perfectly capable of toting their own backpacks).

What pieces of traditional preschool do we hold on to? In the early years, we struggled through circle and calendar time (no one wanted to sit still!), but through trial and error we’ve now landed on story time during snack time, and chatting about the weather, seasons, and days of the week as we are walking around the grounds.

And, underpinning it all: “Are our students learning what they need to know to go to public kindergarten? The answer to that was a resounding YES – and so much more!

We soon had the community joining us down this new path. Just a few years into our preschool journey, we had a line of people outside the door at 6 am for 8 am registration day. We knew that we needed to expand – and fast. So, with the utmost faith that if we created more classes our supporters and community would help us find a place for them, we doubled our capacity.

In the summer of 2018 a yurt was built at the Montana Audubon Center. A few years later in 2022, Shepard’s Field Station

was added. These new structures have created a “preschool island,” where previously separated classes can now better share resources, spaces, and teacher attention. This dedicated Fledglings space helps mitigate interruptions from other classes – and helps keep our boisterous and enthusiastic preschoolers from interrupting others.

The Next Eight Years (and beyond!)

Today we are still forging our own path, but we now have more resources and more support as outdoor preschool catches on. Our model has mostly thrown the traditional ways to the side, opting more for play-based immersion in nature and the outdoors. Our students thrive as they stomp puddles, climb trees, build forts, sled down hills and play in elaborate worlds they create all on their own.

In addition to the thriving students, our families are thriving as well. The preschool program has created a community of people who remain friends and supporters years after their children “fledge” from the “nest” (aka the Montana Audubon Center!).



SAVE THE DATE!

September 14, 2024
Montana Audubon
Center’s annual
fundraising gala

Tickets go on sale in June

EXPANDING OUR FLOCK

Mandi Hinman, Operations Manager

Mandi was born and raised in Havre, Montana. After working as a Veterinary Technician for 10 years in her hometown, she moved to Helena and started her career with the State of Montana. Retiring from State Government in 2021, Mandi worked for Montana Unified School Trust before starting work at Montana Audubon. Mandi likes to play the piano, read, spend time with family and friends, and play golf with her husband. She owns a pet care business and resides in Helena with her husband Roy and their cats.



Debbie Bunker, Administrative Assistant

Debbie was born and raised in Libby, Montana. In 1990 she went to work for the State of Montana, most of those years spent with Legislative Services, and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. She retired from State Government in 2020. Since retirement she has enjoyed camping with her husband John, and participating in craft shows in the Helena area, and spends a lot of time with her chocolate lab Charlie.



Gwynne Rohde, Big Sky Watershed Corps – Citizen Science

Gwynne grew up in Dayton, OH, and graduated from the University of Toledo with a B.S. in Environmental Science with a minor in Biology. In 2021, she worked a summer job in Yellowstone National Park, where she developed an appreciation for the region's wildlife and landscape. After attending college in Ohio and working seasonally in Alaska, she is excited to return to the western U.S. Outside of work she can be found hiking, fishing, painting, or watching movies.



Luke LaPointe, Big Sky Watershed Corps – Audubon Center Land Steward

Luke was born and raised in Michigan, and graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.S. in Earth and Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies. He has loved the outdoors since he was a kid, particularly due to his time exploring with his grandpa, but fully realized his passion for conserving and protecting natural ecosystems after taking an Environmental Science course. When not working, he enjoys exploring, video games, watching sports, and trying to get better at crossword puzzles.



2024 WILDLIFE GRANT AWARDS

Montana Audubon Grants Support Wildlife Habitat

Since 1996, 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. In 2024, two grants were awarded:

Montana Raptor Conservation Center

The Montana Raptor Conservation Center (MRCC), located in Bozeman, has been aiding in the rescue and rehabilitation of raptors since 1988. This award will support the costs associated with raptor rehabilitation work, including medicine, medical equipment, and food for birds in their care.

Livingston Loves Trees

Founded in 2021, Livingston Loves Trees is a partnership between a group of local citizens and the Park County Environmental Council. The project works to transform and nurture the city of Livingston's urban forest, with a goal of planting 1,000 new trees over 10 years, including 100 in 2024.



American Kestrel

Bob Martinka

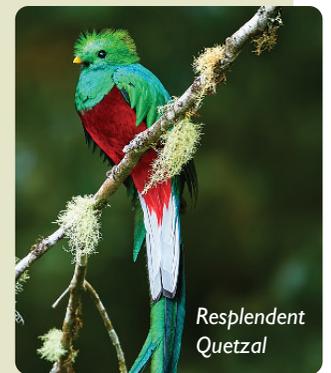
BIRDING IN COSTA RICA & MEXICO

With Merlin Birding & Nature Tours

Bird Less-traveled Costa Rica

February 8–22, 2025 • From \$5,300

This trip will focus on areas far less traveled. We begin at San Gerardo de Dota, with Resplendent Quetzals and high-elevation species. Near San Luis, we may see King Vulture, White-crested Coquette, Black-chested Jay and more. We continue to Cuidad Nelly, looking for Paint-billed Crane, Crested Oropendola and Yellow-crowned Parrot. At Carara National Park we'll look for Baird's Trogon, Blue-throated Goldentail, Band-tailed Barbthroat etc. Our Tarcoles River boat tour will include endemics (Mangrove Vireo, Mangrove Warbler & Mangrove Cuckoo). Our last day will include pelagic birding. More than 300 bird species are possible on this trip!

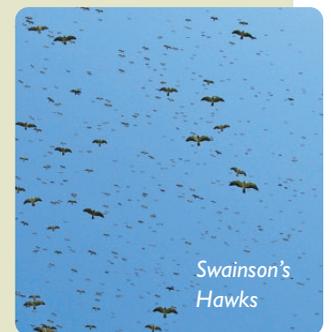


Resplendent Quetzal

Veracruz River of Raptors

October 5–16, 2024 • From \$4,600

Each fall 4+ million raptors (20+ species) are counted migrating south in central Veracruz, Mexico. This largest and most visible raptor flyway on Earth also concentrates other migrants, including Pelicans, Storks, Ibises, Anhingas, doves, passerines and more! We'll view an incredible diversity of Mexican residents and N. American migrants at freshwater wetlands, Gulf shores, mountain pine forests, shade-grown coffee plantations, savannas and tropical rainforests. Up to 280 bird species are typically seen on this 12-day birding extravaganza!



Swainson's Hawks



For more information on these and other Merlin Nature Tours, contact Steve: 406-461-5714; swhoffman0322@gmail.com

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



2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THANKS TO YOU,

Montana Audubon continues to impact the conservation of native birds, other wildlife, and their habitats across Montana.

2023 was a year of new beginnings. We launched the state's first environmental art contest, added our 8th preschool class at the Center, and enrolled new ranches in the Conservation Ranching Program. Your support allowed us to continue building connections and partnerships, positioning us for even greater impacts in the years to come.

Discover some of the highlights of 2023:



White-breasted Nuthatch, a Climate Watch species

CITIZEN SCIENCE & RESEARCH

- **Continuing long-term** Citizen Science surveys for Long-Billed Curlew, Chimney Swift, and Climate Watch species
- **Detected a total of 156 Black Swifts** at 28 sites across western Montana and northern Idaho over the course of 25 days in July and August
- **Deployed and retrieved** six remote recording devices on the Missouri River for recording Black-billed Cuckoo vocalizations for Smithsonian Institute and University of Montana Bird Ecology Lab



Upland Sandpiper

Bob Martinka

CONSERVATION RANCHING

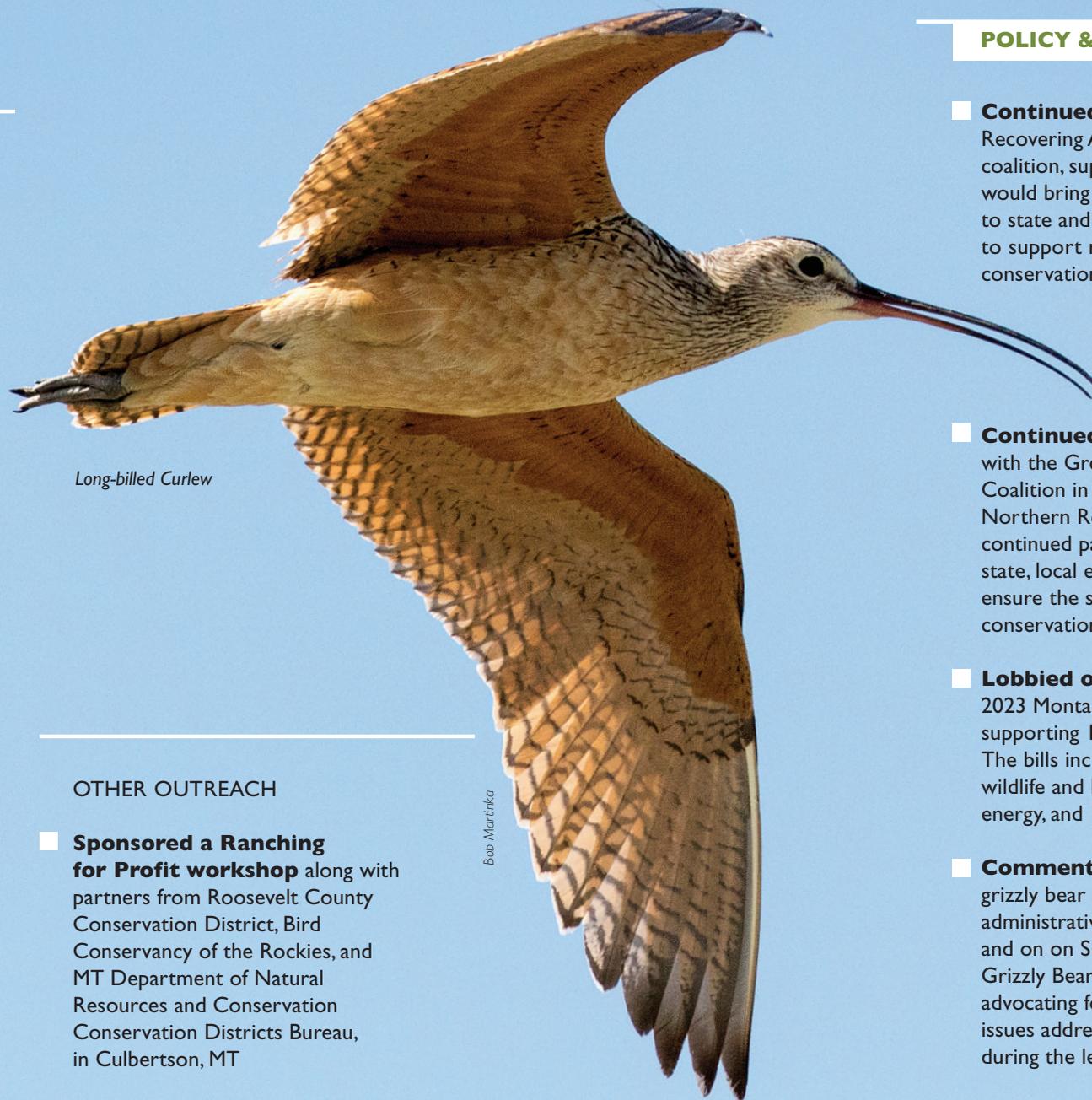
- **Reached 16 total** Audubon Bird-Friendly Certified ranches in Montana, totalling 138,709 acres – including the state's first certified bison ranch
- **Conducted 31 biological surveys** on 13 Audubon certified ranches across Montana in May and June
- **Enrolled four new ranches** into the ACR program, totalling 29,279 acres
- **Delivered ranch infrastructure** and restoration projects on five Audubon ranches, making 24,809 acres more bird friendly

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

MONTANA AUDUBON CENTER

- **Engaged 21,000** annual program participants in over 8,000 hours of program implementation and instruction
- **Added another Fledglings preschool class**, reaching 64 students in a total of eight classes, providing 55.5 hours per week of instruction, and 2,185 hours annually for all classes combined
- **Hosted over 60 individuals** for our first Herpetology Night, learning about and searching for local reptiles and amphibians
- **Piloted Montana’s first Enviro-Art Contest**, in collaboration with Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate and with help from the Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings Library, Children’s Clinic, and Montana Chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics. 49 K-8 students from the Billings area submitted artwork that depicted what climate change means and looks like to them. Artwork was then showcased around the city and participants were celebrated at a wrap-up event at the Montana Audubon Center.

Special thanks to the Mary Alice Fortin Foundation for their continued support of the Montana Audubon Center.



Long-billed Curlew

Bob Marinika

OTHER OUTREACH

- **Sponsored a Ranching for Profit workshop** along with partners from Roosevelt County Conservation District, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Conservation Districts Bureau, in Culbertson, MT
- **Provided a raptor ID workshop** at the Bridger Raptor Festival
- **Convened the 22nd Annual Wings Across the Big Sky Bird Festival** in Great Falls, attracting 107 attendees to 15 birding excursions

POLICY & ADVOCACY

- **Continued leading** the Montana Recovering America’s Wildlife Act coalition, supporting a federal bill that would bring much-needed funding to state and tribal governments to support research, habitat conservation, and wildlife protection
- **Continued our partnership** with the Greater Sage-Grouse Coalition in the Great Plains and Northern Rockies, advocating for continued partnership among federal, state, local entities, and the public to ensure the success of sage-grouse conservation efforts
- **Lobbied on 50 bills** during the 2023 Montana Legislative Session, supporting 16 and opposing 34. The bills included 17 pertaining to wildlife and habitat, 11 to climate and energy, and 14 to land use and water
- **Commented on** the state’s grizzly bear management plan administrative rule making process and on on SB295, the state’s new Grizzly Bear management plan, advocating for many of the same issues addressed in our opposition during the legislative session



2023 FINANCIALS

Thanks to you, Montana Audubon has maintained a strong financial position which empowers us to continue our work on native birds, other wildlife and their habitats across Montana. You make this possible through your much-appreciated support of our vital conservation work. Thank you!

Statement of Financial Position

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 1,043,830
Board Designated Net Assets	\$ 2,045,969
Restricted Net Assets	\$ 61,696
Total Net Assets	\$ 3,151,495

12-month Fiscal Year Ending 9-30-23

Revenue

Contributions	\$ 658,324
Earned Income	\$ 363,061
Grants & Contracts	\$ 357,427
Investment Income	\$ 102,616
Total	\$ 1,481,428

Expenses

Programs	\$ 803,547
Administrative	\$ 365,891
Fundraising	\$ 180,215
Total	\$ 1,349,653

Montana Audubon is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Financials are audited annually by the accounting firm Douglas Wilson & Company, PC. The above financials were not audited in time for this publication.

Thank You for Supporting Montana Audubon

Thanks to generous donors – like you! – we are able to continue to achieve our mission to promote appreciation, knowledge, and conservation of Montana's native birds, other wildlife, and natural ecosystems for current and future generations. Without you, our work would not be possible.

The following people generously contributed \$100 or more between March 2023 and February 2024. Special thanks to those who made gifts in honor or in memory of friends and loved ones.

\$2,500 & Up

Anonymous Donors
Joe & Lana Batts
Ron & Cheryl Farmer
Susie Maclin
Bernard McHugh
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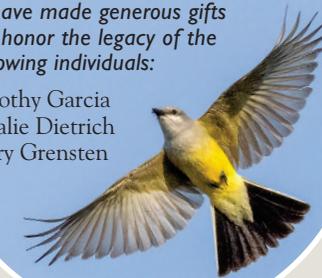
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Thank you, volunteers, for giving your time

Thank you, Montana Audubon volunteers, for so freely giving your valuable time to help us meet our conservation mission. You have not only offered your time, but also your expertise, humor, perspective, and so much more.

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We count birds because birds count on us!

It's time once again for Montana Audubon's annual Birdathon, our largest (and most fun!) fundraiser of the year.

What is Birdathon?

For 24 hours, starting at 6 pm on June 17 and going until 6 pm on June 18, Montana Audubon staff will spread out across the state to count and record as many bird species as possible. We're hoping to spot 100 bird species this year!

Giving to the Birdathon is easy.

You can choose to donate on a per-bird species basis, or a lump-sum gift. See the enclosed Birdathon return envelope, or make a donation online. To make a pledge per bird, return your donation envelope to us in the mail, or email your pledge information to info@mtaudubon.org.

However you choose to give, your support will directly benefit Montana's native birds and their habitats.

Double your conservation impact!

The best part? Thanks to a generous donor, your gift will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000. This means that your donation to Birdathon will have double the impact! Whether you give \$25 or \$250, every donation will support our conservation programs across Montana.

And, anyone who donates a lump sum of \$100 or more, or pledges \$1 or more per bird, will receive their choice of the laminated *Montana Audubon Bird Guide* or *Wildlife Guide*. Donate \$200 or pledge \$2 per bird and get both!



Individual donors are the financial backbone of Montana Audubon. Please help sustain all of our conservation efforts with a contribution to our 2024 Birdathon!



Bob Martinka

Bob Marthka



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. 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.

For more information please contact Larry Berrin at lberrin@mtaudubon.org.



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