

Helena, MT

NEWSLETTER

February 2012

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Last Chance Audubon Society will meet Monday, February 20, 2012, at 7 p.m. at the Montana Wild Center, 2668 Broadwater Ave. (a diagonal right across from Kessler School).

The program -- *Rehabilitating our Montana Wildlife* -- will be presented by Lisa Rhodin.

The Montana Wildlife Center on the south side of Spring Meadow Lake is a MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks facility. The goal of the Center is to rehabilitate animals while keeping them wild so that a successful release is possible.

Lisa Rhodin, a wildlife rehabilitator for more than 30 years, directs the complex maneuvers to make this happen. Last year 125 injured, orphaned or displaced animals came through the Center. Forty of these were birds ranging from a Western Wood Peewee to a Golden Eagle and Trumpeter Swans. Raptors comprised 72% of the birds. The mammals at the Center included both Black and Grizzly Bears, Mountain Lion, Porcupines, and various assorted other species. Each animal comes with its own tale to tell and while some are more challenging than others, they all keep Lisa on her toes.

The Center networks with other wildlife rehabilitators throughout the state to ensure that the animals are taken care of in a timely fashion. One of the biggest goals for the Wildlife Center is to construct several more enclosures for birds including a 100 foot flight cage so that their raptors don't have to be transported to the Raptor Center in Bozeman.

Lisa worked in Florida for many years and says, "The only thing I find Montana lacking is alligators." In Florida she worked on oil spills and developed and presented the basic wildlife rehabilitation class that is the basis of new rehabilitator permits in Florida. She presented papers and articles for the National Rehabilitation Association. She also created educational programs using a groups of ambassador birds. Lisa's presentation will include a short video, stories and an introduction of a couple of the ambassador birds.

LCAS NATURAL HISTORY LECTURE SERIES: YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

by Brian Shovers and Don Skaar

The chapter is hosting its annual lecture series/fundraiser this year beginning February 28th at St. Paul's Methodist Church. This year's theme is Yellowstone National Park. The talks will occur each Tuesday evening beginning at 7 p.m. through March 20th. There is a fee of \$5 per talk or a series ticket can be purchased for \$15. Monies raised help support our educational and habitat enhancement activities. The lectures will be held in the church choir room and access is easiest through the rear of the church through the parking lot. We hope to see you there. **(Please see the enclosed schedule for additional information.)**

Also inside:

- *MT Audubon's Wings Across the Big Sky Bird Festival: Accommodations & Pre-festival Workshops ... p. 2*
- *Coming Events & Reminders: MT Native Plant Society . Great Backyard Bird Count . 42nd Annual Rivers & Wildlife Celebration... p. 3*

YELLOWSTONE PARK: As early as 1833 the painter George Catlin suggested that parts of the wilderness "might in future be seen (by some great protecting policy of government) preserved in their pristine beauty and wildness, in a magnificent park, where the world could see for ages to come . . . amid the fleeting herds of elks and buffaloes. . . . a nation's park, containing man and beast, in all the wild and freshness of their nature's beauty."
--*Nature's Yellowstone* by Richard A Bartlett

Last Chance Audubon Society promotes understanding, respect and enjoyment of birds and the natural world through education, habitat protection and environmental advocacy.

2012 WINGS ACROSS THE BIG SKY BIRD FESTIVAL: The Hilton Garden Inn, Your Lodging Options, and Friday Pre-Festival Workshops

Come join us for **Montana Audubon's Annual Bird Festival, this year co-hosted by the Flathead Audubon Society, June 8–10, 2012, at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center, 1840 US Hwy 93 S in Kalispell. We are very excited about this new facility, which will be center stage for festival activities Friday through Sunday, including registration, birding field trips departure point, guest speaker presentations, meals, banquet festivities, and much more.**

The Hilton is centrally located in the heart of the Flathead Valley and provides easy access to all our birding activities, field trips, and workshops, and is within a short drive of abundant recreational destinations, such as Flathead Lake and Glacier National Park.

Currently we have 50 rooms blocked out for festival-goers Friday and Saturday nights. (25 King beds and 25 Queen/Queen beds at \$99 per night plus applicable taxes.) This rate will be extended to us for three days prior and post event. Be sure to tell them you're with the Bird Festival group to get the special rate! We suggest you make your reservations soon at the hotel directly at 1-406-756-4500.

For nearby accommodations within walking distance of the Hilton, here are more options: Aero Inn, 1-406-755-3798; Motel 6, 1-406-752-6355; Super 8 Motel, 1-406-755-1888; The Outlaw Hotel, 1-406-755-6100.

Alternative accommodations can be found at www.kalispell.stayingj.com, toll free 1-877-STAY-HGI

2012 Pre-festival Workshops

Our workshops were so popular at our 2011 Festival in Glasgow that we again are offering two pre-festival Conservation Workshops, plus adding one pre-festival Education Workshop, all scheduled for Friday, June 8. You can sign up for these during registration from March 15 to May 22. The festival brochure will be arriving in your mail box mid-March. So you will want to act fast—space is limited for each workshop! We're excited to offer the following three pre-festival (Friday) workshops this year:

Conservation

1) ***Northwestern Montana Birds and Wildlife in a Warming World.*** We'll tour local forests and, hopefully, Glacier National Park. Participants will get up close and personal with the flora and fauna of the area, discuss the impacts of our changing climate, and delve into how we can lessen the impact by reducing carbon pollution and building resilient ecological systems best able to adapt to a changing climate.

Limited to 20 participants . Lunch: included . Time: tentative, 8 AM – 2 PM . Cost: TBD

2) ***River-to-Lakes Initiative.*** Since 2000, the River-to-Lake Initiative has been providing conservation and restoration expertise to private landowners along the Flathead River and along the North Shore of Flathead Lake. River-to-Lake partners, spearheaded by the Flathead Land Trust, work directly with landowners to craft conservation efforts that meet their needs. We'll meet many of these partners and visit several project sites, including two Important Bird Areas (Owen Sowerwine Natural Area and North Shore Flathead Lake).

Limited to 20 participants . Lunch: included . Time: tentative, 8 AM – 2 PM . Cost: TBD

Education

Develop a Bird Education Program in your Community. This six-hour training is for any Audubon Chapter member looking to begin or improve their bird education programs within their community. Each participant will receive training and curricula-oriented materials from Flying Wild, a Council for Environmental Education program which introduces students to bird conservation through standards-based classroom activities and environmental stewardship projects. In addition, instructors will share their expertise and experiences in developing new environmental education programs for all ages. (For more information on Project Flying Wild go to www.flyingwild.org.) This workshop will be presented by the Montana Audubon Conservation Education Center: Darcie Vallant, Center Director, and Heather Ristow, Education Director. For questions on this training please contact Darcie at 406-294-5099, ext. 302.

Limited to 30 participants . Time: TBD . Cost: \$25/per individual

For more information about the festival please contact: Montana Audubon Bird Festival Coordinator, Larissa Berry at lberry@mtaudubon.org/406-443-3949, or any Flathead Audubon Board Member. For updates, visit <http://www.mtaudubon.org/birdwatching/festival.html> and "like" us at

<http://www.facebook.com/MontanaAudubon>.

--MORE COMING EVENTS & REMINDERS--

• **Kelsey Chapter of the MT Native Plant Society.** Wednesday, February 8, 7:00 p.m. Neil Snow, the Director of the Montana Natural Heritage Program, lived for many years in Australia and Hawaii. He will present "In the Wide Worlds of Wherever: The Discovery of New Plant Species in the Myrtle Family." The program will be at the Lewis and Clark Library and is free to the public.

• Wednesday and Thursday, February 15-16. Plant Conservation Conference at Montana Wild. Visit www.mtnativeplants.org for registration information.

• **GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT: The GBBC will take place Feb. 17-20, 2012.** Anyone can participate in this free event and no registration is necessary. Watch and count for at least 15 minutes on any day of the count. Enter results at www.birdcount.org.

Why Does Your Count Matter?

As you gear up for this year's GBBC, preliminary data coming from Audubon's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) suggest some shifts in where birds are spending their time, perhaps due to the season's relatively mild temperatures. Data suggest that bird species we tend to see in concentrated areas during colder temperatures are now dispersed throughout the landscape, taking advantage of the open marshes and ponds. Consider New York's Central Park where warm temperatures may have played a role in a low bird count this holiday season. Participants tallied 3,286 birds – 3,000 fewer than last year. Citizen scientists like you can help us further monitor some of these trends. So, let's make this year's GBBC bigger and better than ever, and do our part to help the birds.



*Northern Saw-whet Owl
GBBC 2011 Photo Gallery*

- **LCAS March Newsletter Deadline is Thursday, March 1. Thanks!**
- **Important Note: There will be no LCAS membership meeting in March.**

**42nd Annual Rivers and Wildlife Celebration
March 15-18, 2010**
Visit nebraskacraneFestival.org for registration information.
For crane viewing information, contact Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary, 308-468-5282 or rowesanctuary.org.

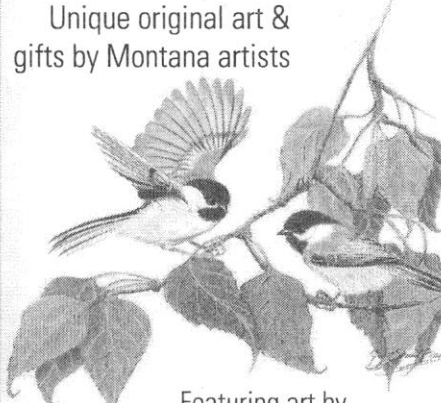


SNOWY OWL INVASION

Spectacular Snowy Owls are on the move! In November the owls began moving well south of their usual winter range in Canada, with reports as far south as Kansas. Read more about this phenomenon at <http://ebird.org>.



Unique original art & gifts by Montana artists

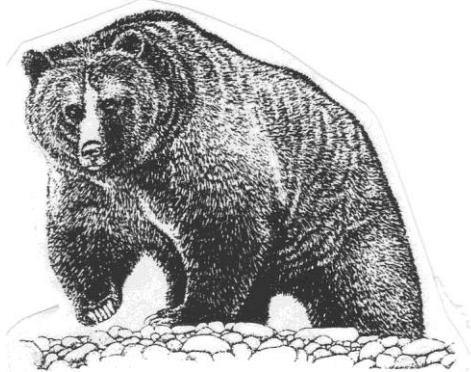


Featuring art by Jane Shull Beasley

Mon-Sat 9:30am-6pm
Wed until 8pm
Sundays 11am-4pm

Birds & Beasleys
70 S. Park Ave.,
Helena, MT 59601
406-449-0904
www.birdsandbeasleys.com

**LAST CHANCE AUDUBON SOCIETY
PO BOX 924
HELENA MT 59624**



Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Helena, MT 59601
Permit #29

LAST CHANCE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers:

Secretary Brian Shovers 443-6640/sholace@bresnan.net
Treasurer Dan Sullivan 443-4229

Board of Directors:

Bob Martinka 449-3313
Don Skaar 442-3254
Coburn Currier
Lorna Milne-Motl 443-7162
Nancy Silver

Committee Chairs/Contacts

Birdathon Jo Lace 443-6640
Birdseed Sale Sue Jackson/Sandy Shull 443-4486/449-0904

Website: www.lastchanceaudubon.org; Contacts: Birdseed - Birds & Beasleys, 449-0904; Montana Audubon - 443-3949/
www.mtaudubon.org. Non-members may receive the newsletter for \$5.50 per year. Send check to LCAS, PO Box 924, Helena 59624.

Christmas Count	Cedron Jones/	/442-1271
Circulation	Sam Sperry/Joyce Beckes	458-8170
Conservation	Brian Shovers	443-6640
Education	vacant	
Field Trip	vacant	
Habitat Protection	Drake Barton	449-6586
Membership	Sara Toubman	442-1271
Nat. Hist. Series	Don Skaar	442-3254
Newsletter	Joyce Beckes 458-8170/ samsper@mt.net	
Program	Sara Toubman	442-1271
Publicity	Jim Greene	495-9270
Silent Auction	Sandy Shull/Jo Lace	449-0904/443-6640
Website	Dan Sullivan	443-4229

MEMBERSHIP FROM SARA TOUBMAN:

Please welcome the following new and renewing National Audubon Society members: Mikal Kellner, Beverly Magley, Gail Winterhalter, Richard Meeker, William Ballinger, William Smith, Melinda Gauthier, Linda Platt, Joe Filcher, Cathy Champion, Carolyn Bryant, Randy Strauss, Enrya/Lucas Meyer, Jim Melstad, Neil Tyree, Jim Erickson, Joan Elhart, Ron Wiens, Robert Shepard, Beverly Pickett, Tillie Lakner, Bad Willcockson, Bill/Jan Matheson, Joseph Furshong, Evelyn Norton, Del/Carolyn Straub, Nicolette Baril, M. Strachan, Mike Pasichnyk, Stan/Glenda Bradshaw, Cary Lund. LCAS New/Renewals: Pat Helvey, Carol Nichols, Terry Wheeling, Charles/Sharon Avery, Mary Beaudette, Pat Bik, Bruce Desonia, Eric Eggen, Brenda Grasmick, Joe/Laurie Lamson, Drake Barton/Kathy Lloyd, Bill/Jan Matheson, Jon Motl/Lorna Milne Motl, Bruce/Sue Newell, Lisa Pena, Beverly Pickett, Neal/Mary Ruedisili, Joyce Beckes/Sam Sperry, Wendy Thomi, Lowell Anderson, Ray/Nan Breuninger, John/Carla Cronholm, Don/Donna Eisenmenger, Constance Enzweiler, Bill/Vicki Fitzgerald, Liz Hultunen, Bill Hubber, Steve/Mary Johnson, John Moore, Mike/Helen Murray, Patty/Steve Turner, Wendy/Gregg Wheeler.

**Last Chance Audubon Society
Membership Form**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

**Send your \$15 check with this form to Last Chance Audubon Society, PO Box 924, Helena, MT 59624.
All contributions are tax deductible.**