

Bitterroot AUDUBON



NOVEMBER 2012

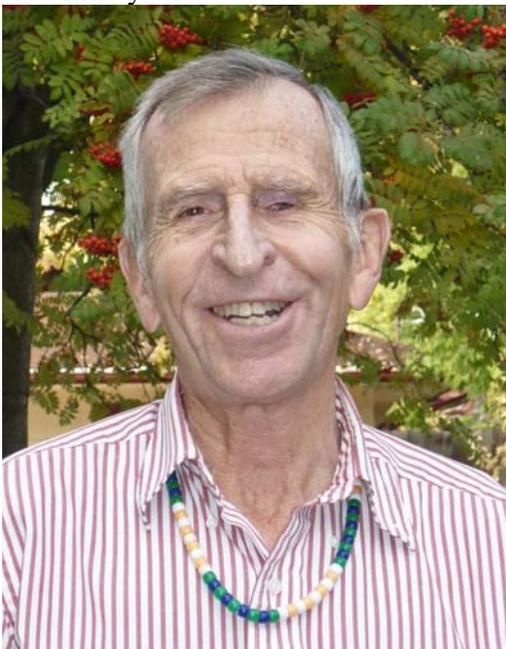
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 27, NO. 3

What Happens to Birds When They Die?

Join the Bitterroot Audubon Society at their November meeting for a program on the process of preparing study skins of birds, presented by Larry Weeks, Education Chairman for Five Valleys Audubon.

Hundreds of birds die annually from natural causes as well as numerous accidents. Learning what happens to these birds and, perhaps, what you can do if you find a dead bird will be topics of Larry's presentation. He will show many of his specimens and discuss how some of the birds died (such as collisions with windows, fences, cars, and trains and from electrocution). The birds to be shown include ducks, hawks, owls, falcons and a wide variety of song birds. Larry will explain the different techniques he used to mount the birds and point out identification marks. Larry has a salvage permit from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and has skinned more than 200 birds over the last nine years.



Courtesy Larry Weeks



Courtesy Larry Weeks

Specimens prepared by November's BAS presenter, Larry Weeks.

The Audubon meeting will be on Monday, November 19th, at 7:00 P.M. It will be held at the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge (north of Stevensville) in the Okefenokee Room. The public is invited. For further information, contact Kay Fulton at 642-3794.

Habitat Restoration Projects Take Place

By Sherry Ritter

This year, projects funded by Bitterroot Audubon's Riparian Habitat program helped restore riparian habitat at three locations within the Bitterroot River Important Bird Area (IBA). One project contributed native shrubs planted as part of a stream bank restoration project near Stevensville. This project, on land owned by three families, received a lot of press this spring. A number of volunteers from Bitterroot Audubon helped out. Another project involved pulling Hound's Tongue and other noxious weeds from two properties north of Bell Crossing. A third restoration project took place this fall on the Bitterroot Springs Ranch, where eight small enclosures were completed. The enclosures give native shrubs a chance to grow without browsing pressure by deer.



Courtesy Kate Stone

Volunteers set up exclosures on the Bitterroot River IBA.

There are still funds left for riparian habitat projects within the IBA. We also welcome proposals requesting volunteer help. Proposals are due April 13, 2012. Proposal forms can be obtained from Sherry Ritter, s287ritter@mac.com, 777-7409.

Letter from the President

By Kay Fulton, BAS President

Becky Peters: The Powerhouse Behind the 2013 BAS Calendar

I want to say a special Thank You to Becky Peters for all her hard work in creating and developing the first BAS calendar and for managing and selling them. There are fewer than 80 left!! Becky joined the BAS Board a little over one year ago and since then has taken on being our representative to the Montana Audubon Board, assisted with several IBA projects and then had the vision and fortitude to bring about the calendar. The proceeds, over \$2000 at this point, will go to the Education and Scholarship funds. We are so lucky to have Becky with us.



Courtesy Kay Fulton

Bill and Becky Peters at the Hamilton Farmer's Market.

Dues Reminder

For those who are not members of National Audubon, and who would like to support our local chapter, membership dues of \$15 are due by the end of January for the 2013 calendar year. However, if you have renewed or joined since October 1, 2012 your membership is carried over until January 2014.

Connect Kids to the Natural World with Audubon Adventures

by Leslie Nyce

Still Seeking Classroom Sponsors for Audubon Adventures

We currently have 11 classrooms signed up for the Audubon Adventures program and we are still looking for generous members to help sponsor these classes. The cost to sponsor a classroom is \$45.95. Partial contributions for half the amount may also be made. To sponsor a classroom, please make your check payable to Bitterroot Audubon and send it to Bitterroot Audubon, Attn: Audubon Adventures, P.O. Box 326, Hamilton, MT 59840.

News and Notes

Long-billed Curlew observers needed!

Did you observe Long-billed Curlews in the Bitterroot Valley this past year? The Montana Natural Heritage Program is working to compile curlew observations from across the state. Currently, the Bitterroot Valley represents a big void in their records. Want to contribute your observations? Contact Kate Stone for more information (krosetone@hotmail.com; 381-1115).



Courtesy Kate Stone

Long-billed Curlew in flight.

Winter Raptor Routes

Do you count the hawks perching on telephone poles on your drive to work? Bitterroot Audubon will again be looking for volunteers to conduct driving surveys to document raptor populations over wintering in the Bitterroot Valley. Last year Citizen Science volunteers documented hundreds of over wintering raptors. Participants generally commit to a route of their choosing four times in the winter season. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Kate Stone (krogestone@hotmail.com; 381-1115) to discuss route options.

Want to learn about winter raptors in the Bitterroot Valley? Have you always wanted to learn more about bird identification?

We will be offering two workshops in 2013: A Winter Raptor Workshop and a Beginning Birding Workshop. Watch upcoming newsletters for dates and specific information about each workshop.

The Bitterroot Audubon 2013 Calendar Going Fast!

Bitterroot Audubon has a beautiful 2013 Calendar to sell! This calendar can be found in Hamilton at the Chapter One Bookstore, and Art Focus; in Stevensville at Lisa Archer's Silks; in Darby at Darby Wine and Spirits; and in Missoula at Montana Natural History Center and at BAS meetings. They are only \$15 and the artists are local Bitterroot photographers, local school children and of course, our local Bitterroot birds!! All the proceeds go to the BAS Educational and Scholarship Funds. The Calendars are going fast, so get one before they are gone! For more information contact Becky Peters at 369-5210.

Call for Photos

Bitterroot Audubon is seeking images of birds for a feature in our newsletter: *Bird shots*. If you have taken a great photo and would like to submit it for consideration, please email the jpeg image, with a brief description, to BASeditors@gmail.com.

Would you like to see the newsletter in **COLOR**? Visit www.BitterrootAudubon.org and click the link to download the current newsletter or visit the archives.

You can sign up to have an e-copy sent to your email inbox by contacting Susie Duff, our Membership Chair at 961-5455 or sduff1@aol.com. Please include "Newsletter" in the subject line.

Calendar of Events

Nov 17-Beginner Bird Walk at Lee Metcalf NWR, 10AM-12PM

Nov 19-Audubon Meeting, Lee Metcalf NWR, 7PM, Board Meeting 5PM

Dec 15-Hamilton Christmas Bird Count

Dec 16-Big Hole Christmas Bird Count

TBD-Stevensville Christmas Bird Count

Bitterroot Audubon is on Facebook!

Bitterroot Audubon has created a Facebook page. If you use Facebook, please look for Bitterroot Audubon and "Like" us!

Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT

New to birding? Beginner Bird Walks at the refuge sponsored by Bitterroot Audubon and Five Valleys Audubon are held the third Saturday of each month. Meet at the Refuge Visitor's Center on November 17th at 10AM for a two hour bird walk. Bring binoculars if you have them. Contact the refuge at [\(406\) 777-5552](tel:4067775552) for more information.

Bird Shots



Long-eared Owl. Stevensville, MT 2012. *Courtesy Scott Bury*

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Vice-Pres. & Conservation Chair	Fred Weisbecker*	375-9317
Secretary	John Ormiston*	363-5464
Treasurer	Jim Story*	961-4689

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IBA Program	Sherry Ritter	777-7409
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Newsltr Eds &	Sara Ashline* baseditors@gmail.com	
Distribution	Karen Griffing*	961-0181
Hospitality	Rosan Stover	
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Publicity	Dave Lockman	777-2929
Rep. to MT		
Audubon	Becky Peters*	
At large	Judy Hoy*	777-2487
At large	Skip Horner*	642-6840
At large	Campbell Massey	381-0197

* Board Member

EMAIL: contactus@bitterrootaudubon.org

WEBSITE: www.BitterrootAudubon.org

Chapter Only Membership

The Bitterroot Audubon Chapter Only Membership is \$15/year. These members will be supporting local chapter activities, receive the newsletter, and enjoy Chapter benefits. To join as a Chapter Only Member, complete this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Check this box to receive full color email-only newsletters delivered to your inbox.

Send this application with \$15 to:



Bitterroot Audubon Society
PO Box 326
Hamilton, MT 59840-0326

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Become a member of the **National Audubon Society** and **Bitterroot Audubon** [Chapter Code C1ZN580Z]. You will receive *Audubon* magazine, *Bitterroot Audubon Newsletter* and a membership card. *Introductory membership is \$20.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Send this application and your check to:



Audubon

Membership Data Center
PO Box 422250
Palm Coast FL 32142-2250