

Bitterroot AUDUBON



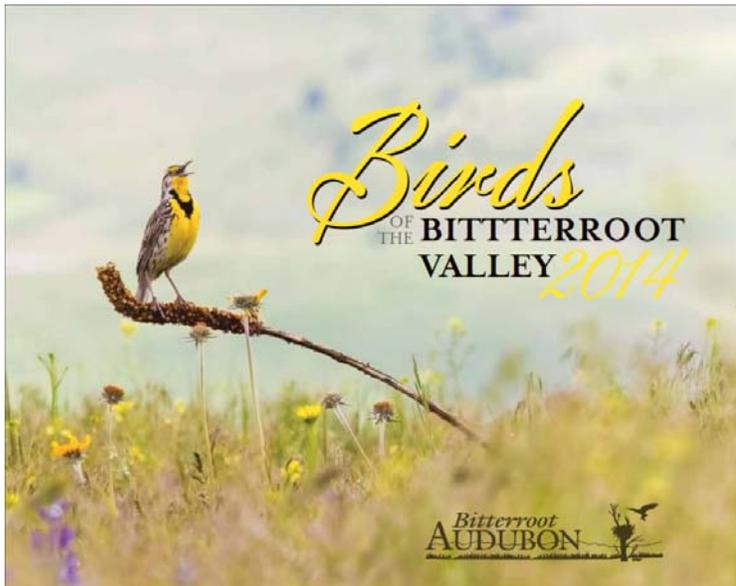
SEPTEMBER 2013

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 28, NO. 1

The Making of a Birder's Calendar

By Kay Fulton, BAS President



As a kick-off to Bitterroot Audubon's 2013-2014 year, we would like to invite you to a presentation, September 16th, on the ins-and-outs of creating a masterpiece. You will have the opportunity to meet some of the photographers, see their photos and hear how they took them. It's amazing what goes into "birding" at this level: first seeing the bird, then identifying it and finally taking a picture that captures its true essence. The BAS Calendar Committee received over 250 entries and they will share the process they went through to select a mere 24! It was a big challenge and they feel so lucky that Bitterroot photographers have been willing to share their photos. Also we are very excited to have as our very special guests some of the student artists that drew pictures for the calendar. They will be sharing what they learned about the bird they drew. It should be very educational!!

The Calendar has been a community project of which

we can all be proud. The proceeds go to the BAS Education Fund for activities here in the valley and to the BAS Scholarship Fund to help a Montana student attend higher education in Montana. The Scholarship Committee just awarded its first scholarship to a sophomore, Philip Williams from Corvallis.

Come join Bitterroot Audubon on Monday, September 16th, 7:00 P.M., at Chapter One Bookstore, 252 W. Main Street in Hamilton. The Calendars will be available for \$15 each. For questions, contact Kay Fulton 642-3794.

Bitterroot River IBA Field Trip

September 13th, 8am-Noon

By Kate Stone, BAS Member



Courtesy Kate Stone

Savannah Sparrow caught in the Bitterroot River IBA during fall migration.

In 2011, Bitterroot Audubon helped construct large ungulate exclosures on the MPG Ranch, near Florence. The purpose of this project was to protect riparian vegetation from browsing, thus improving habitat for birds and other wildlife species within the Bitterroot River Important Bird Area (IBA). How are the exclosures doing two years later? Participants in this field trip will check out the status of vegetation

within and outside of the exclosures. They will also get to see some of the bird species that make use of the Bitterroot River IBA during fall migration, with a visit to a fall banding station staffed by UM's Avian Science Center. Interesting captures at this time last year included Black-headed Grosbeak, Gray Catbird, Hermit Thrush, House Wren, Lincoln's Sparrow, Orange-crowned Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Savannah Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

This trip will involve hiking about 2 miles over uneven, but generally flat, terrain. Participants will be on their feet for most of the morning. To register for this trip, please contact Kate Stone by September 11th (krosetone@hotmail.com, 381-1115).



Courtesy Kate Stone

Ungulate exclosure on the MPG Ranch, Florence, MT.

Letter from the President

By Kay Fulton, BAS President

Hi, Bitterroot Birders, Welcome to the Bitterroot Audubon's 2013-2014 Birding Year.

Sounds kind of funny to be starting our "year" at the beginning of fall migration when many of our favorite birds are preparing to leave us! Even though we do not have meetings and newsletters during the summer, there has been a lot of activity – Eagle and Osprey surveys, field trips, completion and printing of the 2014 calendars, etc. We hope that you are rested up and ready to participate in some sales of the Calendar, raptor migration observations, Christmas Bird Counts, workshops, and upcoming programs.

Volunteers are greatly needed NOW to help with sales of the Calendar, either at the Saturday Markets, Apple

Days or on an individual basis. Please contact Becky Peters at b-bpeters@webband.com if you can help.

As you know, we are trying to save money and the environment by sending our newsletters via e-mail. PLEASE, send us your e-mail address if you haven't yet and if you don't have one, be sure to let us know. We don't want anyone to be left out. Contact me, Kay Fulton, at 642-3794.

Bitterroot Audubon Society is going GREEN

By Sara Ashline and Karen Griffing, BAS Editors

Beginning September 2013, Bitterroot Audubon will be delivering the monthly newsletter electronically. If you are still receiving the newsletter via standard mail, please send us your email address to receive your newsletter via email. Starting in September, we'll send a meeting reminder by postcard, but the full newsletter will be sent to your email address and is always available at www.bitterrootaudubon.org. This will allow us to reduce printing and mailing costs and waste, while offering full color pictures and expanded coverage of Bitterroot Audubon activities. For those without computer access, we will continue to mail you an individual copy of the newsletter; please send a note to Bitterroot Audubon, PO Box 326, Hamilton, MT 59840 requesting this service. Please send your email address to Susie Duff at audubonmembership@gmail.com to begin receiving your newsletter electronically.

Byron Weber Memorial Scholarship Award

By Karen Griffing, Editor

The Bitterroot Audubon Society is pleased to announce that its Scholarship Committee has agreed to award the first Byron Weber Memorial Scholarship to a student from the Bitterroot Valley. The scholarship winner is Philip Williams, a sophomore in the University of Montana School of Forestry and Conservation, studying toward a degree in Forest Resource Management, with a minor in Wildland Restoration.

The scholarship is funded through a bequest from teacher and naturalist Byron Weber, augmented with funds generated from the sale of the Bitterroot Audubon Calendar.



Bitterroot Audubon Photography Workshops

Are you interested in learning about photographing wildlife or how to use your camera to take better shots? Bitterroot Audubon Society is offering a Photography Workshop this fall, hosted by BAS member Nathan DeBoer. The workshop includes one evening class with a morning field trip for shooting and instruction.

Cost for the workshop will be \$20.00/Audubon members and \$30.00/non-members. **Pre-registration is required and limited to 6 participants.**

Participants may not sign up for only one portion of the workshop, but must commit to attending both the evening class and the field trip. The workshop is open to photographers of all abilities from beginner to those with more experience. For more information or to pre-register, email Sara at sarevt@gmail.com.

News and Notes

Welcome our new board Member Alex Shaffer!

Bitterroot Audubon is on Facebook! If you use Facebook, please look for Bitterroot Audubon and "Like" us!

Call for Photos Bitterroot Audubon is seeking images of

Bird Shots

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.

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 September 21st 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.

Calendar of Events

Sept 13- IBA Field Trip 8-12, contact Kate Stone at kroestone@hotmail.com, 381-1115

Sept 16- Audubon Meeting, Chapter One Bookstore, Hamilton, 7PM, **Board Mtg. 5PM.**

Sept 21- Beginner Bird Walk at Lee Metcalf NWR, 10AM-12PM, Call 777-5552 for more information.

Oct 21- Audubon Meeting, Location TBD, 7PM, **Board Mtg. 5PM**



Mountain Bluebird at his cavity nest, April 2013, Corvallis, MT.

Courtesy Karen Griffing

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ORGANIZATION
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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
Website & Field Trips	Kate Stone*	381-1115
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Newsltr Eds & Distribution	Sara Ashline* baseditors@gmail.com	
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Membership	Susie Duff*	961-5455
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
At large	Alex Shaffer	

* 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