

Bitterroot AUDUBON



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NEWSLETTER

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YELLOWSTONE FROM THE INSIDE OUT: LOCATING THE NEXT CALDERA ERUPTION

By Skip Yates



Courtesy Skip Yates

Bitterroot Audubon invites you to join Skip on a unique tour of Yellowstone National Park. Not only will he highlight the thermal features and scenic wonders but he will review the Yellowstone Volcanic System, including historic eruptions, hot-spot movement, caldera formation and possible future activity. The presentation will focus on Yellowstone's underground dynamics such as geology, geophysics and tectonics in order to locate the likely site of the next Yellowstone caldera super-eruption.

Originally from Georgia (when people ask about his accent he tells them he's from Southern Montana), he graduated with a BA from Vanderbilt University and MS (Geology) from Washington State University, specializing in volcanology and economic geology (mineral exploration). He first became interested in Yellowstone because it is the present-day, hydrothermal analog to several types of mineral systems, and one can study these processes while they are ongoing. While doing research in the Park in

the late 1970's and early 1980's Skip first noted the "Mirror Plateau Geomorphic Feature" which he believes will be the location of the next Yellowstone super-eruption (caldera type eruption). Since then, he has led several geological trips through Yellowstone and parts of the Snake River Plain to study the track of the Yellowstone hot-spot. His hypothesis has been developed over several decades with supporting evidence from the fields of geology, geochemistry, geophysics, geomorphology, and satellite imagery. Skip says, "Yellowstone is unique, both geologically and for its scenic wonders. It is still one of my favorite places to visit. I never fail to learn something new whenever I visit."



Courtesy Skip Yates

For this "Visit to Yellowstone with Skip" presentation, Bitterroot Audubon will meet at the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge Visitors' Center, located on Wildfowl Lane, just north of Stevensville, on Monday, October 19th 2015 at 7PM. The Public is invited. Contact Kay Fulton at 642-3794 for more information.

Letter from the President

By Becky Peters, BAS President



I Welcome October! There are lots of things changing during this fall season. Not only are the leaves changing color and flying away in the wind but a lot of our feathered friends are also. I savor the excitement of all that the fall season brings us. Even though it is the end of a warm summer time fall brings us some new beginnings, new things to learn. And since I am a former educator I thought I'd share a form of learning I love – books about birds! I am including here a list of various bird related books I have been enjoying. First, for the kids: “How Do Birds Find Their Way?” by Roma Gans; “Peterson Field Guide Color-In Books: Birds” by Peter Alden and John Sill; “Have you Heard the Nesting Bird?” by Rita Gray; “Bird Feats of Montana” by Deborah Richie Oberbillig; “Whose Nest?” by Guy Troughton; “Feathers, Not Just for Flying”, by Melissa Stewart; “On the Wing” by David Elliott. (These are great for both parents and grandparents to purchase for the kids!).

Now for the adults! Along with all the Peterson and Stokes and Sibley's that we all have, there are some field guides I am partial to: “Montana Birds” by Putnam and Kennedy; the “Montana Bird Distribution” by P.D. Skaar; “Birds in Place” by Radd Icenoggle; “Birding Montana” by Terry McEaney. Then there are: “Hawks in Flight” by Dunne, Sibley and Sutton; “Good Birders Don't Wear White” by a whole lot of authors!; “The Bird Watching Answer Book” by Laura Erickson; “How to Be a Better Birder” by Derek Lovitch; and we need of course “A Birding Journal” by Vanessa Sorensen; “Mind of the Raven” by Bernd Heinrich; “Birding for Beginners” by Sheila Buff; “Secret Lives of Common Birds” by Marie Read; “Gifts of the Crow” by Marzluff and Angell; “Bird Sense, What It's Like to Be a Bird” by Tim Birkhead; and of course any book by Kate Davis! It is so hard to type this list and not make loving comments about each one. There are so many other books out there that our Bitterroot Audubon members could recommend. We should have a book sharing night!

Bill and I are off on a Montana Audubon Tour to Veracruz, Mexico so I will miss our October BAS meeting. But I will be thinking of you while we gaze upward at the thousands and thousands of migrating birds - maybe!!

Please Join us for Highway Cleanup

By Skip Horner

Come join us for our semi-annual cleanup of our beloved section of Highway 93 on October 8th at 4PM! Meet at milepost 64 on the west side, about 3 miles south of the Stevi Wye.

There is parking available there. Bring weather appropriate clothing, a bottle of water, and a pair of gloves.

We'll have high-visibility vests for everyone.

Many hands make light work! Please come!

Byron Weber Memorial Scholarship Update

By Skip Horner

Bitterroot Audubon is very proud to award the Byron Weber Memorial Scholarship twice a year to a deserving student attending a Montana college or university. The recipient must be an upperclassman studying in a Natural Resource field. Bitterroot Valley residents are given priority, but any student is eligible. Applications for future scholarships are found on our website at <http://www.bitterrootaudubon.org/>.

We have awarded this scholarship for 3 years now. At first the award was \$350 per semester, but because of the outstanding sales of our calendar the past two years, we have increased the award to \$500 per semester. The scholarship is now endowed for at least 12 more years due to the sales of the calendar. The recipient of every scholarship we've awarded so far is Philip Williams, of Stevensville. Philip is an outstanding Senior at UM studying forest management, especially the interplay between people and the forest. Philip is a sincere and dedicated person in all aspects of life, and we're proud to have him represent Bitterroot Audubon with this scholarship.

Nest box Cleanup Time!

By John Ormiston

I hope your bird houses produced numerous fledglings to entertain you through summer and early fall. The swallows, bluebirds, sparrows, chickadees, etc have moved on, so it's time to clean house. They left nesting material and other debris behind, a rich environment for over-wintering insect larvae or eggs. Before the birds return to liven your spirits next spring you need to eliminate the debris to prevent the insect population from overwhelming nestlings as the days warm. Take a few minutes to open your bird houses and clean them as best you can; a dust-buster works great.

Avian Migration Web Article

by Judy Hoy

How do migrating birds avoid predators while fueling up? An interesting new study looks at the various tactics that birds employ to keep from being eaten while they are refueling during migration. The researchers found that a high number of migrants die each year during their long journey from Northern United States, Canada and the Arctic to Mexico, Central America and South America and back. The link to the study is:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/09/150909213402.htm#.VfWLL0zbZuI.email>

Scholarship Fund Update

by Jim Story

The Bitterroot Audubon Society (BAS) has benefited greatly from its calendar sales over the past few years. Half of the calendar sales earnings have been dedicated to the BAS scholarship fund. The funds have been parked in our checking account earning no interest. The board recently decided to "grow" the scholarship fund by investing part of the funds with a local, respected investment firm. Even though it is a fairly conservative investment, we hope to extend the life of the fund while still issuing scholarship awards to qualified college students. We'll keep a very watchful eye on the financial market and our account, but as they say in the investment world, we'll "think long-term."

BAS Field Trip Coordinator Needed

by Kate Stone

As a small Audubon chapter, we have struggled to maintain an active field trip program with a coordinator and leaders. At this time, we no longer have anyone able to serve as our field trip coordinator. If you might be interested in volunteering your time as a coordinator, please contact our President Becky Peters. In the meantime, we are taking advantage of the fact that our neighbor, Five Valleys Audubon in Missoula, offers field trips nearly every weekend and welcomes the participation of Bitterroot Audubon members. We are posting their field trips on our website calendar, and you can also visit their website for more information:

<http://fvaudubon.org>.

Calendar of Events

Oct 8-Highway 93 Cleanup, 4PM. Meet at mile marker 64 in Stevensville.

Oct 18-Beginner Bird Walk at Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT 10AM-12PM.

Oct 19-Audubon Meeting, Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT 7PM, Board Mtg. 5:30PM.

News and Notes

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 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 October 18th at 10AM for a two hour bird walk. Bring binoculars if you have them. Contact the refuge at [\(406\) 777-5552](tel:(406)777-5552) for more information.

Bird Shots



Courtesy Sara Ashline

Yellow-rumped Warbler.

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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 full color e-newsletter, and enjoy Chapter benefits. To join as a Chapter Only Member, complete this form.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____

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

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