

Bitterroot AUDUBON



MARCH 2017

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 31, NO. 7

“Zapovednik” - Russian Nature Reserves

By Bob Danley, Lee Metcalf Refuge



Courtesy Bob Danley

Forest Canopy at Bryansky.

In May 2015, Bob Danley, outdoor recreation planner at the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), visited two Russian Nature Reserves, akin to National Wildlife Refuges in the United States, as part of an official three-person U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delegation. Their mission there was to provide technical expertise on visitor services and visitor centers at such facilities. Delegations from Russia and the United States have been in place for many years visiting and collaborating on conservation issues. The two Reserves visited, out of 101 total Nature Reserves in Russia, were Bryansky Les, the largest unbroken forest in southern Europe and Polistovsky, the largest raised bog system in northern Europe.



Courtesy Bob Danley

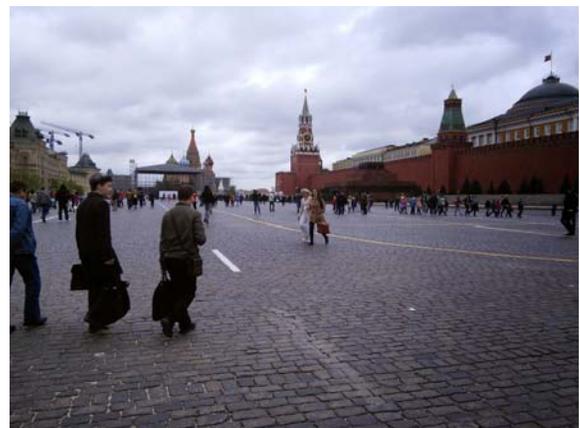
Northern Lapwing.



Courtesy Bob Danley

Map of Bog Trail at Polistovsky.

On March 20th at 7:00 P.M., Bob will present a program for Bitterroot Audubon on this fascinating experience. As many know, Bob coordinates visitor services for the Lee Metcalf NWR, including education, interpretation, recreation and volunteers. He is an expert “Birder” who has traveled the world looking for “that certain bird!” Bob stated, “During the two weeks in Russia, our hosts kept us very busy daily with 8-10 hours of work-related activities.



Courtesy Bob Danley

Red Square in Moscow.

Outside of that commitment, I got up early just to wildlife watch and photograph native birds and wildlife. Bird-wise, I listed about 70 species of

which the Northern Lapwing was one of the most interesting. I took a lot of photos also capturing culture and landscape, enough to transport you mentally to a huge country full of wildlife."

-YA nadeyus', chto vy mozhete posetit. Spasibo.

Join Bitterroot Audubon March 20, 7:00 P.M. at the Lee Metcalf NWR Visitors' Center for this program which will include amazing pictures and information about wildlife, environment and cultures in Russia. The Refuge is located north of Stevensville on Wildfowl Lane, just off of the Eastside Highway. The Public is invited. For information contact bitterrootaudubon.org

Letter from the President

By Becky Peters, BAS President

As we participated in the Hawk ID Workshop February 24th and 25th we were lucky enough to see four Harlan's Hawks, a



type of Red-tail Hawk. For some of us it was the first time we were able to see one and were very excited. However, when we got out of our cars Steve Hoffman advised us

to quietly close the car doors and to talk as quietly as possible. Why? Because Harlan's are rather skittish around people. Since they stay far away from people we were thankful that we had several scopes to use. Such a different reaction to people than the Red-tails! It got me to wondering about bird personalities.

You've noticed the differences of some of the birds at your feeders I am sure. Some hold back, some are very aggressive, even in the same species, right?

Studies have been done recently on the personalities of Bluebirds, Chickadees, Great Tits and Great Knots for example. Scientists feel that both nature and nurture are involved in personality development just as in humans. A team of

European scientists have found a "curiosity gene" in Great Tits where the birds with the Drd4 gene would more likely explore new objects than those without the gene. J.L. Quinn knew from previous studies that this behavior would be a good measure of overall personality: the slapdash explorers tend to



be bold and reckless, whereas the slow-but-thorough explorers are usually timid. As to the nurture approach, a research team at the University of Memphis found that Scrub Jay mothers who were less attentive to their young had nestlings with a high level of stress hormone in them and that high level was still with the fearful birds seven months later.

Are shy birds more likely to avoid danger? Are aggressive birds more likely to reproduce successfully? What then about bird personalities amid the changing climate and human encroachment? Ying-Chi Chan is researching the personalities of threatened wading birds. Some are adventurous, some are followers. But which ones can survive best in a changing environment? She is tracking Great Knots as they migrate between destroyed habitats. As of October 2015 she was still collecting data as to who survives. Her guess is that the meek, non-explorers will survive only if their environment is good and stable.

Watch the birds this spring. Look for patterns and personalities. We have much to learn about the animal world and we are not the only species with personalities. Maybe there is a Zooniverse project about it??

Welcome Back Waterfowl Day at Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge

By Judy Hoy

Bitterroot Audubon will host Welcome Back Waterfowl Day on Saturday, April 1, 2017 from 10 am to 1:00 pm. at the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge north of Stevensville. Audubon members and refuge staff with high quality optical equipment will be available to assist in identifying, learning about and observing the 19 or more species of waterfowl and other birds that use the refuge wetlands. The scopes will be stationed along Wildfowl Lane on the county road between the ponds west of the Visitor Center. This special event is open to the public. There will be a photo contest for the best action shot of people wildlife watching at the refuge on Welcome Back Waterfowl Day. There will be two categories, children 12 and under and all ages older than 12. The best three photos in each category will be posted on the Bitterroot Audubon Society Website and on Facebook. The winner of each category will be given a Winter Eagle Project T-shirt. Judy Hoy will do programs

on-demand on Wildfowl Lane near the scope stations, with a Long-eared Owl and a Northern Saw-whet Owl. For more information or questions, please call Bob Danley at 777-5552 x203 or email Bob_Danley@fws.gov or call Judy Hoy at 777-2487.

It's nest box time!!

By Kate Stone

The bluebirds are arriving back, Black-capped Chickadees are singing, and soon all sorts of cavity-



nesting birds will be starting to nest. If you live in an area that lacks natural cavities, has few house sparrows, and is safe from roaming cats, please consider purchasing a



nest box from Bitterroot Audubon. All proceeds from nest box sales will benefit our Bitterroot Valley Winter Eagle Project. We have small nest boxes

appropriate for chickadees and Pacific Wrens,



medium boxes for bluebirds and Tree Swallows, and large boxes made for Lewis's Woodpeckers. Small and medium boxes will be available for purchase and pick up at our

March meeting; Lewis's Woodpecker boxes will be available in April. All boxes are \$25 and can be ordered and purchased on the Bitterroot Audubon

[website](#). Thanks to Bitterroot Audubon volunteers Max Stroppel and Larry Dewey for the construction and donation of the small and medium boxes, and the American Bird Conservancy for Lewis's Woodpecker boxes.

Photos Courtesy Kate Stone: Mountain Bluebirds at a nest box; Wren; banded Lewis's Woodpecker.

Sponsors needed for Audubon Adventure classroom kits

By Jodi Prout

Bitterroot Audubon is proud to offer Audubon Adventures once again to teachers and students around the valley for no cost. This resource is free because generous Bitterroot Audubon members provide donations to cover the fees for all the materials. We hope to serve over 300 students who are excited to learn about birds with this program! The following are the classroom kits offered this year:

NEW 2016-2017! "Wild About Birds": Students learn about owls, wading birds and riparian habitat, and the birds we see every day.

"Action for Planet Earth": Students learn about habitats, water, and energy.

"Sharing Our World With Birds": Students learn about seabirds, hummingbirds, and birds of prey.

"Exploring Ecosystems": Students learn about seas/shores, grasslands/prairies, and forests.

"Feathers, Fur, Fins and You": Students learn about pollinators, rivers, and Alaska.

"Caring For Our Planet": Students learn about how they can contribute to conservation.

Classroom kits include print and online components that cost **\$45.95**.

We hope you will join us in offering this amazing opportunity to our Bitterroot Valley youth!

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

For more information or if you are an educator interested in using these kits in your classroom, please contact jodiprout@gmail.com.

Bitterroot Valley Winter Eagle Project Update

By Kate Stone

We are still maintaining over 20 camera and carcass stations on private lands in the Bitterroot Valley. We've raised enough money as a community to purchase a satellite transmitter, and the unit was deployed on a Golden Eagle west of Victor in late February. You can follow the locations of Golden Eagles with transmitters by visiting an [interactive raptor location map](#).

So far we've documented hundreds of Bald and Golden Eagles using private lands. We've also gotten great documentation of other scavengers, including bobcats, foxes, coyotes, great horned owls, red-tailed hawks, and rough-legged hawks. We've had three eagles re-sighted on our cameras, including a young Golden Eagle first captured in February 2016 on the MPG Ranch in Florence. We detected Golden Eagle #304 on a private ranch off of Groff Lane in early February of 2017. He was seen again on the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge on February 25th.

You can still support this project by purchasing one of our t-shirts or making a donation via the Bitterroot Audubon [website](#). Thanks!



Courtesy Kate Stone

We've captured as many as 9 Bald Eagles at once in one of our pictures.

What's the story, Story?

By Jim Story

Question: *What's the history on starlings?*

Answer: The European Starling first arrived in North America in 1890 when 60 birds were released in New York City. Within 60 years, the bird had spread to the west coast. The North American starling population is currently estimated at over 200 million individuals. Starlings are disliked by

most people and have been the target of large-scale eradication efforts, with millions of individuals being killed. But, these local efforts have not had any significant effect on starling population levels nationwide. Starling success is largely due to human expansion and the subsequent creation of ideal starling habitat. Also, starlings are aggressive, and dominate nesting cavities, often at the expense of other cavity nesters such as Northern Flickers and all three bluebird species. Whether the population continues to increase is uncertain, but the bird is certainly here to stay.

Local birding expert Jim Story answers your questions about birds and their habits. Jim welcomes your questions at jstory4689@gmail.com.

Black Swift Volunteers Needed

By Amy Seaman



Courtesy Amy Seaman

Black Swift

Do you enjoy bird-adventures? Willing to hike and gaze at waterfalls? Enjoy scrutinizing wet cliff faces for obscure moss nests? Enjoy birding at dawn and dusk? If you're like the majority of birders in Montana, you've never seen a black swift. **THIS SUMMER COULD CHANGE THAT!!** Amy Seaman from Montana Audubon has funding to develop a citizen science effort to look for additional swift nests in Montana- including ones in the Bitterroot. Amy will be putting on two trainings in Glacier National Park in mid July. These trainings are limited to 12 people. She may be able to provide mileage/stipends for travel. If you'd like to participate in this project, please contact Amy (aseaman@mtaudubon.org). Join the echelon of cool birders out there who tell others that they are "going swiftling"!

News and Notes

Calling all Bitterroot Photographers!

By Becky Peters

We are proud to announce that Bitterroot Audubon is organizing another calendar, a 2018 calendar! We are delighted to be doing this again as people have been requesting our one of a kind calendar... The generosity of our local photographers has helped increase our Education, Scholarship and Conservation Funds with the sales of our very successful 2013, 2014 and 2015 BAS Calendars. If you would like to be part of this wonderful process please contribute any photo(s) you have taken in the Bitterroot of our migrating and resident birds. Be sure to go to our website for more information: bitterrootaudubon.org. The website has a list of birds BAS would like to have in next year's calendar. You can submit the photographs from now on up to April 15th. They need to be extremely sharp photos, a minimum of 300-600 dpi, with dimensions in an 8 1/2" W by 9 1/2" H format. Send your photos and any questions to bitterrootcalendar@gmail.com. As before, this is only for Bitterroot residents, showing our Bitterroot birds and made in the Bitterroot by Bitterroot Audubon!! Our Bitterroot birds thank you!

Chapter Members Renewal Deadline

If you are a BAS chapter member, your membership fee (\$15) was due on January 31, 2017. Please send payment to Bitterroot Audubon Society, PO Box 326, Hamilton, MT 59840.



Courtesy Jim Hamilton

Blue Jay in the Bitterroot Valley, Florence, MT, December 2016.

Calendar of Events

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

Mar 20- "Trip to Russia," Audubon Meeting, Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT, 7PM, Board Mtg., 5PM.

Apr 1- Welcome Back Waterfowl Day, Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT

Apr 17- "Bitterroot River IBA Update," Audubon Meeting, Forest Service/DNRC Building, Hamilton, MT, 7PM, Board Mtg. 5PM.

May 15- "Pikas in Montana: 45 Years of Research," Audubon Meeting, Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT, 7PM, Board Mtg., 5PM.

Jun 9-11, 2017- Wings Across the Big Sky Festival, Great Falls, MT. More details to be announced.

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.

Bitterroot Audubon is on Facebook 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 March 18th 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.

BITTERROOT AUDUBON
PO BOX 326
HAMILTON MT 59840-0326

Officers

President	Becky Peters*	369-5210
Vice-Pres. & Conservation Chair	Fred Weisbecker*	375-9317
Secretary	John Ormiston*	363-5464
Treasurer	Jim Story*	961-4689

Directors & Committee Chairs

IBA Program	Sherry Ritter	370-4778
Programs	Kay Fulton*	
Website	Kate Stone*	381-1115
Education	Jodi Prout*	
Newsltr Eds & Distribution	Sara Ashline* baseditors@gmail.com	
Hospitality	Karen Griffing*	
Membership	Rosan Stover	
Publicity	Susie Duff*	961-5455
Rep. to MT	Dave Lockman	777-2929
Audubon	Becky Peters*	
Scholarship	Skip Horner*	642-6840
Aud. Adv.	Betsy Ballard*	
Field Trips	Michelle Long*	
At large	Judy Hoy*	777-2487
At large	Thomas Arminio*	
At large	Susan Nelson*	

* 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 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



Renew or Sign up
for your
National Audubon Membership at
Audubon.org



wings across the big sky

June 9-11, 2017 Great Falls, Montana

Come join us for Montana Audubon's Annual Bird Festival, this year co-hosted by the Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon, June 9-11, 2017, at the Best Western Plus Heritage Inn in Great Falls. All festival activities will take place Friday through Sunday at the Heritage Inn, including registration, field trip departures, guest speaker presentations, meals, banquet festivities, our 40th Anniversary barbecue, and much more. The Heritage Inn is easily accessible from any exit to 10th Avenue South and provides easy access to all our birding activities and field trips.

Currently we have rooms blocked for festival-goers Friday and Saturday nights. Be sure to tell them you're with the Montana Audubon Bird Festival group to get the special rate! If you're planning to arrive early or late to take in the pre- and post-trips sponsored by the local chapter, the hotel will try to accommodate you at our contracted rate outside the block. We suggest you make your reservations soon by calling 406-761-1900 or 1-800-548-8256.

Our Festival Registration Brochure is scheduled to be mailed early March, with an online registration system active soon after. Use either system to register. The brochure is full of information on the festival events and all the field trips that will be available. If you are a volunteer or field trip leader with UMBA, be sure to get the special registration form to fill out and mail in; Nora or Kay will have the forms and details.

Here's a Sneak Peak at Some of our Scheduled Events for the Festival:

- Keynote speaker - David Ringer from National Audubon – “Protecting Birds and the Places they Need, Today and Tomorrow.”
- Friday evening – Barbecue and celebration of Montana Audubon's 40 years!
- Saturday afternoon – Montana Audubon staff will present information about their programs and work to conserve birds and their habitats, and to educate all ages on the importance of our conservation efforts.
- Saturday and Sunday mornings - Educational field trips in and around Great Falls.

Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon has decided that they are unable to manage a Silent Auction this year, so the only items for bid will be the custom tours arranged by Montana Audubon. There will be a BIG raffle this year plus our fun basket raffles. Fun for All!

Stay tuned for more information on other special happenings at or around this festival event.

MONTANA AUDUBON'S BIRD FESTIVAL 2017 WINGS ACROSS THE BIG SKY HEADQUARTERED AT BEST WESTERN PLUS HERITAGE INN

1700 FOX FARM ROAD, GREAT FALLS, MT

Montana Audubon's 2017 Annual Bird Festival *Wings Across the Big Sky* is co-hosted by Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon (UMBA). David Ringer, National Audubon Society, is the keynote speaker. Enjoy two days of field trips into grasslands, wetlands, forests and mountains, and expect to see a varied array of species. See below for information on three additional pre and post birding trips that the UMBA Chapter is offering to compliment the bird festival.

The Heritage Inn in Great Falls will be the center for all festival activities, Friday through Sunday, including registration, birding field trip departures, guest speaker presentations, meals, and banquet festivities.

The Heritage Inn is located near Interstate 15 and provides easy access to all birding activities and field trips. Make your reservations directly with the hotel at 1-406-761-1900, or online. Make sure to say you are with the Montana Audubon Bird Festival group to get special rates.

The Festival will feature an expanded display area, a fun Friday night kickoff barbeque celebrating Montana Audubon's 40th anniversary, a keynote speaker, concurrent Saturday afternoon presentations and a Saturday evening banquet dinner. A highlight of the festival will be over 20 field trips led by birding experts in diverse habitats.

Keynote speaker David Ringer, National Audubon Society, Chief Network Officer, will speak on Protecting Birds and the Places They Need, Today and Tomorrow.

The Festival Registration Brochure will be mailed the middle of March. Register for the festival either by using the online system or mail the registration form in the Brochure to MT Audubon. The Brochure contains detailed information for festival events and descriptions of field trips.

For more information, go to Montana Audubon's website:
<http://mtaudubon.org/birding/montana-bird-festival> or
contact Montana Audubon's Bird Festival Coordinator, Cathie Erickson at
cerickson@mtaudubon.org.

**Mark your calendars, stay tuned for details,
and
THANK YOU to our sponsors**

Pre-Festival and Post-Festival Field Trips

This year, Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter (UMBA) is offering three trips that are designed to extend your stay in Central Montana. As these trips are separate from the Wings Across the Big Sky Bird Festival, you register and pay for the trips directly to the UMBA Chapter. See below for the registration form. UMBA is sponsoring two Pre-Trips and one Post-Trip. The Chapter will provide transportation from Great Falls and experienced leaders.

American Prairie Reserve Pre-Festival Field Trip June 7 – 9, 2017

Itinerary:	3 Days
Departing:	June 7, 2017 from Great Falls, MT
Travelers:	Limited to 10 Guests
Cost:	\$750 per Guest

Few places on earth have intact prairie habitat and ecosystems as the American Prairie Reserve and Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge. On this three day journey, view wildlife in rich environments, while learning about conservation and restoration efforts in the grassland region.

- Take a guided tour of the American Prairie Reserve
- Enjoy a private excursion on Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge
- Partake in a delicious dinner prepared on the Reserve

We will depart from Great Falls on Wednesday June 7 to bird Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, an Important Bird Area located near Malta, MT. Established in 1936, Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, is a prairie & wetland ecosystem with over 15,000 acres. We will have dinner and stay in Malta for the night. Thursday, we travel to American Prairie Reserve to learn how the organization is preserving a grassland ecosystem, and to see the birds found on the Reserve. That night we will partake in a fine dinner and drinks catered by American Prairie Reserve. Returning to Malta for the night, we will arrive back in Great Falls Friday June 9 to enjoy the Wings Across the Big Sky Bird Festival.

Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge

Nineteen species of global conservation concern are found at Bowdoin (Ferruginous Hawk, Piping Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Red-headed Woodpecker, Sprague's Pipit, Brewer's Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur), as well as continental concern species (Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawk, Upland Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope, Common Tern, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Willow Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Baird's Sparrow, McCown's Longspur).

Bowdoin has one of only four nesting colonies of American White Pelicans, and one of only five nesting colonies of Franklin's Gulls, in Montana. Because of the concentrations of migrating shorebirds, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network recognizes Lake Bowdoin as a site of Regional importance.

Scientific research and monitoring are a key focus of Bowdoin, including grassland songbird surveys, colonial bird surveys, and duck and mourning dove banding. The Bowdoin Bird list of 263 species can be found at https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/BowdoinBirdList_RGB.pdf

American Prairie Reserve

Prairies are the least protected biome on Earth. Located along the Missouri River, American Prairie Reserve is stitching together 3.5 million acres of temperate grasslands because biologists have determined that a mixed-grass prairie would need to be that large in order to be a fully-functioning ecosystem with biodiversity and to endure localized natural phenomena like fire, disease and severe winter storms. The Reserve currently administers more than 353,000 acres of deeded private land and leased public land.

The Reserve is home to more than two dozen species of raptors, including Burrowing Owls, Ferruginous and Swainson's Hawks, Prairie and Peregrine Falcons, and Northern Harriers. Upland game birds include Gray Partridge, Greater Sage Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sharp-tailed Grouse, and Wild Turkey.

Perching birds, or Passeriformes, are the largest group of birds on the Reserve. Combined with Kingfishers and Woodpeckers, they add vibrancy and a symphony of songs to the grassland ecosystem. Because of their size and abundance, we will be challenged to identify the birds by sight and sound, whether sitting on a grassy hilltop or driving slowly with the windows down.

For grassland birds, expect to see Baird's Sparrow, Mountain Plover, Lark Bunting, McCown's Longspur, Chestnut Collared Longspur, and Sprague's Pipit.

Situated on the edge of the prairie pothole region, the Reserve landscape is dotted with ponds, streams, and wetlands providing waterfowl with crucial seasonal habitat. The Reserve is home to 27 species of waterfowl according to the most recent surveys. We will be on the lookout for rare species—including Barrow's Goldeneye, Cinnamon Teal, Hooded Merganser, and Wood Duck. The American Prairie Reserve bird list can be found at <https://www.prairiereserve.net/sites/default/files/APR-Birding-Checklist.pdf> Finally, we will keep an eye out for deer, elk, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, bobcats and bison.

Trip leaders are Beth Hill and Doug Thorsen. Contact Candace Beery (907) 306-6320 for more information.

InFARMatIon Pre-Trip

June 9, 2017

Itinerary: ½ day (4 hours)
Departing: 7 am June 9, 2017 from CMR High School,
228 17th Ave NW, Great Falls
Travelers: Limited to 8 guests
Cost: \$30 per Guest

The InFARMatIon Pre-Trip is a community Ag Advocacy Project to showcase Montana's rich agricultural production. The inspiration came from a similar project at Washington State University. Signs are placed in fields to identify the different crops growing in the area, helping to make the traveling public more aware of the agriculture around them.

The Electric City Future Farmers of America Chapter of Great Falls is working with Central Montana Tourism Region, as well as other contributors to sponsor this opportunity to learn about prairie habitat and agriculture. The link to the Central Montana tourism page about the pre-trip: <http://centralmontana.com/infarmation/>

The route is a loop through Cascade, Chouteau, and Judith Basin counties from Great Falls to Fort Benton (US Hwy 87), then to Stanford (MT Hwy 80) and back to Great Falls (US Hwy 87). For more information, call Kay Silk (406) 453-0545.

Missouri River Float Post-Festival Field Trip

Itinerary: ½ Day
Departing: June 12, 2017 from Great Falls, MT
Travelers: Limited to 16 Guests
Cost: \$160 per Guest

Join UMBA Chapter on an exciting birding adventure with beautiful mountain scenery on the Missouri River. This is a relatively leisurely float in the Wolf Creek Canyon area, with a fast current and a few riffles, with no rapids or white water. The cost includes lunch and transportation to the canyon. The trip is perfect for couples, individuals and families.

- Take a guided float trip on the scenic Missouri River
- Enjoy a private birding tour
- Partake of a delicious lunch
- Transportation to and from Great Falls

The Wolf Creek Canyon section of the Missouri is a beautiful area, rich in history, wildlife, bird life, and geological features. As you float through this dramatic canyon scenery, you will travel past sheer cliff walls of igneous rock, some over 300 vertical feet tall, beautiful forest, and meadow scenery, with historic Tower Rock. Each raft holds eight passengers. The total trip length is about 5 hours with about half the

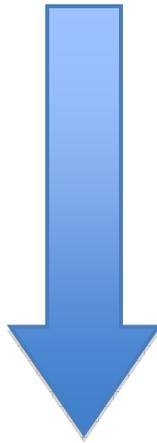
time on the water. The launch site is located 45 minutes from Great Falls, with the takeout site being about a 35 minute ride back.

This special trip focuses on the birds along the Missouri River including Osprey, Bald and Golden Eagles, Bullock's Oriole, Chestnut-Collared Longspur, Least Flycatcher, and Spotted Towhee. The leader is experienced river guide and birder Todd Ondick. Contact Candace Beery (907) 306-6320 for more information.

Other questions? please contact UMBA about the three UMBA chapter sponsored trips, at umbaudubon@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/uppermissouribreaksaudubon or www.umbaudubon.com

Interested in going on these fun and exciting trips?

**The registration form is below. Please fill it out,
write a check, and mail it to the UMBA Chapter.**



Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter Wings Across the Big Sky 2017 Pre and Post Trips Registration

Please fill out this form, include a check, and mail to:

Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon
PO BOX 2362
Great Falls, MT 59403

Please check the box for the trip you selected. Costs are per person

- American Prairie Reserve & Bowdoin NWR Pre-Trip \$750
 InFARMatIon Pre-trip \$30
 Missouri River Float Post-Trip \$160

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ (Land)
_____ (Mobile)

Address(city/zip): _____

Email: _____

Are you an UMBA member? _____ I need binoculars _____

Any information UMBA should know about you? _____

Office: Date received _____

Check number /amount \$ _____