

Bitterroot AUDUBON



MAY 2018

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 32, NO. 9

THE DIFFICULTY OF BECOMING A BREEDING OSPREY: Research Conducted by Raptor View Research Institute

By Rob Domenech and Adam Shreading

Raptor View Research Institute (RVRI) is a non-profit research and education organization founded by raptor expert, Rob Domenech in 2004, initially to study Golden Eagles and other raptors. In 2005, when a decision was made to remove the Milltown Dam and restore the watershed, Rob realized there was an opportunity to track the results of the cleanup with the help of Osprey. Osprey are the canaries in the coal mine when it comes to the health of that ecosystem.



Courtesy Raptor View Research Institute

In 2006, Raptor View began testing the blood of nestling Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) for mercury and other heavy metals to establish contaminant status, pinpoint pollution hotspots, and assess the success of restoration efforts associated with past mining activities along the Clark Fork River in western Montana. They began using colored leg bands with unique alphanumeric combinations in 2010 to investigate where these Osprey travel each winter, and where juveniles disperse. They bolstered these efforts in 2012, when they began instrumenting Osprey families from three nests near Florence, Montana with GPS transmitters.



Courtesy Raptor View Research Institute

To date, they have tracked 10 adult breeding Osprey and 17 of their young from these nests. As predicted from re-sightings of their color-banded Osprey, GPS tracked individuals wintered in Mexico, northern Central America, and along the Gulf Coast. Though approximately half of their GPS instrumented nestlings survive their initial meandering fall migration and first winter, they have yet to document one successfully producing a clutch of their own young. Similarly, they have yet to document a successful nesting effort by any of the 203 color-banded nestlings from their larger regional study. These results may suggest the process of becoming a breeding Osprey is longer and more arduous than they expected when they began their study. Osprey hold a special place in the hearts and minds of those of us in the Bitterroot Valley. Many of you have participated in Osprey nest monitoring by “adopting a nest” or watching webcams trained on nests. It is research such as that of RVRI that allows us to learn much more about the actual status of this beloved bird. Adam and Rob will share their findings in depth at the Bitterroot Audubon meeting Monday, May 21st at the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge. See details below.



Courtesy Raptor View Research Institute

Adam Shreading graduated from the University of Montana in 2009 with a degree in Wildlife Biology. He began working exclusively with raptors in 2007, and has monitored populations of various species across Montana. Adam first came to RVRI as a seasonal field biologist during the fall migration of 2010, and became increasingly involved in RVRI field studies over the next two years. Since becoming a full-time member of their team in August 2012, Adam has been a valuable asset in the planning, execution, and reporting of RVRI field-based activities.



Courtesy Raptor View Research Institute

Rob Domenech, Executive Director of Raptor View Research Institute, began exploring much of western Montana during the 1990s to locate a suitable site for establishing the first mountaintop raptor migration banding study in Montana. He founded RVRI in 2004 to facilitate this ongoing in-depth research of Golden Eagle and other raptor migration ecology. His work includes standardized migration counts, satellite tracking, feather isotope analysis, wing-tagging, morphometric analysis, examination of blood contaminant levels and more. RVRI's data

and analysis has contributed to numerous studies, some of which have been published in peer review journals such as *The Journal of Raptor Research*, *The Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology* and *Northwestern Naturalist*. Rob graduated from the University of Montana in 2002 with a Wildlife Biology degree. When not in the field, you can find Rob promoting awareness of raptor ecology to youth and community groups. Rob enjoys whitewater kayaking, snowboarding, mountain biking, hiking and bird watching.

COME JOIN BITTERROOT AUDUBON SOCIETY MONDAY, MAY 21ST, 7:00 P.M. AT THE LEE METCALF WILDLIFE REFUGE FOR THIS SPECIAL END OF THE YEAR PROGRAM. THE REFUGE IS LOCATED NORTH OF STEVENSVILLE JUST OFF OF THE EASTSIDE HIGHWAY ON WILDFOWL LANE. COME TO THE VISITORS' CENTER. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED. BE SURE TO COME EARLY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FANTASTIC BIRDS AND WATERFOWL AT THE REFUGE, INCLUDING OSPREY!! Contact Kay Fulton (360-8664) for more information.

Letter from the President

By Becky Peters, BAS President



Bill and I have signed up for the Montana Audubon Bird Festival, this year held in Kalispell. I don't think we have missed a Montana Audubon festival since we moved to Montana. At the first one we went to, I walked around with my mouth hanging open – so much to learn, so many experts, and “could you tell me the name of that bird again? And again?” LBB/LBJ became my favorite terms. Since then we have gained the right kind of binoculars and a great scope, been on many field trips and traveled to other states mainly for birding reasons. All because of that first bird festival!

Now we are looking at branching out to other states' bird festivals. People have bucket lists of sights to see, goals to achieve, etc. We are starting a bucket list of Bird Festivals to attend. So why attend a bird festival? My main reasons are to be with experts in the area and to learn from other birders. I also get to see new parts of the country, attend workshops, go to areas I wouldn't normally get to visit, make new friends, and learn how other Audubon groups are helping their environment and their local birds' habitats. There are large festivals, small ones, one

day long festivals (less expensive), and week-long festivals.

Here's a link listing bird festivals clear to June 2019: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/birding-festivals/> And this link takes you to festivals up to August 2018 (with some repeats)

<http://drollyankees.com/birding-festivals-and-events/> This link lets you find a festival by putting in the month and the state you want to visit: <https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/explorer/festivals/finder.php>

If you like to bird alone then a festival isn't for you because birding festivals are definitely social happenings. I know for sure, for Bill and me, we get to see more birds than if we had gone to the same places by ourselves. I think we will always be learning. Here's to good birding for you during these summer months. And some of you I'll see up in Kalispell June 9th and 10th!! To everyone – we will see you at the Hamilton Farmers Market when you come to buy our astonishingly beautiful 2019 BAS Calendar!!

**ANNOUNCEMENT: GREAT NEWS!!!!!!
THE NEW, MAGNIFICENT 2019 BAS
CALENDAR GOES ON SALE JUNE 30,
2018!!!! YIPEE!!!!**

By Kay Fulton

Thanks to the talented Bitterroot Photographers who have once again donated close to 400 outstanding photos, and to the hard work of the 2018 Calendar Committee, chaired by Becky Peters, the 2019 calendar is in the final stages of development.

Beginning June 30th, it will be available at the BAS Booth at this year's Farmers' Market EVERY SATURDAY MORNING FROM JUNE 30 TO OCTOBER 13th.

As many of you know, that means that we will need a large number of volunteers, (80 to be exact) to help sell the calendar for 16 weeks. We have two crews of two people each Saturday morning to work two shifts (7:45 to 10:30) & (10:30 to 1:00) plus a Crew Leader. So you can see that the sales are labor intensive and WE NEED YOUR HELP, PLEASE!!! Kay Fulton will be coordinating the Volunteer sign-up sheet beginning at our May 21st meeting. PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP. Kay's phone number is 360-8664 and email is kavinmt@cybernet1.com.

Vaux's Swift Watch

By Rosan Stover

Every Saturday through May, Rosan Stover will be in Hamilton on 3rd street across from the Fire Hall (1 block south of Main Street) about 8 pm to observe and count the Vaux's Swifts as they gather around sunset and suddenly fly down into the Fire Hall chimney to roost. On May 5, she counted 75 birds enter over a 12-minute time span. The data is reported to the Swift Research website at www.vauxhappening.org.

You are welcome to join Rosan to observe the swifts. Birds enter the chimney every evening, so if Saturdays don't work for you, try another evening.

For more information, contact Rosan Stover at 363-6901.

What's the story, Story?

By Jim Story

Question: What is torpor and how is it used by hummingbirds?

Answer: Hummingbirds use a tremendous amount of energy when active during the day. But, even sleeping hummingbirds have huge metabolic demands that must be met to survive the night. To reduce their energy demands on cold nights, hummingbirds may become torpid; that is, they go into a deep sleep which lowers their metabolic rate by as much as 95%. This lowered metabolic rate also causes a cooled body temperature. A hummingbird's nighttime body temperature is maintained at a level that is barely sufficient to maintain life. Hummingbirds don't become torpid every night, but torpidity is apparently frequently used when nights are cold.

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

Citizen Science Opportunity: Need an excuse to chase alpine birds?

By Amy Seaman, MT Audubon

Here is an opportunity to look for Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches! Montana Audubon is partnering with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks throughout western Montana to discover just where our Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches are active and breeding. Surveying for Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches takes place in high-alpine areas of southwestern and western Montana (MFWP Regions 2, 3, 4, 5) during the months of

June, July, and August. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches nest in crevices in cliffs, rockslides and talus among glaciers and snowfields above timberline. They often nest on north or northeast facing slopes. In summer, they are commonly associated with the edges of tundra snowfields as they forage on windblown insects and seeds deposited on the surfaces of snow, wet soil, and newly exposed tundra from receding snow. Surveys require a walk below north-facing cliffs, above tree line where there is an abundance of tundra, boulder and late season snow pack. The toe of boulder fields are also good survey sites. Early morning walking transects are used to survey this species. There is an abundance of sites in the Bitterroot Mountains and surrounding ranges.

For this project, and others like it including surveys for Chimney Swifts, Black Swifts and Long-billed

Curlews, we are launching a new citizen science web-portal to easily access all survey information including, protocols, data sheets, site information, identification study materials, and more. Access the portal by visiting www.mtaudubon.org and searching for “MT citizen bird surveys”.

If you'd like to participate in this project please determine which region in Montana you'd like to visit, using the FWP regional map: <http://fwp.mt.gov/regions/>. Surveys will be conducted in Regions 2, 3, 4, and 5, and your contact for the project will vary by region. Please contact Amy Seaman at aseaman@mtaudubon.org or 406-210-9449 to get started.

This is a great excuse to get in some high-elevation, #extremebirding, in Montana!



Courtesy Bitterroot Valley Winter Eagle Project

Montana Landowners Are Hooked on Luring Eagles with Deer Carcasses—Carrion is key to studying the abundance of Bald and Golden Eagles—and a bevy of other wildlife—overwintering in the Bitterroot Valley.

By Alisa Opar, National Audubon, Magazine Article, Spring 2018

The eagles seem to be taunting us. We've been hiding inside a ramshackle century-old carriage house in Montana's Bitterroot Valley since dawn on a frigid January morning. In the two hours that have passed, five Bald Eagles have settled in the barren branches of nearby cottonwoods. I'm jonesing for the thermos of coffee I foolishly left in the car, and photographer Celia Talbot Tobin has to pee. Barb Garten, whose property we're on, is waiting in her house across the field, ready to zip over when the

coast is clear. No one can leave or enter this makeshift bird blind for risk of scaring off the raptors, which we're trying to catch as part of a multi-year project on the Bald and Golden Eagles that overwinter in this narrow sliver of the Rocky Mountains.

The bait is a sliced-open deer carcass staked to the ground 20 yards from us, and tall grasses to one side camouflage a remote-controlled net. Dozens of Black-billed Magpies diligently tear at the whitetail's frozen remains, but the eagles are wary. Finally, one drops down, 10 yards from the carcass.

Adrenaline washes away my grogginess. Talbot Tobin forgets about her bladder. Even Rob Domenech, who runs Montana-based [Raptor View Research Institute](#) (RVRI) and has trapped hundreds of eagles, is flooded with nervous excitement. “My heart rate is going up,” he says, sitting down to stop himself from pacing in front of the tiny windows and possibly spooking the bird. RVRI’s Mary Scofield has assumed a meditative mien: legs spread slightly, hands loosely holding the net-launcher remote, eyes fixed on the carcass, breath steady. Her colleague Brian Busby softly narrates the bird’s movements. “Here it comes, it’s taking a couple of steps,” he whispers. “It’s looking around . . . Oh—it hopped back a few feet.”

We watch as the Bald Eagle stalks forward comically, wings hunched up like a corny Dracula impersonator, only to retreat with a hop-flight. Thirty excruciating minutes tick by. The portable heater runs out of propane. “They don’t get to be an adult by being stupid and careless,” says Domenech. Though, he adds, Golden Eagles are less cautious. “Sometimes you’ll be focused on a ‘Baldie’ doing this slow approach, and you’ll look over at the carcass and see that a Golden Eagle dropped out of the sky and is on top of it.” All heads swivel to the carrion. Nope. Only magpies.

Finally, the wary scavenger alights on the exposed rib cage. A few beats later there’s a loud “Pop!” as Scofield fires the net launcher. She and Busby burst out of the building. I emerge 30 seconds later, confused to see them each holding a magpie. The eagle, they say, slipped out under the net. They release the indignant-looking corvids they’d caught instead, then repack the net. It was a rare miss. From December through March the team trapped and banded 24 eagles, and affixed satellite transmitters to six adult Golden Eagles—the species of graver conservation concern.

As just a few hours spent in the field makes clear, tagging takes a lot of effort, plus some luck—and the team can trap only a fraction of the raptors that roam this narrow valley. So the Bitterroot Winter Eagle Project has devised a creative way to log each and every visitor lured by the roadkill bait: Build a volunteer army. This winter, about 30 tracts of private property hosted carcass stations, each equipped with a motion-detecting camera. Through the community science site [zooniverse.org](#), thousands of people across the globe are helping

classify the species captured in hundreds of thousands of wildlife-triggered photos; while eagles are the primary focus, the pictures reveal the wide array of creatures crossing these lands, including wolves and coyotes, lynx and mountain lions. It’s only the second year of the project, a collaboration between RVRI, [Bitterroot Audubon Society](#), the research institute [MPG Ranch](#), and 200 private landowners, but people near and far are hooked.



*Courtesy Celia Talbot Tobin
Hidden inside a former carriage house, RMVT's Eric Rasmussen, Mary Scofield, and Brian Busby look for eagles.*

Garten, the landowner, spends several hours a day watching and photographing the eagles the carcass attracts, and eagerly awaits the latest camera-trap pictures the project coordinator shares with her. One day, she tells me, a Golden and eight Bald Eagles dined together. A bobcat once camped out on a carcass for days, deterring the eagles. And just three days earlier, Domenech’s team had captured two Bald Eagles here, and Garten had helped tag a 14-pound raptor. “It’s been a thrill. How many people get to hold an eagle?” she says. “It’s so cool to see these mighty birds right here, to look out my window and watch them. And to know that we’re helping to make sure they stay healthy and mighty.”

Drive along Highway 93 tracing the floor of the Bitterroot Valley, in winter, and chances are you won’t see a single eagle; you’ll see loads of them. They perch like sentinels in roadside trees. They soar over ridges, titans that seemingly possess the power to fly without flapping their wings. This 95-mile-long stretch nestled between the Bitterroot Range and Sapphire Mountains attracts dozens upon dozens of eagles. Bald Eagles fish in the Bitterroot River, and both species pick off rodents, jackrabbits, and gamebirds that abound in the region’s sprawling agricultural fields. And, of course, they scavenge roadkill—an especially enticing option when rivers are iced over and hard snowpack inhibits hunting.



Courtesy Celia Talbot Tobin

Rob Domenech, director of the Raptor View Research Institute, collects discharged netting after an unsuccessful attempt to capture a Bald Eagle.

Seeing the birds is one thing; understanding how they use the landscape, figuring out how many return each winter, and assessing their health requires a coordinated effort. That information is especially of interest when it comes to Golden Eagles, says Kate Stone, an MPG Ranch Biologist who started the project.



Courtesy Bitterroot Valley Winter Eagle Project

A wide array of animals unwittingly take selfies via motion-detecting cameras placed at dozens of carcass stations set up around the Bitterroot Valley. From left to right: Two bobcats inspect carrion; a gray wolf wanders by; Bald Eagles tussle for a prime spot at the buffet.

Bald Eagles have made a remarkable comeback, rebounding in the Lower 48 to more than [70,000](#) individuals from fewer than [420](#) breeding pairs in the early 1960s. While widespread use of DDT, which contaminated fish and thinned eggshells, brought the birds to the brink, the pesticide didn't hit Golden Eagles nearly as hard, likely due to their preference for mammalian prey. But in the West, where three-fourths of the nation's estimated [40,000](#) Golden Eagles reside, the birds seem to have declined, and the bird is listed as a "species of concern" in [Montana](#). Counts at [hawkwatch surveys](#) indicate around a one-third drop in numbers in the past quarter century. The Bitterroot project is helping to identify possible contributors to the declines, where the birds head come spring, and critical habitat here in winter—

information that's more important than ever, says Stone, given the [fast-expanding](#) human population in the valley.

From the start, Stone knew private property owners would be essential to the project. "Eagles rely heavily on private lands in winter," Stone says. "So collecting data on private land is really important."



Courtesy Celia Talbot Tobin

Kate Stone and Eric Rasmussen swap in a fresh deer carcass at one of the remote camera sites used to track the abundance and activity of Bald and Golden Eagles.

Throughout the winter, Stone and her MPG Ranch colleague Eric Rasmussen visit the stations regularly to restock carrion, replace camera batteries, and download photos. Eagles and other wildlife pick a carcass clean in mere days. The project went through 132 deer this year alone. Most of the remains came from the Montana Department of Transportation, which would otherwise [compost](#) the animals; Stone, Rasmussen, and the RVRI employees also have permits to pick up roadkill.



Courtesy Celia Talbot Tobin

Kate Stone (left) regularly checks the cameras (right) placed around the valley to download photos and make sure the batteries have plenty of juice.

As for the potentially questionable practice of providing meals for wildlife, Stone points out that they only run the project in winter, when bears are hibernating. And it's the time of year when eagles would typically feed on roadside carrion and gut piles discarded by hunters. "They'd be eating it anyway," she says.

Except, maybe, in the case of the horse. When a neighbor's mare slipped on the ice and broke its neck this winter, the owner donated it to the project. Stone installed the 1,000-pound beast at the carcass station by her house. It quickly drew crowds, avian and human. Thirty eagles descended on it at once—a spectacle that her Amish neighbors pulled up in their buggies to watch. “The school bus even stopped,” she says.

Across the valley, says Stone, people have come to feel a sort of ownership of the eagles.

Stone promised to introduce me to one of these proud locals, Barbara Lanoue, that evening, at a public event about the project in Stevensville, one of the towns in the valley. “She missed a doctor’s appointment today because she was so engrossed with ‘her’ eagles,” Stone tells me.

“I didn’t miss it,” Lanoue corrects me, when I ask her about the appointment. “But I was late.”

Michelle Falivene, another landowner with a carcass station, is set to jet off to Hawaii in a few days. But she’s tempted to cancel her vacation. “They just brought a fresh carcass to our property,” she says. “I wonder, what am I going to miss?” Multiple eagles might feast at once. A mountain lion or wolf might stop by and nibble in the night, caught in the act by the motion-detection camera.



Courtesy Celia Talbot Tobin

At a gathering at a bar in Stevensville, Montana, Kyle Barber pulls up the people-powered research platform Zooniverse as part of a demonstration to show volunteers how to navigate the website and tag the wildlife they identify in photos.

Roughly a quarter of the 30 people who have gathered at the Stevi Cafe have carcass stations on their property. A handful, including members of Bitterroot Audubon, have brought laptops so they can log onto Zooniverse and process photos while sipping beers from Montana breweries with fellow volunteers.

Stone leads newbies through a demo projected on a flat-screen TV, while Zooniverse volunteer Kyle Barber navigates the site on a computer. He selects a photo, and Stone walks the crowd through an identification: six magpies and a Golden Eagle. The raptor’s face is hidden, but you can tell it’s not a juvenile, she says, and that it is a Bald Eagle because its legs are entirely feathered. Stone also stresses that people should note if an eagle has leg bands and the color—which indicate where it was banded—or if it’s sporting a wing tag or satellite transmitter. That information helps track which birds are returning to the valley each winter and where they hail from.

In 2018, nine eagles were re-sighted. The camera traps spied five marked Bald Eagles: three adults banded in the Bitterroot, a juvenile banded on California’s Santa Catalina Island, and an adult banded in 2008 outside Flagstaff, Arizona. Of the four Golden Eagles caught on camera, one had been banded by the U.S. Geological Survey, and the other three were from the Bitterroot project—two boasting satellite transmitters, and another with a wing tag.

Seven user’s IDs have to match in order for a photo to be deemed processed. Thankfully, online participation extends far beyond this passionate, but small, crowd: More than 4,300 volunteers worldwide have processed about 40,000 images, and identified more than 410,000 animals. “We couldn’t do this without the volunteers,” Stone says. “If we had to do all of the analysis ourselves, it would be prohibitive. There’s just no way we’d get it done.”



Courtesy Celia Talbot Tobin

Columns, left to right: Barbara and Greg Lanoue have a carcass station on their land and host Zooniverse nights at the Stevi Cafe, their restaurant and bar; another carcass station lives on the property of farmers Dan and Sari Kerslake; Becky Peters, of Bitterroot Audubon, and Kyle Barber tag eagles and other wildlife on Zooniverse.

Stone chalks up the impressive number of volunteers to people's fascination with the magnificent raptors. "Everyone has an eagle story," she says.

She's using that shared interest to start a conversation in the Bitterroot and surrounding areas about one of the main threats to overwintering eagles: lead poisoning. Of the 171 Golden and Bald Eagles RVRI has trapped in the valley since 2011, 87 percent had elevated levels of the heavy metal, a neurotoxin that's [deadly](#) at high concentrations. They primarily ingest lead from bullet fragments in gut piles left by hunters. It's clear that the birds are being exposed to the toxin locally, says Domenech, since it's only detectable in blood for two weeks. (Eventually it makes its way into bone.) "Our community outreach efforts focus on how using copper ammunition can lessen lead exposure," Stone says. "We're not trying to stop anyone from hunting."

"We grew up here, our families hunt, and we never knew about the lead until this project," says Lanoue, who owns the Stevi Cafe with her husband. They aren't alone; multiple people milling about had also only learned about lead poisoning in eagles through the project, and a couple of hunters noted that they were switching their ammo. It's not a political thing, and a couple of people bristled at the notion of being called conservationists. "Everyone is here," Lanoue says, "because of the eagles."



Courtesy Celia Talbot Tobin

RVRI staff are able to trap only a fraction of the birds caught on camera; they aim to snare unmarked adults, all of which receive leg bands and either a satellite transmitter or a softball-size numbered wing tag. "We never instrument eagles that have been wing-tagged," says Rob Domenech. "We feel it is simply too much paraphernalia to saddle a bird with."

The day after the near-miss at the carriage house, the team captures a Golden Eagle at another site.

Once the bird is deftly removed from the net, a hood is placed over its eyes to keep it calm, and someone always holds it securely. Unthinkingly, I reach out and touch its sharp talons, which are longer than my fingers, but it doesn't flinch. The bird is outfitted with leg bands and a blue wing tag that proclaims it #361. Morphological measurements, including tail length and body weight—9 pounds—indicate that it's likely a male. And a portable lead testing kit reveals that the concentration of the neurotoxin in this raptor's blood is 55 µg/dL, far above the safe limit of 10 µg/dL.

Once the measurements and tests are done, Domenech forces several pieces of raw meat warmed in water into the bird's crop, blasé about putting his fingers in the powerful beak. "We want to send him off with a full meal, so we don't cause him additional stress," he says. When Domenech tosses the raptor into the air, it flaps furiously, briefly touches down, and then disappears over a hill.

The eagles that overwinter in the Bitterroot Valley are just settling into their breeding grounds now. Nobody knows where birds with wing tags, like #361, have landed. But the paths of those with satellite transmitters has been mapped down to the foot. Demetrious, a male Golden Eagle the RVRI team captured this year, opted to stay close, taking up residence in a forested area about 10 miles east of Missoula, Montana. [Judy](#), a female fitted with a satellite transmitter in January 2017, retraced the journey she made last spring, covering some 1,750 miles in three weeks to arrive in wilderness south of Anchorage, Alaska. Whether they migrated just a few miles or a thousand, the eagles will go about the serious business of breeding, rearing, and fledgling chicks.

Come late fall, when the eagles take to the wing and head back to the Bitterroot Valley, humans won't factor into their decision. But plenty of people, from landowners ready for the revival of carcass stations to Zooniverse volunteers curious to see what another winter brings, will be anxiously awaiting their return.

TEACHER
Naturalist
LEADER Conservationist

A passion for living things fueled his entire life. He made learning about our natural environment accessible and meaningful. It is in this spirit that the Byron Weber Memorial Scholarship will be awarded.

BYRON WEBER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

\$1000 per semester will be awarded a qualified candidate by the **Bitterroot Audubon Society**.

Eligibility:

- ~ Currently attending a Montana College/University (4 year degree program)
- ~ At least a sophomore status
- ~ Majoring in a Natural Resource Field
- ~ Good Academic standing
- ~ Financial Need

How to apply:

Go to **www.bitterrootaudubon.org**

Applications must be postmarked:

- ~ No later than June 1, 2018 for Fall Semester award
- ~ No later than December 1, 2018 for Spring Semester award

ELECTION OF BAS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2018–2019, MONDAY, MAY 21, 2018

2018 NOMINEES FOR BAS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS:

President:	Becky Peters (2-year term)
Vice President:	Mike Daniels (1-year term)
Secretary:	John Ormiston (1-year term)
Treasurer:	Jim Story (1-year term)

BOARD MEMBERS AND ROLES:

(All positions are a 1-year term)

Website &

Citizen Science:	Kate Stone
Membership:	Heather Miller (NEW)
Programs:	Kay Fulton
Newsletter:	Sara Ashline
Education:	Betsy Ballard
Field Trips:	Michelle Long
Scholarships:	Skip Horner
At Large:	Judy Hoy
At Large:	Susan Nelson
At Large:	Michelle Falivene (NEW)



June 8-10, 2018

Red Lion Hotel, Kalispell, MT

Montana Audubon's 19th annual Wings Across the Big Sky bird festival is nearly here! Have you registered yet? This event brings together birders and other nature enthusiasts from around the state for a weekend of camaraderie, amazing field trips and informational presentations about Montana's diverse birds and landscapes. The festival is co-sponsored by Flathead Audubon.

This year for our Nature Adventure Tour festival fundraiser, we're offering over 20 remarkable experiences! Winning bids can enjoy adventures such as: a 5-day guided birding tour in Southeast Arizona; weekend getaway at a secluded Flathead Lake cabin; "birds and blooms" excursion in and around Grand Teton Park; an autumn birding tour of California's Central Valley; high country raptor survey in Northwest Montana and many more!

Also on tap are fun festival standbys like the "Cakes for Conservation" dessert auction, field trips to beautiful locations around the Flathead region, and informative talks about birds and conservation in

Montana. To register online, visit www.mtaudubon.org, call 406.443.3949 or email at info@mtaudubon.org.

Calendar of Events

- May 21:** THE DIFFICULTY OF BECOMING A BREEDING OSPREY: Research Conducted by Raptor View Research Institute, by Rob Domenech and Adam Shreading, Audubon Meeting, Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT, 7PM, Board Mtg. 5PM.
- Jun 1:** BAS's Byron Weber fall semester scholarship applications due, see bitterrootaudubon.org for details.
- Jun 8-10:** 19th Annual "Wings Across the Big Sky Festival." Kalispell, MT. See Newsletter for details and MTaudubon.org

News and Notes

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 and Instagram

If you use Facebook or Instagram, please look for Bitterroot Audubon and "Like" us!

Bird Shots



Courtesy Mike Daniels

Rufous Hummingbird.

BITTERROOT AUDUBON
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Officers

President	Becky Peters*	369-5210
Vice-Pres.	Mike Daniels*	
Secretary	John Ormiston*	363-5464
Treasurer	Jim Story*	493-9813

Directors & Committee Chairs

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Programs	Kay Fulton*	
Website	Kate Stone*	381-1115
Education		
Nwsltr. Eds. &	Sara Ashline* baseditors@gmail.com	
Distribution	Karen Griffing	
Hospitality	Rosan Stover	
Membership	Susie Duff*	961-5455
Publicity	Dave Lockman	777-2929
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Audubon	Becky Peters*	
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Aud. Adv.	Betsy Ballard*	
Field Trips	Michelle Long*	
At large	Judy Hoy*	777-2487
At large	Susan Nelson*	

* Board Member

EMAIL: contactus@bitterrootaudubon.org

WEBSITE: www.BitterrootAudubon.org

INSTAGRAM: @bitterroot_audubon
and on Facebook!

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: _____
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