

Bitterroot AUDUBON



SEPTEMBER 2018

NEWSLETTER

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AN EVENING WITH AWARD WINNING NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER MIKE DANIELS

By Mike Daniels and Kay Fulton

Bitterroot Audubon Society invites you to be wowed by outstanding photos by Mike Daniels and to learn some of his photography techniques and secrets on Monday, September 17th at 7:00 P.M.

Birds and photography have been Mike's passions for as long as he can remember. He is not sure when he became a birder but it was a long time ago! He says the strange thing for an inland birder is that his favorite bird is the American Greater Flamingo followed by the American Dipper. His goal is not only to have a life list of birds seen but to also get pictures of them. He is at 253 species, currently!



White-breasted Nuthatch.

Courtesy Mike Daniels

Mike started his adventure in photography with a darkroom in his bathroom in the early 1970's. He was the photo editor for his high school yearbook. That started him seeing the world in pictures. He was picked as the photographer to hike through the Scapegoat Wilderness study area and shoot slides for the Forest Service to use in its case to get a full wilderness designation for the area. Mike's published works include the cover and lead story of

Weed Times, the quarterly publication of the Montana Weed Control Association, an article in Missoula Valley Lifestyle magazine and research articles in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. He has won several awards for his photos in the Ernst Petersen Photo Competition at the Ravalli County Museum. Copies of Mike's pictures of the Roaring Lion Fire from 2016 were mounted and framed by the Bitterroot National Forest Service and given to the Fire Fighters in appreciation for their work and sacrifices.



Courtesy Mike Daniels

Roaring Lion Fire, 2016.

Throughout his extensive photography work Mike has experimented with a wide range of techniques and equipment. He has studied lighting, cameras, weather, materials to print on and a wide range of ways to share photos once he has taken the perfect picture; such as making photo books & calendars, printing on canvas and metal and even making jigsaws.

In his presentation on September 17th, he will discuss the components of a good photo, how to take a good photo and what to do with a good photo. He will also talk about cameras, cell phones and other equipment.

As a very special treat, BAS will conduct two unique raffles after Mike's presentation: each raffle ticket will cost \$5 each, or 5 for \$20. The money raised will go to BAS:

RAFFLE #1: "A CUSTOMIZED NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP WITH MIKE"
(time of day and duration to be arranged with the winner)

RAFFLE #2: A 500 PIECE JIGSAW PUZZLE MADE WITH ONE OF MIKE'S AMAZING BIRD PHOTOS (there will be two to choose from).

Don't miss this opportunity for an evening with an expert nature photographer: Monday, September 17th, 7:00 P.M. at the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge in the Visitors' Center, just off of the Eastside Highway north of Stevensville on Wildfowl Lane. The Public is invited. Contact Kay for more information (360-8664).



Courtesy Mike Daniels

Warbling Vireo.

Letter from the President

By Becky Peters, BAS President

Welcome to another fantastic year for Bitterroot Audubon - 2018-2019!!

Not only do we have a great BAS Board of Directors to serve you but we have you - a great membership to serve our valley. The work that we do together has and will enrich the habitats not only for our local birds but also for migrating birds. Your board of directors has been spending your money wisely. We have been sending kids to summer camps, buying bird stickers to give out to kids at the markets (which is a blast!), educating families about the perils of bailing twine at the Teller Youth Expo, increasing our university scholarship for a Montana



Environmental Studies student, working with the local land trust and water forums to keep our various habitats clean and healthy, and many more projects! As to your BAS Board you probably know that Fred Weisbecker has stepped away from the Board after serving it so long and so well. We have not let go of him yet from our valley but it may be soon. We wish him the BEST of health and many happy miles of horseback riding. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to another Board member, Thomas Arminio. He was a very brave soul who lost a long fight with cancer in March. I am quite sure he is up somewhere on a cloud pedaling away on his 'fixie.'

That brings us to some new beginnings: we welcome from last spring two new Board Members, Michele Falivene (Mimi) and Heather Miller. Be sure to look for them and give them a great big bird call that they'll have to identify. (You have to scare the new folks to get them started off right.) Also back with us you will have noticed a familiar face of Mike Daniels. Please don't scare him because he already had a bad scare this summer and we don't want to lose him!!

I am honored to be your President for the next two years and that means that you are stuck with me for the next two years. Be prepared for more letters from me about climate change, habitat loss, where our environment is under attack, our tenuous bird population, warm waterways, etc. I will also include what each and every one of us can do to help - solutions we can actually implement!! We are useful, we are hopeful, and we are powerful! Now we have some very informative programs all set for you this year, once again thanks to Kay Fulton! Don't miss a one of them.

And remember - in order to do so many great things, we need to bring in money. So be sure to purchase our beautiful, exquisite, stupendous 2019 BAS Calendar!! And tell all your friends to do so as well!

Get your 2019 Bitterroot Audubon Calendar!

By Becky Peters

Nationally famous local photographers who have taken glorious pictures of our nationally famous local birds in our nationally famous local Bitterroot Valley. Each year this calendar is beyond words! Proceeds go to our education, conservation and scholarship funds.

You can pick one up for \$15 at the Bitterroot Audubon meetings, at the Hamilton Farmer's Market, Stevensville Farmer's Market or at these fine

Bitterroot establishments:

Hamilton: Bitterroot Drug, Art Focus, Hamilton Gifts, Robbins' Hallmark, Wild About Pets, and Noah's Ark in Victor. Stevensville: Valley Drug and Variety, Ace Hardware, Florence: Ace Hardware



Sponsors of this year's calendar include: Allegra, Stevensville Country Store, SBS Solar, Earth and Wood, Ford's Department Store, Bitterroot Drug, Rod's Auto and Align, Sears, Friends of Lee Metcalf, Empire Landscaping, Ace Hardware Florence, Ace Hardware Stevensville, and Bitterroot Nursery.

ANNOUNCEMENT: SPECIAL FIELD TRIP FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK 1805 EXPEDITION IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH SPECIFICALLY FOR INTERESTED BITTERROOT AUDUBON MEMBERS AND THE BITTERROOT BACKCOUNTRY WOMEN

By Kay Fulton

Ted Hall, a licensed Professional Engineer and native of Montana has spent thousands of hours over a seven-year period researching the 407 miles of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's 1805 westward land trail from Camp Fortunate near Dillon, MT to Canoe Camp in Orofino, Idaho. One of his most intriguing finds, especially for those of the Bitterroot, has been a "Descent Trail" down from "Lost Pass," which is on what is now known as Lost Trail Ski Area. Numerous people and groups have worked to clear and mark this trail. A co-explorer with Ted is retired BYU Botany Professor, Blaine Furniss, who has done extensive core sampling of trees on this route and determined that many of them are "Witness Trees" meaning that they were

alive when Lewis and Clark traveled through this area. Ted and Blaine have offered to lead us on this wonderful, historical trail.

The Trip will begin at 9:00 A.M. at the Lost Trail Hot Springs parking lot just off of Highway 93. Participants will meet there and then consolidate into as few cars as possible to drive up to the beginning of the trail. The total trail is 6 miles down to the bottom but Ted prefers to go down just 3 miles or less and then come back up. Within the first mile of the hike on fairly level ground, you will encounter the Witness Trees. Some people may choose to just go to that point.

Interested participants should contact Micki Long, BAS Field Trip Coordinator, who will coordinate carpooling to the meeting site. Her phone number is 440-221-5256 & email is mickilong@gmail.com

Addendum: Ted Hall will be doing a couple of one evening presentations to local adult education programs and then leading the class on a field trip so there will be other opportunities to go on this trip as well as to hear Ted.

The first will be at Corvallis Adult Ed. 9/27, 6 – 8 PM with a hike on 9/29/18.

The second will be Darby Adult Ed. 10/4, 6 – 8 PM with hike on 10/6/18

At our BAS meeting on March 18, 2019, Ted will do a program for us on the entire 407 miles, titled "Trail Between the Rivers."

Check Out Montana eBird!

By David Cronenwett, Montana Audubon



Courtesy Bob Martinka

Rock Wren fledglings.

Montana Audubon launched its Montana eBird portal during our 19th annual Wings Across the Big Sky bird festival in Kalispell this past summer. On the website you can access a great deal of Montana-specific bird information on species, hotspots, recent

checklists and links to data collected by other eBirders across the state.

In addition, photos from local birders, sightings of uncommon birds and Montana Audubon's news feed can easily be found there.

Make Montana eBird your homepage today:
www.ebird.org/mt

What's the story, Story?

By Jim Story

Question: *Birds are often referred to as “feathered dinosaurs.” Is that an accurate term?*

Answer: Short answer: yes. Birds are undeniably the modified descendants of reptiles, as shown by their body structure and habit of laying eggs out of water. The fossil record of birds is scarce due to the hollow bones of birds, which disintegrated before fossilization. Fortunately, some excellent specimens of Archaeopteryx, a raven-sized, 150 million-year-old animal that had many traits of both birds and reptiles has contributed greatly to the understanding of bird origins. In addition to having claws and teeth, the animal had feathered wings and a “wishbone”, a structure unique to birds.

Archaeopteryx was a definite link between dinosaurs and birds, but the discovery in 1996 of a number of feathered non-avian dinosaurs and primitive birds in early Cretaceous rock formations in China added considerable new information to the bird-reptile connection. Most of the dinosaurs disappeared after the asteroid strike 66 million years ago. But, as stated in National Geographic (May 2018), birds are “the dinosaurs that didn’t die.” (info from Birder’s Handbook and National Geographic).

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

We are looking for wildlife transporters: Join the team!!

By Kate Stone

Many of the Bitterroot birds in need of rehabilitation and care have to make the trek north to Brooke Tanner at Wild Skies Raptor Center in Potomac. In 2017, Brooke cared for 32 raptors from the Bitterroot, including 4 eagles. Though she has a great network of volunteers, Brooke could surely use some more people to transport birds coming from the Bitterroot Valley. If you’d like to be put on a call list, please contact Wild Skies Raptor Center: 406-210-3468, 406-244-5422

montanawildskies@gmail.com.

Want to help but not sure about transporting wildlife? Brooke could also use donations of:

- Towels
- Animal Crates (L, XL, XXL)
- White vinegar
- Rubber Gloves

Contact Kate Stone if you want to donate any of these items and she’ll coordinate getting them to Brooke: 406-381-1115.



Courtesy Kate Stone

This Great Horned Owl was rescued in a yard in Corvallis. Three different teams transported the bird north. Brooke rehabbed it and it was successfully released back into the wild.

Calendar of Events

Sep 17: AN EVENING WITH AWARD WINNING NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER MIKE DANIELS, Audubon Meeting, Lee Metcalf NWR, Stevensville, MT, 7PM, Board Mtg. 5PM.

Sep 28: Lewis and Clark Expedition Field Trip

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 Kate Stone

Bitterroot Audubon member Jill Davies listens to the heartbeat of a Cedar Waxwing during a recent visit to the University of Montana's Bird Ecology Lab's fall songbird banding station on the MPG Ranch. Jill is one of many private landowners hosting an acoustic monitor to learn more about songbird migration in the valley.

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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
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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Audubon

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