

# Bitterroot AUDUBON



MARCH 2019

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 33, NO. 7

## THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION: UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL THE TRAIL BETWEEN THE RIVERS AND THE MYSTERY OF LOST PASS

By Ted Hall

Most of the historic Lewis and Clark Trail followed rivers from Washington D.C. to the Pacific Ocean, but there is one stretch of the trail where they had no rivers or boats. This is the only sustained overland segment of their journey, from the headwaters of the Missouri to the Columbia River. It is called the “trail between the rivers,” the 407-mile hike across the Rockies from Camp Fortunate to the Clearwater. Ted Hall, a retired Professional Engineer and native of Montana, has been a dedicated student of Lewis and Clark and their historic journey through “Our Backyard.” He has spent thousands of hours carefully researching these 407 miles by studying and “correlating Captain Clark’s hand drawn maps to USGS map segments that cover the same terrain and has corroborated the trail location by systematic ground field verification of recorded compass readings at key geographic formations identified on Clark’s maps.”



Lost Trail Pass.

Courtesy Ted Hall, [Lost Pass 1805](#)

Ted has written two Lewis and Clark land route books. His first book, *The Trail Between the Rivers*, can actually be used like a travel guide for anyone interested in retracing most of the footsteps of the Corps of Discovery although much of the trail has changed due to development, fires, privatization, etc. In fact, Memories Café in Corvallis, MT. is located close to where the Corps ate lunch September 8, 1805. There are several examples of close encounters to locations familiar to many of us.



Courtesy Ted Hall

*A Witness Tree. Fred Cooper (Smoke Jumpers), Jeff Kinderman (Smoke Jumpers), Mark Smith (BNF), Eric Winthers (BNF).*

His second book, *Lost Pass 1805*, is even more impressive in that it is a detailed groundtruth (field review) based look at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 1805 days of travel of the Expedition, when the Corps crossed the hardest part of the Rocky Mountains, the ascent on the current Idaho/Montana border (currently known as Lost Trail Pass), their campsite

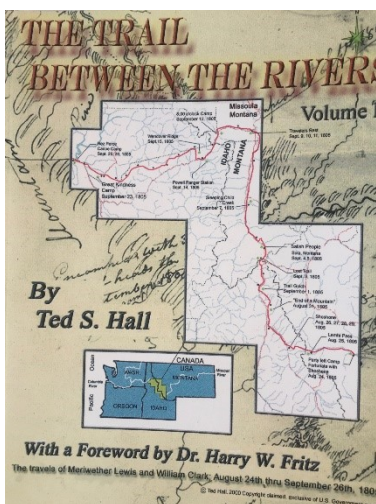
area and September 4<sup>th</sup> Descent Route into the Sula Valley from the “Divideing Ridge.” Ted utilized the extensive groundtruthing work by James West Gallogly, from Sula, MT, an early Sula District Forest Ranger for the US Forest Service, in determining the location of the trail.



*Courtesy Ted Hall*

*A "Fessant" as seen by the Corps of Discovery at Lost Pass.*

With all of this research available to Ted and many of his followers it was decided to actually map out the Descent Trail from the Ridge on Lost Pass. John Sprout was especially instrumental in initiating this effort and became the first project manager for a future “Descent Route” down the Camp Creek Ridge. The goal was to allow people to actually “touch our history and the sacrifices so many have made for the United States.” Many individuals and groups became involved in recreating the original trail utilizing journals, hand drawn maps and pictures and modern technology and common mountain sense. The Bitterroot National Forest



*Courtesy Ted Hall*

*The Trail Between the Rivers book cover.*

Darby/Sula District helped with the mapping and signage for 2.75 miles of the trail. The National Smoke Jumpers Association assisted with some of the clearing. Blaine Furniss, a retired Botany professor, has aged many of the trees and determined that several could have been standing in the exact spot passed by Sacajawea. These trees are being called “Witness Trees.” Now it is possible to hike the Lewis and Clark Trail and to hug a “Witness Tree!” Ted might even agree to take a group in the Spring. (see reprint of Field Trip Report by Ginny Deck October, 2018 BAS newsletter)

**Come join Bitterroot Audubon for this tour of history in our own backyard, Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M at the Forest Service/Natural Resources Building, 1801 North 1<sup>st</sup> (north end of Hamilton, west side of HWY 93) Enter the building on the west side. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED. Contact Kay Fulton for additional information (360-8664)**

### **Letter from the President**

*By Becky Peters, BAS President*



Spring will arrive? Sure it will! As I write this I’m looking out the window at about 3’ of snow all around our house. So spring is “scheduled” to arrive March 20th, 3:58 pm (Full “Worm” Moon with it!). Yet in reality, Montana will decide when spring arrives, right? No matter when it happens our Montana gardeners are getting things planned for spring blooms and summer bounty. And everybody else can also plan for planting things in order to care for our very important resident and incoming avian friends. As in past president’s letters I have tried to lay out things we can do to help our feathered ones, especially during some difficult times. So let’s remember to feed them the best of nature’s food! Some of you have been putting out suet all winter. Spring is also just as important for suet. It is migration time for them and they may have traveled far or still have far to go during this unpredictable weather so don’t stop with the suet. By the way, if it’s really still cold out, help the birds by cutting up the suet and then putting the big chunks in plastic mesh bags (those ones for tangelos, onions, potatoes, etc.) then put that into the wire baskets or simply hang by itself on a branch. It helps the birds get to the suet better. And while you are ordering your vegetable seeds don’t forget to order those flowers that grow so quickly: Bachelor buttons, Cosmos, Sunflowers, Flax, Marigolds, and

Zinnias. Then remember to let them go to seed in the fall. If you have a lot of room I hope you're thinking of planting spring blooming trees, like crabapples (for the insects, yum, yum!) and also dogwoods, and hawthorns and more berries and more fruit bearing trees and the list goes on. Also remember when the snow finally melts!!! to not rake up the fallen leaves that you find on the ground. Leave them there for the insects, which is leaving them there for the birds' dinner, thank you!! As you are looking around where you live to see what you have to offer the birds in the spring remember the basics of food, cover, and water. Those can even be obtained by people living in apartments. Can you offer them shade, a protected place to roost at nighttime, shelter from the elements as well at food and water? Let's all increase our environmental benevolence for the birds' sake. The message of care you give the birds will spread among them and your name will be remembered for generations. (I'm not kidding. Don't forget the University of Washington study with crows!!)

**Bitterroot Audubon and Five Valleys Audubon Field Trips**

Date	Location
Mar 23	Lee Metcalf NWR
Apr 6	Ninepipes (Short-eared Owls)
Apr 27	Brown's Lake
May 19 (Sun)	Bandy Ranch
May 25,26	Freezeout Lake/Benton Lake
Jun 7-9	MT Audubon Bird Festival (Glasgow)
Jun 16 (Sun)	Open Cross Ranch
Jun 21-23	Bowdoin NWR
Jul 4-7	Glacier National Park
Aug 24	Canyon Ferry
Sep 14	Pablo/Kicking Horse/Ninepipes Reservoirs
Oct 5	Roger's Pass (raptor banding)
Oct 27 (Sun)	Brown's Lake
Nov 2	Lee Metcalf NWR
Dec 8 (Sun)	Mission Valley

**BAS:** We're in the planning stage of our field trip season. Keep an eye on the website and future newsletters for details about several interesting trips.

**Five Valleys:** Above are the upcoming planned field trips and locations. Please contact Larry

Weeks, Five Valleys Audubon, at [bwsgenea@gmail.com](mailto:bwsgenea@gmail.com) for more information.

**[Reprint from Bitterroot Audubon October 2018 Newsletter]: Field Trip Report: Lewis and Clark Discovery Expedition with Ted Hall**

*By Ginny Deck*

We had great participation for this guided hike with Ted Hall, who has researched the 407 miles of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's 1805 westward land trail from Camp Fortunate near Dillon, Montana to Canoe Camp in Orofino, Idaho. He explained much of the Lewis and Clark party's descent from the ridge above Lost Trail Ski area as they went down in the vicinity of the Sacagawea ski run and down the ridge to a point near the Lost Trail Hot



*Courtesy Ginny Deck*

Springs. We started at a spot off FS roads 729 and 73468 about half way up the mountain off Hwy 93. Eventually there will be a sign designating the L & C Historic Trail there. We wandered west and north along an old narrow trail that led to a moist area of old growth trees, Englemann spruce and Douglas Fir, some of which had to have been there during the Discovery Expedition.



*Courtesy Ginny Deck*

*Field Trip participants at a witness tree.*

We continued down the mountain ridge which at times became narrow enough that we knew we had to be traveling in Lewis and Clark's footsteps. Ted pointed out the old very difficult wagon road that was used in the 1800s to travel from the Bitterroot Valley to Gibbonsville. Finding more "Witness Trees" and great views of the Saddle Mountain area, we couldn't have picked a better day for weather and color. Many thanks to Ted and his colleague Jim Randall, and to Kay Fulton and Micki Long who helped organize this amazing hike.

have fairly solid bones and float low, and they can dive deep. The tremendous success of birds is clear: not only are most birds masters of the sky, but many are superb masters of the water.

*Local birding expert Jim Story answers your questions about birds and their habits. Jim welcomes your questions at [jstory4689@gmail.com](mailto:jstory4689@gmail.com).*

## Montana Audubon at Work: 2019 Legislative Session

Since the early 1980s, Montana Audubon has maintained a strong lobbying presence during Montana's bi-annual legislative session. This year, as in decades past, the team has been providing testimony, meeting with legislators and working tirelessly to support bills which are favorable to conservation, as well as helping block ones which are detrimental to our mission.

Bills we focus on fall into a few broad categories: wildlife, climate and energy, general environmental protection, public lands and recreation, and land use planning. As of mid-February, the team has testified on 32 bills, supporting 18 and opposing 14. Curious to know the specifics? Montana Audubon regularly posts updated tables with bill descriptions, sponsor information and explanations of the organization's position on our website. Please visit [mtaudubon.org/conservation-policy](http://mtaudubon.org/conservation-policy) and click on the "Montana Legislature" button to view the bill table. You can also find handy links to your elected officials in state government on this page.

Stay up-to-date on our policy work via our newsfeed where we post regular legislative alerts: check out [mtaudubon.org/news](http://mtaudubon.org/news). The best way to receive the latest is to join our action network where we can send you important updates from the capital directly to your inbox! Visit [mtaudubon.org](http://mtaudubon.org) and hit the Join Our Online Network button at the bottom of the page. Many thanks for your interest in Montana Audubon's conservation work!

## News and Notes

### Montana Wings Across the Big Sky Festival

Montana Audubon is pleased to announce its 20th Wings Across the Big Sky bird festival, scheduled to take place in Glasgow, Montana on June 7th-9th, 2019. Our lead sponsor for the event is the American Prairie Reserve. Presentations and field trips on grassland birds, prairie ecology and other unique features of Montana's Glaciated Plains will

## Calendar of Events

- Mar 18:** Audubon Meeting THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION: UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL THE TRAIL BETWEEN THE RIVERS AND THE MYSTERY OF LOST PASS with Ted Hall, Forest Service/DNRC Building, Hamilton, MT, 7PM, Board Mtg. 5PM.
- Mar 23:** Bird Walk at Lee Metcalf NWR with Five Valleys Audubon, contact Larry Weeks for details, [bwsgenea@gmail.com](mailto:bwsgenea@gmail.com)
- Apr 13:** Welcome Back Waterfowl Day, Lee Metcalf NWR, 10AM-2PM
- Apr 15:** Audubon Meeting Location TBA, 7PM, Board Mtg. 5PM.
- Jun 7-9:** Wings Across the Big Sky Birding Festival, Glasgow, MT

### What's the story, Story?

*By Jim Story*

**Question:** *Birds are supremely adapted for flight, so how can some also be so efficient at swimming underwater?*

**Answer:** Birds that dive and swim underwater have acquired significant adaptations that enable them to "fly" through the water. Penguins, which look so ungainly on land, are incredibly graceful and fast in the water. With specially shaped and flexible wings, streamlined bodies, relatively solid bones and short feathers to minimize buoyancy, penguins can "fly" underwater with ease. Underwater "fliers" are generally seabirds (cormorants, guillemots, auks and petrels) with short, muscular wings. Most birds that swim underwater in fresh water do so with the aid of their webbed feet. Loons, with their long, slender and streamlined bodies, propel themselves with feet located at the rear of their bodies. Loons, grebes, and cormorants

be the focus this year. Please visit [mtaudubon.org](http://mtaudubon.org) for updates and festival information in the coming months. We hope to see you there!

### **Chapter Members Renewal Deadline**

If you are a BAS chapter-only member, your membership fee (\$15) is due. Please send payment to:

Bitterroot Audubon Society  
PO Box 326  
Hamilton, MT 59840

### **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](mailto: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**



*Yellow-breasted Chat*

*Courtesy Alex Kearney*

## **WELCOME BACK WATERFOWL DAY**



PHOTO BY EUGENE BECKES  
GREAT BLUE HERON AND AMERICAN WIGEON

### **CELEBRATE SPRING BY WELCOMING THE WATERFOWL AND OTHER MIGRANT BIRDS BACK TO THE BITTERROOT VALLEY**

**WITH THE BITTERROOT AUDUBON SOCIETY  
AT THE LEE METCALF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
ON SATURDAY, April 13, 2019  
FROM 10:00 to 2:00**

Bring your binoculars if you have them. Scopes will be provided for close-up views. Audubon members will be available on the road between the ponds just west of the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge visitor center to help you identify the birds you see. Bring your whole family to see the birds in their beautiful spring plumage. Treats will be provided by Bitterroot Audubon Society members.

BITTERROOT AUDUBON  
PO BOX 326  
HAMILTON MT 59840-0326

### Officers

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Treasurer	Jim Story*	493-9813

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At large	Michele Falivene (Mimi)*	

\* Board Member

EMAIL: [contactus@bitterrootaudubon.org](mailto:contactus@bitterrootaudubon.org)

WEBSITE: [www.BitterrootAudubon.org](http://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



# Audubon

Renew or Sign up  
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National Audubon Membership at  
[Audubon.org](http://Audubon.org)