

Winter 2008

Volume 17, Number 1

"for the conservation of native birds, other wildlife, and their habitats..."

## Montana's Governor Supports *Birds of Montana* Book Project

We are excited to report that *Birds of Montana*, our new book project that will develop a comprehensive reference on Montana's birds, is well underway. Lead author Jeff Marks has posted new information on our website (<[www.mtaudubon.org](http://www.mtaudubon.org)>), including a list of contents, the preface, several examples of recently completed bird accounts, and an explanation of the Sponsor-a-Species Campaign.

The Sponsor-a-Species Campaign is proving to be an important fundraiser for the book project. As of February 1st,

40% of the 421 species accounts have been sponsored, with 120 people sponsoring species thus far. Supporters include Nancy and Governor Brian Schweitzer, who sponsored the Western Meadowlark account, as well as residents of 16 states and one Canadian province. The sponsor's name will appear at the end of the species account. Many species have been reserved, but many others are available for sponsorship.

We encourage you to read about the book on our website, and to consider a tax-deductible donation toward

completion of this worthy project. Local chapters can also get involved, as did Five Valleys Audubon when they recently decided to sponsor the Red-naped Sapsucker account.

Please contact Jeff Marks (<[jeff17\\_marks@msn.com](mailto:jeff17_marks@msn.com)>; 503-774-4783) for information about the book and to learn how you can participate in the Sponsor-a-Species Campaign. The quicker we reach our funding goal, the sooner this important book will be in your hands!

## Montana Audubon's Bird Festival in Billings June 6 – 8

The 2008 Montana Audubon Bird Festival will be held June 6 – 8, 2008 in Billings at Rocky Mountain College. Everyone is welcome! The festival will celebrate the tremendous variety of birds that are found in the area's grasslands, sagebrush, river bottoms, and mountain ranges—and discuss some of the threats facing these local habitats.

The festival kicks off Friday, June 6th, with an evening event and social, where you can meet new and old friends, pick up your registration packets, and buy raffle tickets. Saturday begins bright and early with half-day field trips to local birding hot spots. On Saturday afternoon, speakers will present talks on various topics, including: bird identification tips, the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, grassland birds, energy development in eastern Montana, and the impacts of Global Warming on Montana's birds. Saturday night includes a banquet and awards ceremony, followed by a program by Dr. Kevin Doherty of Audubon Wyoming. Kevin, a wildlife biologist, spearheads work on Greater

Sage-Grouse and sagebrush habitats for the National Audubon Society. Sunday's field trips will include both half-day and full-day trips to local birding areas.



Greater Sage-Grouse  
Bob Martinka photo

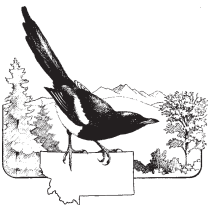
All Audubon members are invited to join in the weekend's sessions and festivities. In addition to the talks, field trips, and silent auction, the weekend will provide you with a chance to meet individuals

interested in birds from around the state. The convention is sponsored by Montana Audubon, Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, and several local businesses (including PPL Montana).

A detailed agenda and registration form will be mailed out in April. We look forward to seeing everyone at the festival!

### In This Issue

Director's Column .....	2
Global Warming .....	3
Peregrine Falcons .....	4
MT Bird Distribution .....	4
Billings Education Program .....	5
Thanks to Donors .....	6, 7
Planned Giving .....	7
Christmas Bird Count .....	8
Board Profile: Peter Norlander ..	8
Stream Setback Resources .....	9
McIntyre Joins Staff .....	9
Tours .....	11, 12
Eshbaugh Joins Board .....	11
Donate to Tax Check-off .....	12



# Magpie Muse

## From the Executive Director...

Perhaps you've noticed that environmental concerns are beginning to receive more attention from the media these days—especially the global warming issue. This is a welcome change. However, I continue to be disappointed by the fact that the debates and issues surrounding our nation's presidential primaries have consistently failed to give ANY environmental issue prominence, or even a mention. This tells me the environmental community's work to increase public awareness about the imminent threats facing the Earth's ecosystems has barely begun!

One disturbing trend recently released in a report shows a significant decrease in nature-based recreation. Published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (<[www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.0709893105](http://www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.0709893105)>), this research demonstrates a pervasive shift away from outdoor recreation over the past 20 years. Since the mid-1980's, the authors found an 18 - 25% decline in fishing, camping, and visitation to National Parks and other public lands. Interestingly, this represents a complete reversal of the previous pattern—a 50-year (since 1939) steady increase in outdoor recreation activity. The authors suggest that the root of this trend may be our increasing fascination with television, video games, etc.

What does this mean for the future of wildlife conservation? The authors conclude, "...it becomes quite likely we are seeing a fundamental shift away

from people's interest in nature." They also say, "... it has been found that environmentally responsible behavior results from direct contact with the environment and that people must be exposed to natural areas as children if they are to care about them as adults."



The results of this research emphasizes the importance of Montana Audubon's exciting new "No Child Left Inside" campaign (*see article, p. 5*). The cornerstone of this effort is launching our Audubon Conservation Education Center (ACEC) in Billings. This project is specifically designed to help get our youth out of the classroom and into the natural world. The site being used in Billings is located along the historic and beautiful Yellowstone River. The riparian forest, ponds, and other natural habitats provide an exceptional nature experience and learning opportunity for children, families, and all who visit.

Our partner, Yellowstone River Parks Association, plans to break ground this spring on a new facility at the ACEC. Montana Audubon, with tremendous support from the Yellowstone Valley Audubon chapter, is assuming a leadership role in educational programming at the site. During the next 6 months, we will be redoubling our

*more Director, page 8*

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FAX: (406) 443-7144  
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Website: [www.mtaudubon.org](http://www.mtaudubon.org)

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[shoffman@mtaudubon.org](mailto:shoffman@mtaudubon.org)  
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[jellis@mtaudubon.org](mailto:jellis@mtaudubon.org)  
Sandy McIntyre, Office Manager  
[sandymc@mtaudubon.org](mailto:sandymc@mtaudubon.org)

### Education Staff:

Paul Belanger, Director of Education  
[pbelanger@mtaudubon.org](mailto:pbelanger@mtaudubon.org)  
Phone: (406) 961-1552

### Global Warming Staff:

Amy Cilimburg, Grassroots Organizer  
[amy@mtaudubon.org](mailto:amy@mtaudubon.org)  
Phone: (406) 465-1141

## Montana and National Global Warming Solutions

Montana Audubon's Global Warming campaign has been well received around the state by those who recognize the threats climate change poses, not only to people and our economy, but to birds and other wildlife. As a start, many individuals have embraced the goal of reducing their personal carbon emissions—an important first step in our work.

The most important objective of our campaign—and the more difficult to achieve—is to help make large-scale global warming gas emissions reductions. This objective can only be obtained by passing legislation to limit global warming pollutants. As scientific evidence builds and the political winds shift, support for policies that reduce global warming pollutants are finding a footing. Actively supporting the best of this legislation—through letters-to-the-editor, and calls and emails to our congressional delegation—is probably the most influential step citizens like you can take. However just keeping track of the different proposals at the federal and state levels can be confusing. This article summarizes the most important policies being discussed.

### **Federal Legislation – The Energy Bill & Beyond**

In the first wave of what we hope to be a sweeping tide of good news, the Energy Bill mandating increased vehicle mileage and other energy efficiency standards was signed into law in mid-December. Montana Audubon's campaign focused on encouraging Senators Baucus and Tester to support this bill, and the calls and letters from wildlife enthusiasts helped win their support for a strong bill.

Unfortunately, two important renewable energy components in the original bill were omitted from the final version, and we'll continue pressing for their eventual passage. Renewable Electricity Standards (RES) would institute a national standard (similar to the one Montana already requires) that 15 - 20% of electricity be produced from renewable sources (solar, wind, etc.) by 2020. The second component stricken from the bill would have renewed tax credits for wind and solar energy that are set to expire in 2009.

Overall, we view the Energy Bill as an important piece in the global warming puzzle. The bigger and more crucial part of this puzzle is the passage of Global Warming legislation. A number of bills have been introduced to deal directly with greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Most of these are so-called "Cap and Trade" legislation, the most recent of which is the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act, which passed out of committee with Senator Baucus' help. This bill is far from

*more Global Warming, page 10*



*Please attend upcoming March 15 event in Billings!*

## Montana Audubon Global Warming Workshop

**WHO:** Audubon members, wildlife enthusiasts, friends...everyone's welcome!

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 15, 2008. 9 am - 12:30 pm. Refreshments provided. Attendance is free!

**WHERE:** Fortin Center Auditorium, Rocky Mountain College, Billings.

**WHAT:** We invite you to spend a morning learning about global warming's impact on birds and biodiversity in Montana. Most importantly, we will discuss solutions and show you how to get involved. The workshop will include discussions about Montana impacts, training in advocacy techniques, how to talk with your friends and neighbors about the issue, and more. The workshop will be conducted by conservation leaders from Montana and the National Audubon Society.

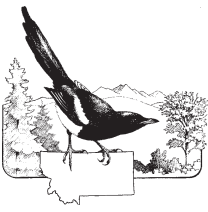
The workshop is designed to be practical and useful, as shown by this testimonial from a similar event in Missoula:

*I appreciated the opportunity to hear about how climate change may specifically affect my own environment and the places I care about the most. This workshop offered a great chance to converse with others who are concerned about global warming but unsure of what we can do about it...I was encouraged and inspired to do more. Thank you so much for offering it.* —Elaine

Visit our website for details: <http://mtaudubon.org/globalwarming.htm#events>.

For more information and for *free* REGISTRATION, contact Amy Cilimburg, Montana Audubon's Global Warming staff: <amy@mtaudubon.org> or 406-465-1141.

***Spread the word!***



## Peregrine Falcons



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is currently considering a proposal that will allow falconers to harvest Peregrine Falcons from the wild to use in their sport. Montana Audubon has been working with chapter leaders from around the state to make sure that this proposal gives the maximum protection to wild Peregrines. At this point the following protections are being proposed:

- Only 3 wild Peregrines will be able to be harvested in 2008;
- All wild birds that are caught must be permanently banded to identify individual birds;
- Wild birds cannot be sold commercially;
- Only in-state falconers will be eligible to harvest wild birds;
- To aid in recovery, most of Eastern Montana will be off-limits to harvest;
- Since Peregrines generally produce several offspring, falconers must always leave at least one young in the nest; and
- Certain nests will be kept off-limits to harvest.

There were 65 active Peregrine Falcon nests in Montana identified in 2006, with 147 young produced. Montana Audubon believes that allowing falconers to harvest wild Peregrines is a privilege; we are working to ensure that this activity is carefully regulated so that adverse impacts to Peregrine recovery will not occur.



# Montana's Bird Distribution

Get your binoculars polished and your field notebooks out. We need your bird sightings for the 2010 planned update of P.D. Skaar's *Montana Bird Distribution (MBD)*.

Montana Audubon, the Montana Natural Heritage Program, and the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks are coordinating the revision of Skaar's *MBD*. Publication of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition is scheduled for the spring of 2010—giving you 2 summers to collect observations and submit them!



*MBD* summarizes information on where birds are found in Montana. It lists every species ever observed in the state and presents, for each bird, maps that show breeding and wintering areas. The book was first published by Dr. Skaar in 1975.

*MBD* is the summary of thousands of individual bird observations. Its value depends on the efforts of hundreds of birdwatchers—like you—in recording and reporting observations. We will be taking records through December of 2009—so don't say we didn't give you plenty of notice.

New to the 7<sup>th</sup> edition, bird observation information will be presented in *quarter-quarter latilongs* (QQLL). Latilongs are created when Montana is divided into 47 rectangular areas by longitude and latitude. To make sure we have information on a finer scale, we have divided each of these latilongs into 16 quarter-quarter latilongs. If you aren't sure which QQLL your observation is from, you can also use Township, Section, and Range information (found on topographic maps).

There are 3 ways to submit observations, either by locating the specific site a bird was seen or by quarter-quarter latilong:

- **Internet.** The best way to submit records is to enter them on the Montana Natural Heritage website; and the easiest way to access their website is from Montana Audubon's website: <[www.mtaudubon.org](http://www.mtaudubon.org)> (and follow the links to Montana Bird Distribution). Please note that you must be using Internet Explorer to enter your observations on line.
- **Computer Spreadsheet.** If you are gathering a lot of records from one location (for example, in your backyard or at a local area you frequent), you can enter those observations in an Excel spreadsheet that we can send you.
- **Paper.** As a last resort, we can take paper copies of records. As you can imagine, we will have to enter all paper records into the computer, which is time-consuming. That said, because we want your records, please send them in!

If you want more information about this project, how to find quarter-quarter latilongs, a copy of the Excel spreadsheet for computer records, or to purchase a copy of the current (6<sup>th</sup> edition) of *Montana Bird Distribution* (\$15 includes shipping), contact Janet Ellis of the Montana Audubon office.

## Montana Audubon Launches ‘Leave No Child Inside’ Program

As a child, I remember with great fondness many hours spent outdoors exploring the forest and creeks that surrounded my neighborhood. I took pride in knowing every trail in the woods and where to find the crayfish and frogs. My woods were full of tree forts and hideouts that let my imagination run wild. Our television only brought in four channels, and there were no video games.

But don't let this childhood memory fool you. Later we found that the creek was polluted and the forests were cleared for new homes. Still, this description could fit in a Norman Rockwell painting depicting what many children growing up 30 to 50 years ago experienced. However, today there

is increasing evidence that what seemed at one time the most natural part of childhood—to be outside—is becoming less natural. Fortunately for children, people across the nation agree that this is a disturbing trend and have launched efforts through Audubon chapters, Centers, and other organizations interested in environmental education to ‘Leave No Child Inside.’

Inspired by Richard Louv's popular book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, teachers and environmental education leaders nationwide are working to help children reconnect with nature. Why? Children growing up today have less opportunity to play and spend time outdoors. The long-term consequences that may affect the emotional well-being, physical health, learning abilities, and environmental

consciousness of kids are difficult to predict.

Consider Louv's observation that “increasingly, nature is something to watch, to consume, to wear—to ignore. A recent television ad depicts a four-wheel-drive SUV racing along a breathtakingly beautiful mountain stream—while in the back-seat two children watch a movie on a flip-down movie screen, oblivious to the landscape and water beyond the windows.” Others believe the influence of video games, television, and the Internet has fundamentally changed the lifestyle of children today.



Canyon Creek Middle School students installing bird boxes.

Researchers are just beginning to explore the reasons why this is occurring, but there are some clues. A recent survey of 830 mothers nationwide found that 70 percent of them reported playing outdoors every day when they were young, compared with only 31 percent of their children. Another report concludes that American children on average are spending only 30 minutes of unstructured time outdoors each week. And finally, only 70% of school classrooms (including Kindergarten) had at least one recess period, which represents a 26% drop from 10 years earlier.

Given the evidence that spending time outside is good for the mind, body, and soul, and that frequent, direct experiences in nature are strongly linked to positive behaviors, what can be done?

more *Billings Education*, page 10

### Audubon Conservation Education Center Events

With the inevitable return of the birds each spring comes the return of children to the ACEC in Billings:

**Spring School Field Trips.** This year we have developed a pilot program with all four of the Billings south-side schools, with a goal of establishing the ACEC as an outdoor classroom for use throughout the school year by 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> graders. School field trips start in April.

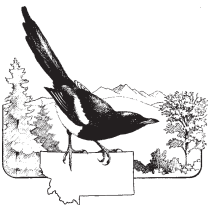
**Youth after-school programs** with the Billings Friendship House will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays in May.

**Summer youth camps** with the Billings Friendship House and City of Billings Parks and Recreation Department begin in June.

**Training Course for Volunteers.** To prepare for the busy spring field trip season, we will host a ‘Yellowstone Teacher Naturalist Institute’ for volunteers and teachers. The training will prepare teachers for integrating ACEC field trips into school curricula and prepare volunteers to mentor students during their field trips.

**Habitat Restoration.** Volunteers organized through the Yellowstone River Parks Association are preparing for another season of habitat restoration. Saturday work parties for volunteers begin in April.

**Ground-breaking Ceremony.** The Yellowstone River Parks Association plans to begin construction of an ACEC facility (i.e., the Wet Lab) this spring. Stay tuned for information about an April ground-breaking event.



## Thank You!

Montana Audubon depends on the support of numerous individual donors. The following individuals made gifts to Montana Audubon, the Audubon Conservation Education Center in Billings, or the *Birds for Montana* Book Project in the period between October 10, 2007 and February 15, 2008.

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**A Special Thanks!**

We want to thank the following foundations, corporations, and agencies for their support. Their contributions make our work possible:

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**Planned Giving for Montana Audubon**

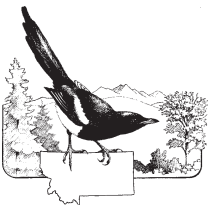
Making a planned gift to Montana Audubon is a flexible and simple way to combine philanthropy with financial planning. A planned gift may help you give more to the Audubon cause than you thought possible, while still providing favorable financial and/or tax benefits.

Why not plan for *your* future—and for the future of Montana’s wild birds and wild places? There are many giving options to choose from, including gifts of stock, real estate, retirement assets, gift annuities, and Charitable Lead or Remainder Trusts.

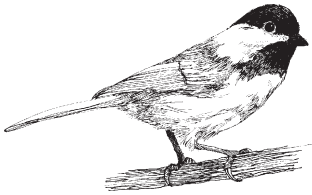
As an example, you could name Montana Audubon as the

beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), or other qualified plan. After your lifetime, the amount left in your account would be given to Montana Audubon tax-free. By doing this you escape income and estate taxes, giving your most-taxed asset to Audubon, and leaving more favorably taxed property to your heirs. Moreover, you continue to receive money from your retirement account throughout your lifetime.

If you would like to learn more about how you can make a planned gift to benefit you and Montana Audubon, please contact Steve Hoffman at the Montana Audubon office in Helena (<[shoffman@mtaudubon.org](mailto:shoffman@mtaudubon.org)> or 443-3949).



## Christmas Bird Count Highlights



Although it takes months to tabulate all the information collected in Christmas Bird Counts, the following highlights have been gleaned from Chapter newsletters:

- Montana had at least one new Christmas Bird Count: 29 individuals counted 22 species in the Big Hole (between Dillon and Hamilton).
- The Bigfork count broke several records, including count highs for chickadees; they saw 674 Black-capped, 154 Mountain, and 90 Chestnut-backed Chickadees.
- Missoula’s bird count had a record number of Steller’s Jays (29 seen). They also had several unique sightings, including a Barred Owl and 3 red-shafted X yellow-shafted hybrid Northern Flickers.
- Hamilton’s count added two new species this year: a Trumpeter Swan and Snow Goose. In 21 years, there have been a total of 120 different species seen on Hamilton Christmas Bird Counts.
- Eurasian Collared-Doves are becoming more and more common across Montana. This year 16 of these birds were seen on the Helena count, 27 at Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge, and 31 in Billings.
- The most common bird on the Glacier National Park count was the Common Redpoll (131 observed).
- The Eureka count had one new species this year: a Great Grey Owl.
- In Bozeman, 27 people counted 58 species of birds. The most unusual species? An American Coot.

### All-Bird Conservation Coordinator to be Hired

Even though there are more than 400 species of native birds in Montana, there is presently no statewide leadership for “all bird” conservation. That fact will soon change because Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) recently committed to hiring an All-Bird Conservation Coordinator for a 2-year pilot program. Many bird biologists from throughout the state have long advocated for the creation of this position. Montana Audubon played a leadership role in securing a commitment from FWP for this new bird coordinator.

## Montana Audubon Board Profile: Peter Norlander

Born: Bangkok, Thailand  
 Home: Gallatin Canyon, Montana  
 Occupation: Voice and Data Cable Installer  
 Favorite Birds: Northern Pygmy-Owl & Golden-crowned Kinglet



You may know Peter Norlander from a bird festival, board meeting, or field trip. He’s that guy mimicking the calls of Montana’s owls using a unique whistle that comes from his cupped hands. He is good and very enthusiastic. What you may not know is that Peter is an excellent cook who specializes in Thai cuisine. His passion for Thai food stems from his years growing up in Bangkok, where his father worked for many years. Today, Peter lives near Bozeman.

Peter’s enthusiasm for birds did not come until later in life, even though his father was an excellent birder. During one visit in particular, everything changed. During this trip, even though his father could not see or hear very well, Peter decided to take his dad on a tour of Bozeman’s natural areas. He was amazed at his father’s ability to identify birds based on Peter’s description of song, size, shape, and color. From that point on, Peter was hooked. He became active in the local Sacajawea Audubon chapter, quickly jumping in as a volunteer. He first served as the chapter’s program chair, later as a Board member, and today as president of the Board. Peter’s commitment to conservation and birding is what drives his passion for Audubon. Montana Audubon is fortunate to have Peter’s enthusiasm, talents, and leadership as the Vice President of our Board of Directors.

*Director, continued from page 2*

efforts to garner the necessary financial support so we can staff the ACEC’s facility when construction is completed (currently scheduled for October).

Thanks so much for your generous support for all of Montana Audubon’s programs. And, good birding to you this spring!

Yours in conservation,

## New Resources for Protecting our Wildlife and Riparian Areas

Montana Audubon has been working on a series of resource publications that can be used by government officials and interested citizens working to protect our streams and wildlife through adopting local stream setbacks. Each publication has been requested by a local government or citizen's group:

o **Stream Setbacks, Public Health, and Safety.** As requested

by a Ravalli County Commissioner, we developed a handout outlining the benefits that stream setbacks have for public health and safety: *Protecting People, Property, and Montana's Streams and Rivers, with Specific Information on Ravalli County, Montana.*

o **Stream Permitting Programs versus Stream Setbacks.**

Elected officials have asked how stream setbacks differ from Montana's other permits relating to streams, water quality, and water quantity. As a result, we recently completed *Stream Setbacks versus Stream Permitting Programs in Montana - What are the Differences?*

o **Pictures are worth 1000 Words.** We are working to develop a library of pictures that can be used by citizens and local governments to illustrate the reasons stream setbacks should be adopted. The pictures illustrate various problems that develop when homes and infrastructure are built too close to streams and rivers. A catalog of some of

these pictures is available. If you have any Montana pictures you want to share, please contact Janet Ellis at Montana Audubon (<jellis@mtaudubon.org> or 443-3949)!

o **The Need for Stream Vegetative Buffers: What Does the Science Say?**

In our work on stream setbacks, we keep being asked to show the science. Consequently, we are in the process of completing three new publications (all are currently out for review) which summarizes the scientific literature on the size stream vegetative buffers need to be to protect:

- o Part I: Water Quality;
- o Part II: Fish & Aquatic Habitat; and
- o Part III: Wildlife & Wildlife Habitat.

What does the scientific literature say? To protect water quality, fish, and aquatic habitat, streams should have vegetative buffers of at least 100 feet. In order to protect wildlife and habitat, that vegetation buffer needs to expand to at least 300 feet.

All of these publications will be available on our website at <www.mtaudubon.org>. Follow the links on "Stream Building Setbacks: Resource Publications" found on our home page. These publications are being developed with a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency and Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality.



*House on Clark Fork River destroyed in flood. DNRC photo library.*

### Sandy McIntyre Joins Staff

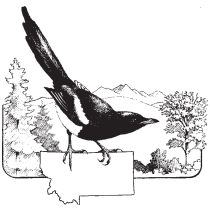
Sandy McIntyre joined Montana Audubon as our new Office Manager in mid-November. She has 25 years of experience with progressive national, state, and local non-profit organizations. Her career, board membership, consulting, and volunteer work have encompassed environmental issues (policy analysis and grassroots outreach), assisting the elderly, human rights advocacy, humane society fundraising, and events planning for arts organizations. Sandy graduated from Montana State University in Economics, with a natural resources emphasis.

"While I've been involved with many causes and organizations over the years, my deepest passion is for the land. I've always admired Montana Audubon's ability to work with diverse

groups, as well as their effectiveness with the state legislature. I'm thrilled to be part of the team!"

Sandy moved to Helena several years ago after living and playing in the Gallatin Valley for 30 years. Her hobbies include fly fishing, writing, reading, and gardening.





## Magpie Muse

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### *Billings Education, continued from page 5*

Fortunately, at Audubon we are well positioned to help lead a *Leave No Child Inside* initiative in Montana.

Connecting children with nature is woven throughout the fabric of National Audubon's rich 100-year heritage. This tradition is alive and strong in Montana. Each year, hundreds of Audubon members in Montana share their passion for birds and other wildlife with thousands of children and adults. This nurtures and provides an important link between people and place. Our potential to build and develop stronger networks of trained volunteers and exceptional

place-based education programs continues to grow.

The Audubon Conservation Education Center (ACEC) in Billings is being developed with the goal to become a regional headquarters for connecting people with nature. This unprecedented opportunity would not be possible without the strong local leadership by the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society and other partners such as Yellowstone River Parks Association.

The ACEC is also the launching point for Montana's *Leave No Child Inside* initiative. Currently, the ACEC is supporting the Go Play Billings public

awareness campaign led by Montana State University-Billings professor Sarah Keller. This campaign encourages children to get outside and play—and will lead to the potential for a regional or statewide campaign.

Montana's children are not immune to this national trend. Without the guidance of a parent, grandparent, mentor, or guardian, a child growing up in Montana is as unlikely to explore our abundant natural heritage as a child growing up in an urban setting. Think about making a difference in the life of a young person and take them outside—preferably often—to enjoy the birds.

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### *Global Warming, continued from page 3*

perfect, but climate legislation has never made it as far in the U.S. Senate. Audubon is committed to working to strengthen this bill before final votes.

To understand greenhouse gas emissions legislation, it is important to understand the concept of "Cap and Trade." The "Cap" is a firm legal limit on the nation's total GHG emissions from commercial sources. This level would systematically be ratcheted down over time. Individual polluters would be apportioned the right to emit a certain percentage of that total GHG based on their past production and other factors. The "Trade" part of the equation kicks in next. These GHG "rights" can be sold to other polluters—giving the formula its economic juice. It is believed that by making the right to emit GHG a valuable property, Cap and Trade schemes will create a race to lower emissions as companies increase their own efficiencies so they can sell their credits to increase their profits. As newer and more efficient technologies emerge, the government can buy back and retire the rights to pollute when they

are no longer essential to the economy. The monies raised through this system are then apportioned to myriad essential climate change mitigation issues, such as low income heating assistance and, crucial to Montana Audubon, funds for managing wildlife in the face of a changing climate.

Montana Audubon believes we very much need a strong cap on greenhouse gas pollutants and our immediate goal is to work to improve the Cap and Trade provision in the Lieberman-Warner Bill.

#### **In Montana – Encouraging Signs**

The most exciting development in Montana's approach to global warming is a report from the Governor's Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC). This diverse group spent 18 months on their recommendations on what Montana could do to reduce our GHG emissions. With a 14% increase in GHG between 1990 and 2005, Montana moved from a net carbon sink (via forests, cropland, and rangeland) to a net carbon emitter. The CCAC came up with 54 recommendations, agreed on unanimously. Working with others, we

will build support for implementing these recommendations, especially via the 2009 Montana Legislature. Look for information on the CCAC report on our website and as it is publicly debated. Montanans need to participate at every step to get our own house in order.

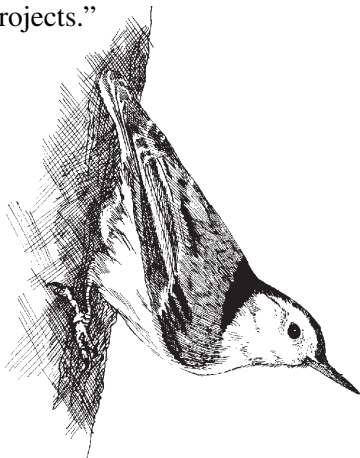
On the local level, mayors of Billings, Bozeman, and Missoula have signed their cities onto the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, a framework in which cities strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities. Such local efforts provide states the political courage they need to address carbon emissions.

The key to global warming is to reduce global warming pollutants—somehow, someway, but soon. The longer we wait, the harder it will be. To learn more, visit our website at <[www.mtaudubon.org](http://www.mtaudubon.org)> or contact Amy Cilimburg, Montana Audubon's Global Warming staff, if you'd like to help or join our "e-activist" alert program (<[amy@mtaudubon.org](mailto:amy@mtaudubon.org)> or 406-465-1141).

### Eshbaugh Joins Montana Audubon Board

Montana Audubon is pleased to announce that Steve Eshbaugh has joined its Board of Directors. Steve currently works as a freelance writer and nonprofit consultant. His work has won two awards from the National Association for Interpretation. He also currently serves on the Board for the North American Association for Environmental Education. In the past, Steve was executive director of the Montana Environmental Education Association, a nature tour operator/owner, a guide in Costa Rica, a naturalist, and a teacher-trainer. He has a bachelor's degree in botany from the University of Montana and a Master's degree in environmental education from Miami University (Ohio). Steve lives in Bozeman with his wife and son.

Steve recently summarized his enthusiasm for Montana Audubon, "As a life-long birder and conservationist, I am very excited to join the Montana Audubon team. I look forward to working with the staff and Board to advance all of Montana Audubon's public policy, bird conservation, and education projects."



## Australia & Ecuador Bird Tours Benefit Montana Audubon

Upcoming 2008-2009 Montana Audubon birding tours include **Australia and Ecuador**. These tours are being led by John Shipley of Kingfisher Bird Tours in Bozeman, and will feature the colorful bird species of these countries. Several tour dates are available for each destination, and you can find complete details and itineraries on the internet at: <[www.kingfisherbirdtours.com](http://www.kingfisherbirdtours.com)>. Participants will be able to count \$500 of their tour fees as a tax-deductible contribution to Montana Audubon. Thus, your participation in these tours helps contribute to the conservation of birds in Montana!

Australia tours visit the tropical rain forests of Northeastern Australia in Queensland, and include a boat trip to the Great Barrier Reef. We will see about 250 bird species, including parrots, birds-of-paradise, bowerbirds, fairy-wrens, and honeyeaters. We'll also make a concerted effort to find koala, platypus, and some of the 50 different species of kangaroos. The lodges we stay at are exquisite and the meals superb! Join us for some terrific tropical birding in Australia and see such gems as Crimson Rosella, Australian King-Parrot, Regent Bowerbird, Southern Cassowary, Victoria's Riflebird, Chowchilla, and Superb Fairy-wren.

The Ecuador tours will find us viewing a different assortment of birds, and we should see about 400 species there. We have designed this itinerary so that most days will provide us with a procession of dazzling hummingbirds and flashy tanagers, interspersed with toucans, trogons, antbirds, flycatchers, and other birds! We should see 50+ hummingbird species on each tour, including such beauties as Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Booted Racket-tail, Sapphire-vented Puffleg, and Shining Sunbeam. These tours begin in Quito and will visit an array of habitats on the slopes of the Andes Mountains. The lodges here are outstanding, and the meals excellent. Come join us and fully immerse yourself in all that is Ecuador: wonderful birds, abundant orchids and wildflowers, snow-capped volcanoes, verdant valleys, and much more!

For additional information on our birding trips to either **Australia or Ecuador**, please call John Shipley at (406) 465-8247.

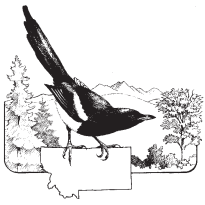


*Red and black Andean Cock-of-the-Rock in Ecuador*

### • Memorial Gifts •

Few tributes are as lasting as a gift that helps preserve Montana's birds and their habitats. We owe a special thank you to those of you who have recently made a gift in memory of:

Rod Ash  
Bruce Dobney



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## See Millions of Raptors Join Montana Audubon's Veracruz, Mexico Tour September 29 - October 10, 2008

Join Montana Audubon board member, professor Jack Kirkley, on this 12-day adventure exploring and birding the varied ecological habitats in the Veracruz region of eastern Mexico. Our tour is specially scheduled to coincide with the peak of raptor migration season, when the stunning "River of Raptors"—several million strong—stream across the Veracruz area, providing one of the most awesome wildlife spectacles on earth.

The tour will also include trips to coastal lagoons, wetlands, lowland forests, and savannas, as well as high mountain pine-oak and cloud forests, enabling us to see a great variety of birds—540 species are listed for central Veracruz! Skillful, local birding guides from Pronatura-Veracruz, the nonprofit conservation organization hosting our group, will lead the trip. We will stay at comfortable hotels in Cardel, Xalapa, and the Catemaco Lake region. The all-inclusive cost for the tour is \$2,925

(double occupancy) from Veracruz airport, which includes a tax-deductible contribution that will be split between Pronatura-Veracruz and Montana Audubon.

For a detailed itinerary or other information, contact Dr. Jack Kirkley (<j\_kirkley@umwestern.edu> or (406) 683-7321) or the Montana Audubon office (<mtaudubon@mtaudubon.org> or (406) 443-3949).



Mississippi Kite. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service photo

## Do Something Wild



Watch for the eagle on your 2007 Montana income tax return. By making a tax-deductible contribution to the Nongame Wildlife Checkoff, you will be supporting important educational, research, and monitoring projects for such creatures as songbirds, hawks, and flying squirrels. Recent projects supported by the program include Montana Audubon's Montana Bird Distribution and Important Bird Areas programs; the Montana Loon Ranger program, which has helped increase the nesting success of common loons in northwestern Montana; birding trail brochures; educational posters; and research projects on Flammulated Owls, Common Loons, Black-backed Woodpeckers, painted turtles, and pygmy rabbits. Checkoff funds also support a MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks Native Species Specialist in Billings, a key position involved in grassland wildlife conservation. With your help, we can expand this wildlife work throughout the state.

**Support Watchable Wildlife!**