

With your help, in 2012 Montana Audubon will ...

- ▶ **Monitor Montana's Birds** ~ to assess the health and trends of species of conservation concern. Next year's Citizen Science monitoring efforts include: **Greater Sage-Grouse breeding grounds** (through the Adopt-a-Lek program); migratory **raptor counts in the Bridger Mountains** near Bozeman; targeted species' surveys for **Common Nighthawks, Long-billed Curlews, Black Swifts**, and **nesting Golden Eagles**; and, of course, avian surveys at **Important Bird Areas**.



- ▶ **Educate Families to Ensure a Bright Future for Conservation** ~ through our ever-expanding programs at the Montana Audubon Conservation Education Center in Billings. The Center is becoming a regional hub for people of all ages for nature-based outdoor education and habitat restoration. We are **expanding our popular Adult Lectures** into a workshop format, allowing additional time to explore topics more deeply. We are also **enhancing a habitat restoration component to our core Audubon Naturalists in the Schools program**, to engage 475 students in the creation and year-long monitoring of habitat for local wildlife (from foxes to songbirds).



- ▶ **Protect our Important Bird Areas** ~ through science, education, and advocacy. Our goal is to conserve outstanding, yet highly threatened wildlife habitats in Montana by identifying and protecting IBAs. **In 2012 we'll stay vigilant in our efforts to protect IBAs** from everything from subdivision development to increased motorized recreational use. We'll also continue to work with Chapter volunteers to **educate landowners with our new *Our Birds Call This Home* best management practices guide**. In addition, we'll be **studying the Yellowstone River to delineate a new IBA** along this important waterway.



- ▶ **Spearhead Efforts to Protect Birds from Inappropriate Wind Farms** ~ by supporting wildlife-friendly wind farm standards. It is important that commercial wind farms not be located in areas heavily used by birds, such as in major migration corridors or critical nesting areas for rare species. In 2012 we will be **advocating for wildlife siting guidelines for the state of Montana**. We will also make

sure that the wind power industry avoids important wildlife habitat, including the Kevin Rim IBA, where one company is planning to erect over 200 wind turbines in an area that is crucial nesting habitat for Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, and eight other raptor species.



- ▶ **Reduce the Threat of Climate Change on Wildlife** ~ as a result of global warming. Montana now faces a number of conservation challenges: migratory birds out of sync with their food resources; more frequent and severe droughts; shrinking wetlands; reduced winter snowpack; and, ultimately, diminished biodiversity. Yet, we can change this trajectory. In the coming year **we'll continue to lead efforts to encourage solutions and promote key policies and actions**—helping to craft local Climate Action Plans, encouraging low-carbon energy systems, and much more. Now more than ever we must bolster these efforts—and we'll need your help!

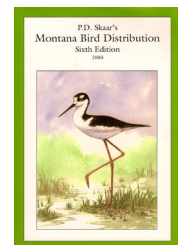


- ▶ **Conserve our Streams and Wetlands** ~ by addressing issues of unbridled subdivision and commercial development along our waterways. We will continue to work to protect our valuable wetlands and cottonwood forests (and the myriad of bird species that use them) by **advocating for practical ways to establish scientifically-sound buffers** so that new homes and businesses are built a safe distance from our streams, rivers, and marshlands.



Develop two NEW Bird Publications ~

- ▶ **Montana Bird Distribution**. We are currently working hard on the spring 2012 publication of the 7th edition of *Montana Bird Distribution*, the handbook used by everyone from land managers to birdwatchers on where to find every bird species in Montana. This indispensable guide is a collaborative venture with the Montana Natural Heritage Program, Montana Bird Records Committee, and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.



- ▶ **Birds of Montana**. Our partnership continues with authors Dr. Jeff Marks, Daniel Casey, and Paul Hendricks to write this much-needed publication, which will describe the status, distribution, ecology, and conservation of all 427 bird species known to occur in the state. This book will be completed in 2013! **You can support this project by purchasing a signed, limited-edition print of this Boreal Owl painting by Albert E. Gilbert (back-cover illustration) through the Montana Audubon office.**



Photography: Greater Sage-grouse, Bob Martinka; Kids with binoculars, Heather Ristow; Great Blue Heron, Bob Martinka; Ferruginous Hawk, Bob Martinka; Hands on Earth, National Audubon Society; Owen Sowerwine Natural Area IBA, Janet Ellis; Montana Bird Distribution book cover; Albert E. Gilbert print of Boreal Owl.