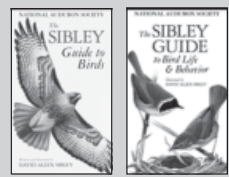


Help support Wyoming's wildlife and wild lands by purchasing your copy of *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (\$42.50) and *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior* (\$32.50) from Audubon Wyoming! Other titles also available. Stop by 101 Garden Creek Road to browse our selection!



Join a Christmas Bird Count. Find information at:
www.audubonwyoming.org

Make a Difference for Wyoming's Wildlife & Wildlands!!

JOIN/DONATE

Membership — \$20.00
 All donations received in the Audubon Wyoming office are tax-deductible and used to benefit Wyoming's birds, wildlife and their habitats.

Complete & return to: **Audubon Wyoming**
 358 North 5th Street
 Laramie, WY 82072

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Payment (Please do not send cash):

- Check (make payable to Audubon Wyoming)
 Visa MasterCard AMEX

Card # _____

Card expiration date (MM/YYYY) _____ / _____

Signature _____

VOLUNTEER

Do you enjoy watching wildlife? Love spending time in the outdoors? Then we invite you to volunteer with Audubon Wyoming! You don't have to be a bird expert...you just have to be willing to learn and want to have fun! Contact the Community Naturalist in your area for volunteer opportunities.



sage grouse
rainbow badlands
pronghorns
petroglyphs
dunes
elk

Audubon Wyoming invites you to tour the dramatic Red Desert of southwest Wyoming: June 4-8 with Wind River Pack Goats. This you must see to believe!

Audubon Wyoming 307.745.4848 ljones@audubon.org

Wyoming State Office
 National Audubon Society

Audubon Wyoming News

Vol. 9, Issue 4 SPRING 2009

MAPPING A PATH TO WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY WIND POWER

An innovative pilot project is mapping new common ground for development of urgently needed renewable energy by steering it away from areas that pose the greatest risk to threatened wildlife—and from potential conflict. Audubon Wyoming, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Google are joining forces to give industry, policy-makers, conservationists and concerned citizens instant access to interactive, digital wildlife and habitat maps to guide effective site selection for wind power generation and energy transmission facilities.



Now publicly accessible via Google Earth at: (http://earth.google.com/gallery/kmz/audubon_ibarw.kmz). Audubon's maps highlight unprotected areas that are still critically important to wildlife. In combination work of NRDC, they let users explore geographic areas of special interest (such as those proposed for energy development), revealing how little land is legally restricted and identifying specific places that must still be protected from energy development to avoid substantial risk to imperiled species and habitat. This pilot project demonstrates how we can build broad-based support for wind power by locating turbines and transmission lines in places that minimize negative impacts on birds and wildlife. It is not only possible to strike a winning balance between renewable wind energy and wildlife needs, it is essential if we are to meet growing energy demands while simultaneously combating global warming," said Audubon's President John Flicker.

The full power of the Google Earth project can be seen in pilot maps of six states considered prime sites for wind turbines and related transmission structures—Wyoming, Montana, Utah, Colorado, North Dakota and South Dakota. Along with existing protected areas, the maps identify critical remaining habitat for the Greater Sage-grouse, an iconic western species that is seriously threatened by continued loss and degradation of its remaining native habitat. By showing both areas of highest grouse concentration and the vast number of potential wind-generation sites that are less critical to wildlife, the maps offer a critical first step in intelligent site selection needed to gain broad support. Audubon maps have already helped political, energy and environmental interests to come together to protect critical grouse areas in Wyoming. Preliminary maps served as the basis of an executive order from Governor Dave Freudenthal that limits the amount and intensity of energy development in identified core sage-grouse habitat.

"The timing of this project is perfect because the next, critical step in the Governors' Association process is to refine the draft boundaries of the zones using exactly the kind of wildlife maps our project produced," said Brian Rutledge, Audubon Wyoming Executive Director. "With economic stimulus dollars starting to flow, these maps will give concerned parties a starting point for directing green technology in the right places—places where wind-power and wildlife might be compatible.

AUDUBON WYOMING BIOBLITZ

This summer, Audubon Wyoming will be organizing a BioBlitz on June 20th and 21st in the Shirley Basin/Bates Hole Important Bird Area. What is a BioBlitz? A BioBlitz brings together scientists from various organizations and agencies in a race against time to see how many species they can count in a 24-hour biological survey. The public is invited to observe, interact and participate in the sampling activities. Audubon's "BioBlitz" will be a 24-hour event in which teams of scientists, teachers, volunteers, and community members join forces to find, identify, and learn about as many local plant, insect and animal species as possible.

Audubon will be using the BioBlitz as a way for communities to learn about the biological diversity of their local lands and to better understand how to protect them. The BioBlitz event will take place within an identified Important Bird Area (IBA), specifically The Shirley Basin/Bates Hole IBA. Audubon believes the BioBlitz event will give us an excellent base-line inventory within one of our priority IBAs, which encompass several of Wyoming's species of critical conservation (developed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department) and their related habitats.

In addition to establishing baseline information, the BioBlitz event will be an opportunity for teachers to participate in hands on sagebrush research, which Audubon feels can be used as a pathway to improving

science education through teachers' experiences in scientific inquiry. The data collected will then be translated by our Community Naturalists during a forum on the last day which will help the teachers bring the collected information into the classroom and dictate it in a way that is best absorbed by their students.

This fun and educational event will also be a way for the public to join biologists in the field, participate in bona fide research expeditions, and learn from experts who are at the top of their respective fields about inventorying and the importance of biodiversity.

Audubon Wyoming would like to invite all state and federal agencies as well as families, teachers and students to come and join the fun. We all may learn a bit about our local sagebrush environment and have fun doing it! If interested please contact Alison Holloran at 307-745-4848 or aholloran@audubon.org. Come Join the Fun!!!



AUDUBON WYOMING

The state office of the National Audubon Society is the primary contact for education, conservation, and outreach in the state of Wyoming.

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Murie Banquet Helps Audubon Center At Garden Creek



The 23rd Murie Audubon Society Annual Banquet and Fundraiser took place on February 21, 2008. During the banquet the local, Casper chapter held its first annual birdhouse auction to benefit the Audubon Center at Garden Creek. Twenty-four birdhouses were distributed to local artists who donated their time and skill to create diverse and beautiful pieces of artwork.

The silent auction raised \$920 for the Audubon Center at Garden Creek! The success of this auction was due to the hard work of Ann Hines, Rose-Mary King, and all of the artists. On behalf of Audubon Wyoming and the Audubon Center at Garden Creek we would like to thank the Murie Board members, auction participants, and the local artists for their generous donation of time and resources leading up to and concluding with the birdhouse silent auction. Their efforts and the \$920 in funds raised make it possible for us to continue our programming and connecting people to the natural world of Casper, Wyoming. Thank you!

Tribes Urge Department of the Interior to Adopt Governor Freudenthal's Order on Sage-grouse Conservation

In a unanimous vote, the Joint Business Council (JBC) voted on March 4 to approve a resolution regarding the conservation of the Greater Sage-grouse on the Wind River Reservation. The Council, citing concerns with declines of the Greater Sage-grouse on the Reservation and the importance of the species to the tribes, endorsed Governor Freudenthal's Executive Order on Sage-grouse conservation and urged the Department of the

Interior to adopt it as its own.

"The Greater Sage-grouse has always played an integral part of Shoshone culture- whether in our dances or in our hunts," stated Mr. Ivan Posey, Chair of the Eastern Shoshone Business Council. "The Joint Business Council calls on the Department of the Interior to adopt Governor Freudenthal's Executive Order on Sage-grouse Conservation in order to help this icon of the "American West."



Wyoming Bird Banding This Summer

MAPS stands for *Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship*. The goal of this program is to provide long-term data on the productivity, survival and population sizes of land bird species. The MAPS Program is a continent-wide population monitoring system that provides critically needed demographic information on land birds and plays a major role in aiding efforts in the conservation of avian diversity in North America. The MAPS Program is endorsed by both the Monitoring Working Group of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program and the Biological Resources Division as an important tool for monitoring land birds.

Laramie Banding Station Dates: June 5, 12, 26 – July 1, 10, 24
Casper Garden Creek Station: June 9, 16, 23 – July 7, 14, 21 – August 1 (Banding Festival)
Keyhole State Park Banding : June 4, 11, 25 – July 9, 18, 23, 30

CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information about a chapter near you, please contact the leaders listed below.

Murie Audubon Society

Casper

Jim Brown, President
(307) 472-0278

tbarbarb@tribcsp.com

Murieaudubon.org

Red Desert Audubon Society

Lander

Andrea Cervoski, President
(307) 332-7723

Andrea.cervoski@wgf.state.us

Rendezvous Valley

Audubon Society

Pinedale

Steve Smith
sbsangler@hotmail.com
(307) 367-4629

Bighorn Audubon Society

Sheridan

Wayne Schatz
wshatz1@bresnan.net
(307) 672-0224

Cheyenne High Plains

Audubon Society

John Cornelison, President
jcornelison@bresnan.net
(307) 634-1075

Laramie Audubon Society

Vicky Sue Henry, President
VickiS@uwyo.edu
(307) 766-2628

Meadowlark Audubon Society

Big Horn Basin
Dennis Saville, President
(307) 587-6702
dtsaville@wyoming.com
www.meadowlarkwyo.org

Powder River Audubon Society

Gillette
Jacelyn Downey
(307) 756-3941
jdowney@audubon.org

Community Naturalist Updates

Jr. Bird Academy:

The Audubon Center at Garden Creek will hold its annual Jr. Bird Academy summer day camp this July. The camp will consist of fun and educational activities that will focus on the natural history of birds and their habitats. Campers will play outdoor games and explore the life of birds through discovery hikes, nature journaling, and field guide and binocular 101. There is a \$25 registration fee and space is limited to 25 participants. Registration must be received by July 10th. If you would like to register for the summer camp or have any questions about a scholarship, please feel free to call the Audubon Center at Garden Creek at 307-473-1987 or email jryan@audubon.org.

Monday, July 20th and Tuesday, July 21st - from 9:00 am-noon for ages 9 and older and
Wednesday, July 22 and Thursday, July 23rd- from 9:00 am until noon for ages 5 - 8 years

Pennies for the Planet

TEACHERS: Looking for a meaningful project to help your students learn about the environment-and make a difference for conservation, too? Check out Pennies for the Planet at www.penniesfortheplanet.org and click on "For Educators" to download the materials you'll need to start engaging your students in real conservation projects around the country. One of the three projects this year will focus on sagebrush habitat right her in Wyoming.

KIDS: Stop by the Audubon Center at Garden Creek to donate your pennies!

Sagebrush Poster

Audubon Wyoming Community Naturalists, using a grant from the Wyoming Arts Council, have commissioned artist, Sherrie York, to illustrate a Sagebrush-steppe Ecosystem poster. This poster is available in our new Sagebrush Exploration trunk. Teachers, community leaders, as well anyone wishing to learn more about the ecosystem that makes up more than 50% of our state can request to use the trunks. For more information, please visit www.audubonwyoming.org.

Earth Day at the Park

Join Audubon Wyoming's Community Naturalists in Gillette during Earth Week for an exciting event at McManamen Park on Thursday, April 23rd. This will be a day of citizen science, art, and bird watching. This event is inspired by "Celebrate Urban Birds!" a citizen-science project from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The Beauty and ambiance of Mcmanamen Park will be captured by artists, photographers, and writers with all genres being open for display. At the same time, the public is encouraged to participate in some citizen science by watching city birds for 10 minutes, checking off 15 target species of birds, and then sending the information through the mail or the Internet to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Once enough data is gathered, scientists hope to learn more about how birds survive in cities. Other activities the Community Naturalists will be involved with during Earth Week include a Fun Run and a "Go Green at Your Library" Green Fair. This will be a chance for the Gillette community, young and old, families, artists and local birders, to get together to discuss local wildlife and have fun. If you are interested in helping with any of these programs, please contact Jacelyn Downey @ 307-756-3941 or jdowney@audubon.org.

Kids' Corner



CELEBRATE NATIONAL WETLANDS MONTH THIS MAY!



Name this bird:

Hint: This large red headed crane's noisy mating ritual is quite a spectacle.

Did you know...

- Birds migrate in search of food. Food is abundant in warm, sunny places and nearly absent in dark, snowy locations. What's more, food is more plentiful in places with longer days than nights and long days give birds more time to hunt for food.
- Birds get their cue from nature. But it is the change in daylight hours rather than the change in weather that spurs birds to fat ten up for the long flight ahead. Weather can be unpredictable, the number of daylight hours changes in the same way each year.
- Birds rely on a variety of senses to find their way. Birds identify locations by sight and smell. And they navigate by the sun and stars as well as the pull of the Earth's magnetic field.
- Birds return to the same locations each year. But when food runs short birds fly further migrating to a new location.
- Birds risk their lives each time they migrate. Predators and bad weather are the main risks birds face yet human development can also cause harm. When wetlands are drained and forests cut birds lost a place to refuel en route.

