



Audubon Wyoming News

Vol. 8, Issue 2

SUMMER 2007

HOPE FOR A SAGEBRUSH FUTURE

Over the past year Audubon Wyoming has been hard at work advocating for and educating about the sagebrush ecosystem. In reviewing the means and opportunity for protecting this system we have come to a set of realizations. First among these is that the conservation easement approach will not be able to achieve the level of protection. This expansive landscape ecosystem occurs largely on public lands.

These lands are managed by various federal agencies, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and various state agencies. Most of these agencies are charged with managing these lands for multiple uses. Unfortunately, in many cases a singular use of the lands has become paramount. At this time this has been primarily for the production of fossil fuels. The production of natural gas and gas from coal bed methane is transforming the landscape into an open air corporate infrastructure.

Audubon firmly supports the extraction of these relatively, clean burning fuels. We are seeking cooperative relationships with industry and agency managers. At the present, the speed of development is outstripping the technology or, perhaps, the will to protect the multiple use characteristics of the land in question. In order to work towards an assurance that there will be a future for sagebrush and all of its obligate species, Audubon Wyoming has begun fundraising for and staffing for the development of a



sagebrush institute. The role of this institute will be to monitor indicators for the healthy future of this ecosystem, guide and assure planning and research for appropriate management, educate and facilitate towards educational goals and advocate actively for the needs of the sagebrush ecosystem.



To this end, the Hewlett Foundation has awarded a seventy-five thousand dollar discretionary grant. Through this grant we will achieve the hiring of a PhD level Senior Ecologist and commission the completion of region wide GIS mapping to establish present condition, future threats and strong-hold opportunities.

Please join with us in matching and growing this important effort. With huge losses across its range the Greater sage grouse and its smaller cousin the Gunnison's sage grouse are warning us of the peril facing their wonderful home system. Yes, with a ninety percent decline already in place with the beginning of this most recent mineral rush, the grouse and many other obligates were already in trouble. That just means we will have to be that much more creative and careful with their future. We hear regularly now that there will be no "Bust". Let's look at the definition of "bust". For me the real bust will be when the herds don't come back from the Upper Green to the Yellowstone, when trout can't live in our streams and when the last grouse dances on a silent lek.

— Brian Rutledge, Executive Director

Naturalists Receive Certification

Audubon Wyoming's team of Community Naturalists recently received training to become certified Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Bird Banders.

Audubon Wyoming staff already operates two banding stations, one at the Audubon Center at Garden Creek in Casper and the other outside of Laramie, Wyoming. There are other banding stations located around the state as well. Banding starts in June and ends in early August. The MAPS Program enables volunteers to get up close and personal with Wyoming birds. The banding stations provide a place for families and individuals to come learn about local birds, get outdoors, and have fun. For more information on bird banding in your area, contact Audubon Wyoming at 307-745-4848 or visit the website audubonwyoming.org.



Board Tours Wind River Reservation

Audubon Wyoming hosted a Board Meeting in Lander this June. After the meeting, staff and board members were given a special opportunity to tour the Wind River Indian Reservation, which spans 2.2 million acres. Wes Martel, a former tribal counsel member and Audubon Wyoming Board member, led the tour. The tour had many highlights, including a picnic style lunch at Bull Lake and stop at a Diversion Dam on the Wind River where we spotted a mink, a pair of Wood Duck and a Belted Kingfisher. Everyone in attendance was very pleased with the cultural and historical information Wes shared with the group.



Wes Martel talking with group



From left to right: Eva Crane, Bart Rea, Bob Yonts, Michael Shickich, Andrea Cerovski, George Jones, Chuck Seniewski, Brian Rutledge, Wes Martel

The Mission of Audubon Wyoming is to be a strong, unified voice for the ethic of conservation in Wyoming, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats, for the benefit of present and future generations.

AUDUBON WYOMING
The state office of the National Audubon Society is the liaison for local chapters and volunteers, and is the primary contact for education, conservation, and outreach in the state of Wyoming.

www.audubonwyoming.org

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COMMUNITY NATURALISTS OFFER SUMMER CAMPS THROUGHOUT WYOMING

Junior Bird Academy Summer Camps in Cheyenne and Casper

Audubon Wyoming has received a generous grant from Wild Birds Unlimited and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to provide scholarships for several students to attend a Junior Bird Academy Summer Camp. The camp will consist of fun and educational activities that will focus on the natural history of birds. Campers will explore the life of birds through discovery hikes, nature journaling, and field guide and binocular basics.

The camp is for youth ages 5 through 10 and will run for two consecutive days from 9 AM – 3 PM. The camp will be available in Cheyenne at Botanic Gardens on July 16th & 17th and in Casper at the Audubon Center at Garden Creek on August 2nd & 3rd.

The scholarship will cover the cost of camp minus the \$25 application fee. Space is limited to 25 participants per camp. If you would like to register for the summer camp or have any questions, please feel free to contact Community Naturalists Kim Check at (307) 745-4848, kcheck@audubon.org or Ken Keffer at (307) 473-1987 and kkeffer@audubon.org. Information can also be found on Audubon Wyoming's new website www.audubonwyoming.org.

Audubon Center at Garden Creek Teams Up With The Science Zone and The Nicolaysen Art Museum for Adventure Quest Camp

Casper Museum Consortium members, the Audubon Center at Garden Creek, the Science Zone, and the Nicolaysen Art Museum, will join forces to host Adventure Quest Camp June 25th – 29th at the Izaak Walton League facilities in Casper. Adventure Quest Camp will include 45 campers entering 4th, 5th, 6th, or 7th grade.

Adventure Quest Camp is an educational camp that is sure to be a great time. Students will learn about water, the sun, plants, animals, as well as many other arts and science.

Registration is \$55 for museum members and \$70 for nonmembers. Camp will run from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM, so parents can drop their kids off on the way to work and pick them up during the lunch hour.

Museum Adventure Quest Camp questions should be directed to Casper Community Naturalist Ken Keffer at 473-1987 or kkeffer@audubon.org.

Camp Opportunities in Northeastern Wyoming

The Northeast Community Naturalists will be attending and presenting at camps in Sheridan, Gillette, Story, Sundance and at Mallo Camp near Newcastle. These camps are in cooperation with the girl and boy scouts, Ranch A environmental education, the Campbell County Conservation District, and after school programs. To find out more about any of these exciting camps, contact Dusty Downey at ddowney@audubon.org or 307-756-3941.

Audubon Wyoming Welcomes Newest Members



Willow Holloran

Audubon Wyoming would like to welcome its newest members. Willow Holloran was born to Matt and Alison Holloran on April 11 @ 7:00 pm, and Melibe Downey was born to Dusty and Jacelyn Downey on April 24th @ 3:14 pm. Audubon would like to welcome our newest fledglings.



Melibe Downey

Ucross Foundation To Host Art Event

Audubon Wyoming representatives will be on hand for a new exhibition that will open at the Ucross Foundation Art Gallery on June 15. Sandhill Cranes, Barn Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, Vesper Sparrows, Bald Eagles – these are just a few of the birds represented in a new exhibition at the Ucross Foundation Art Gallery, The Birds of Ucross: Photographs by Ernesto Scott. The show will open on Friday, June 15 and a reception for the artist will take place on Tuesday, July 3rd, from 5:00-7:00 p.m., as part of the Ucross Foundation's 26th Annual Fireworks Extravaganza. Audubon Wyoming will have a booth and other materials on hand. The exhibit will also feature a poem, How to Build an Owl, by Kathleen Lynch. The Birds of Ucross will be on view through September 14th. A 48-page exhibition catalog will be available for purchase at the gallery.

CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Murie Audubon Society

Casper

Bruce Walgren, President

(307) 234-7455

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Murieaudubon.org

Red Desert Audubon Society

Lander

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Audubon Society

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Bighorn Audubon Society

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Audubon Society

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Dennis Saville, President

(307) 587-6702

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www.meadowlarkwyo.org

Powder River Audubon Society

Gillette

Rohy Keffer

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Kids' Corner



Did you know...

Why are Moths really attracted to light? One theory says that Moths fly towards the blackest point in the sky ... which is behind the light.

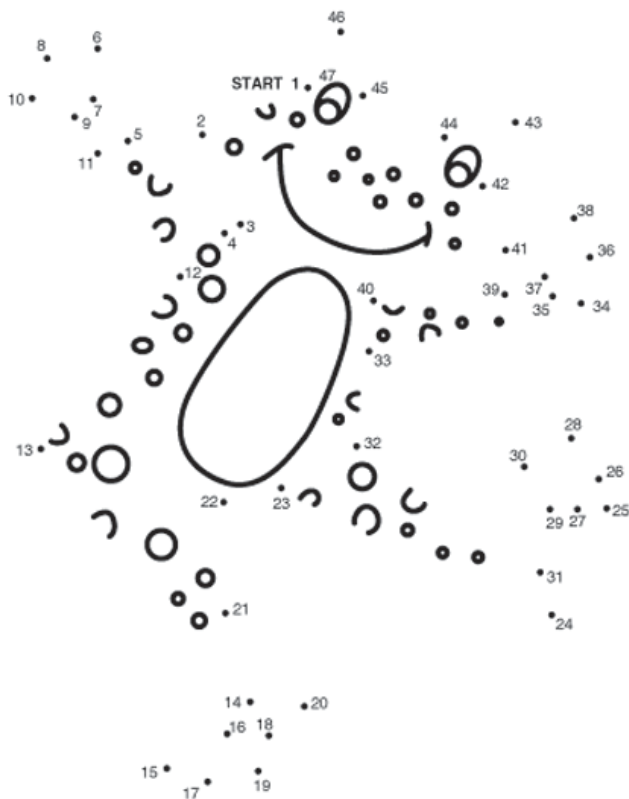


Did you know that you are more likely to be killed by a champagne cork than by a poisonous spider?



The catfish has over 27,000 tastebuds; that makes the catfish rank #1 for animal having the most tastebuds!

Mosquitos do not bite. They stab. A mosquito has no jaws; hence, when attacking a victim, it pierces with its long proboscis and sucks the blood up through its nasal tube.



TOP FIVE REASONS NOT TO KILL A SPIDER

- Spider webs are beautiful and fun to photograph.*
- Some spiders can eat twice their body weight in insects a day! That's a lot of flies and mosquitoes.*
- Spiders do not bite unless threatened or provoked.*
- Spiders make good pets ... they can go days without food or water.*
- Spiders can remove insects that might carry diseases.*



INSECT WORD FIND



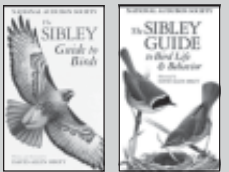
- Ladybug
- Butterfly
- Spider
- Bumblebee
- Slug
- Worm
- Cricket
- Ant
- Dragonfly
- Termite
- Roach
- Centipede
- Flea
- Gnat
- Mosquito
- Firefly
- Tick
- Grasshopper



F	I	V	D	R	A	G	O	N	F	L	Y	A	H
U	M	E	T	D	P	G	D	I	V	A	G	N	M
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I	L	O	P	A	F	R	A	S	T	B	V	B	N
C	Y	B	Y	L	J	M	O	S	Q	U	I	T	O
R	T	U	Y	I	R	I	H	F	P	G	F	I	S
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K	E	L	G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
E	D	E	P	I	T	N	E	C	L	K	H	F	R
T	H	B	T	G	N	A	T	A	G	F	D	S	A
L	R	E	R	X	Z	T	N	O	U	I	Y	O	P
F	E	E	F	C	Y	J	B	R	S	B	D	F	B

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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!



AUDUBON WYOMING HAS A NEW WEBSITE!!!

The new site highlights our science, education and policy efforts, in addition to a new way to contribute to these endeavors through an online donation page. Check it out at:

www.audubonwyoming.org

 Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

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**
154 North 8th 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 following for volunteer opportunities.



Volunteers are the heart of Audubon Wyoming programs. We would not succeed without the assistance you provide so please join us in making a difference today!