



# oice of the Meadowlark

Newsletter of the  
Meadowlark Audubon Society  
of the Big Horn Basin and Northwest Wyoming

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## President's Letter

'Tis the season to be birding. I have noticed the Snow Geese migrating at night. Their pale bellies are visible, especially during a full moon. I haven't seen too many Rough-legged Hawks or Bald Eagles yet, those raptors which for some reason find the Bighorn Basin a nice place to overwinter. It seems pretty cold to me still! I suppose they know what they are doing. It will be interesting to see how the raptors fare this year, since all evidence indicates a low in the rabbit cycle. I'm looking forward to the mid-winter eagle survey this year, and I wish I could take part in the Christmas Bird Count, but I will be making my annual Christmas trip out-of-state to visit family. I should be able to see lots of pheasants on the South Dakota roadsides; maybe their bird count can use my thousand pheasant observation!

We have a solid board membership now. Since we have made a call for more board members, several have answered! Be assured that these new board members are indeed able people with diverse talents. They all have their day jobs and passions that I hope you will be able to learn about if you talk with them. Here are a few things about them that I can share with you. Philip McClinton is an expert with bats and other creepy crawlies. I once saw a long-horn beetle make a home on his arm. Dave Buckles is an artist and photographer who loves to bird and educate. Eric Atkinson is a sustainable farmer and ornithologist and a

leading authority on shrikes. Ann Bellman has lived in some awesome places and knows a thing or two about threatened and endangered species.



*Two Board members with one bird! New Board member Dave Buckles snapped this photograph of an immature Northern Shrike up the Lower Southfork; fellow new Board member Eric Atkinson has made shrikes his research specialty.*

As you know, every person has intricate facets of experience and knowledge tucked away for use towards the common good. We hope to tap their unique abilities and become stronger as a society. Meadowlark Audubon has a lot of energy right now and we will maintain this momentum. It is Thanksgiving and so I feel a sense of gratitude right now and I must also thank the other long-standing board members who keep us afloat. Special thanks to Dr. John Rumm for being a great vice-president and newsletter editor. He has done a fantastic job. The newsletter he edits would be interesting to

any bird-loving audience nationwide. Keep reading!

Happy Holidays!

— Destin Harrell

## Plans Set for 2011 Christmas Bird Counts

Species	Count Years	109	110
		2008-9	2009-10
Canada Goose ( <i>Branta canadensis</i> )	Number	714	297
	Number / Party Hr.	10.7774	4.2581
	Flags		
	Editorial Codes		
Gadwall ( <i>Anas strepera</i> )	Number	47	4
	Number / Party Hr.	0.7094	0.0573
	Flags		
	Editorial Codes		
American Wigeon ( <i>Anas americana</i> )	Number	17	63
	Number / Party Hr.	0.2566	0.9032
	Flags		
	Editorial Codes		
Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> )	Number	740	643
	Number / Party Hr.	11.1698	9.2186
	Flags		
	Editorial Codes		
Northern Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> )	Number	6	10
	Number / Party Hr.	0.0906	0.1434
	Flags		
	Editorial Codes		

To view results of previous Cody, Kane, Clark or other Christmas Bird Counts, visit the National Audubon Web site at <http://birds.audubon.org/historical-results/> and follow the instructions found there.

### ***Kane Christmas Bird Count***

The Kane Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 17. We will meet at the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area's Visitor Center in Lovell at about 6:30 a.m. at which time participants will check in, enjoy a cup of coffee/tea and donut/muffin, and be assigned a route. We are hoping that we will have 10 teams so that only one route will be assigned per team. At sunrise, we'll set out to cover the routes. We'll regroup back at the Visitor Center at 4:30 p.m. to enjoy a chili dinner being provided by KaCey Ross. Please

bring a side dish to share. After dinner, we'll compile the data.

Please drive a 4-wheel vehicle if you can. If not, we'll try to pair you with a team in a 4-wheel.

The count covers some rugged terrain and weather conditions are sometimes poor. For safety's sake, at check-in you will need to provide your vehicle license number and description, and your cell phone number. And Tom Easterly, wildlife biologist with Wyoming Game & Fish, reminds us that pheasant-hunting season will still be going on then, so you may want to consider wearing hunter orange.

The participation fee is \$5 per person. Please bring this along with your binoculars or spotting scope, field guide, lunch, a side dish for dinner, hat and gloves, footwear, and plenty of water and/or warm drinks.

Remember to keep track of miles driven and/or walked, and weather/surface conditions (temperature, wind, snow depth, cloud cover, ice cover).

Everyone is welcome, and no expertise is required, so please bring a friend! We are looking forward to a fun and successful count day!

Good birding!

— Neil and Jenifer Miller

### ***Cody Christmas Bird Count***

The 2011 Cody Christmas Bird Count will be held on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24. If we need to reschedule due to bad weather, the backup date will be New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31.

Past count participants will be contacted soon to set up routes. If you did not take part in the

count last year and are interested in joining us for this year's count, please contact Joyce Cicco, 527-5030, or Susan Ahalt, 527-7027. An informational letter, plus a map of the route and route partner names and phone numbers will be sent to each participant prior to the count. Route partners are responsible for contacting each other to arrange meeting place, etc.

Since this year's count takes place on Christmas Eve, we will not be able to hold our post-count dinner and tally at our customary location, Christ Episcopal Church. We will gather instead at 6 pm in the basement community meeting room of Big Horn Federal Savings, 1701 Stampede Avenue, where Meadowlark Audubon holds its program meetings. All participants, including their spouses and children, are invited to join us for a pot-luck supper. Hot soup, donated by Sunset House restaurant, beverages, dishes and utensils will be provided. Participants are asked to bring a side dish of their choosing to share with the others. After dinner, we will share our observations and tally the count.

If a rare bird is seen during the count, the observer(s) will need to fill out a CBC Rare Bird Documentation Form noting location, distance, viewing conditions, bird's plumage, shape, behavior, etc. If possible, observers are asked to make a sketch of the bird at the time it is seen, noting their observations, and if a camera is available, a photo of the bird can be very helpful, even if not of the best quality.

Trespass permission will be secured from the landowners by the organizers prior to the count.

We thank all those who take part in the count, as well as the private landowners who give permission for us to cross their lands during the count. Come join other birders in our area for an enjoyable day and evening!

— Joyce Cicco and Susan Ahalt

## ***Clark Christmas Bird Count***

After a few years' hiatus, the Clark Christmas Bird Count is back! It will take place on Wednesday, December 28. Participants should meet at Edelweiss at 7:30 a.m. for route maps, instructions, and coffee cake. We will bird the west side of the count circle, reassemble back at Edelweiss at noon for a sack lunch and river walk, and then bird the east side of the count circle, returning to Edelweiss at 4:30 for a potluck dinner. Please RSVP to Mary "Lefty" Klein at 307-645-3223.

— Mary Klein

## **2011 Fall Waterfowl Count**

We had unusually nice weather on this year's fall waterfowl count at Beck Lake, Alkali Lake, the New Cody Reservoir and Buchanan Nature Sanctuary. We barely needed hand warmers!

We began our count by seeing a low of 514 birds the first week and a high of 3016 waterfowl plus 300 blackbirds on October 17. We saw an average of 1424 waterfowl plus about 166 black birds for the first six weeks this fall. In all, we observed a total of 41 different species. Among the more common birds were Eared and Western Grebes, Canada Goose, Mallard, Ruddy Ducks, Northern Shoveler, Common Merganser, Redhead, Gadwall, Lesser Scaup, Green-winged Teal, American Coot and American Avocet.

The definite high point of our count was the spotting of a male Long-tailed Duck, which is called an "Oldsquaw" in older birding books. Long-tailed Ducks are considered rare birds in Wyoming but they have been seen in other places in Wyoming this fall. They are usually seen on the east or west coast.

We ended each day's count by enjoying lunch and good fellowship at a different eatery in Cody

each week. Thanks to everyone who helped us count!

— Donna Haman

## Hard Work But Great Fun: Northwest College Biology Students Assist in Yellowstone Raptor Count



Northwest College Biology students count raptors along the Yellowstone River. (Photo by Eric Atkinson)

This past October, nine Northwest College Biology students recently participated alongside National Park Service field biologists assessing the migration of raptors through Yellowstone Park. The count was conducted through the Yellowstone Bird Program of Yellowstone Center for Resources and took place in the Hayden Valley. Snow was on the ground, west winds were chilly, and with temperatures a “balmy” 36° F, Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles, Rough-legged Hawks, and other birds were heading for warmer climates. Alongside the Yellowstone River, Trumpeter Swans tooted and Barrow’s Goldeneyes entertained the counters with their antics during low flight periods. A rock even floated by on an ice floe! Two grizzly bear sows and cubs were seen digging up rodents, as well as a moose with calf, coyotes, and their instructor’s favorite bird—the Northern Shrike.



NWC Students Emmett Phelan and Kendrick Benander scan the skies for eagles in YNP. (Photo by Eric Atkinson)

“We look forward to developing more opportunities for students to work along professional biologists, especially with Yellowstone National Park right here,” said biology instructor (and new Meadowlark Audubon board member) Eric Atkinson. “It’s important for students to rub elbows out in the field and can be a major influence on their career choice and academic path. Plus, it’s great fun and hard work.”

Researchers were surprised at the high raptor numbers observed (55 southbound, including 6 Bald and 15 Golden Eagles!), and shared their enthusiasm with the students, extending an invitation to return for next year’s migration.

— Eric Atkinson, Northwest College

## Editor’s Notebook: Swan Song Blues

*Song sung blue, everybody knows one  
Song sung blue, every garden grows one*

*Me and you are subject to the blues now and then  
But when you take the blues and make a song  
You sing them out again, sing them out again*

— “Song Sung Blue,” music and lyrics by Neil Diamond, 1971

Autumn skies have a special quality to them.  
Day breaks as the rising sun bathes the

mountains with rich red tones. The sun's light and indeed the sky itself seem clearer and more lustrous. Towards nightfall, the setting sun casts long, drawn-out shadows as shades of orange and purple color the horizon. And, at night, a stillness descends and envelops everything. There is a hush, an expectancy, a waiting for something to disturb the silence. When it does, the sounds seem to carry farther and linger longer, fading away like receding waves.

Some of my most vivid birding memories are associated with the skies of autumn. As a young boy living in suburban Rochester, New York, during the early 1960s, I used to walk up to the corner every morning to wait for my school bus. I still recall, nearly half a century later, the silence of one chilly October dawn being punctuated by the distant, and insistent, honking of an unseen flock of Canada Geese. We hardly ever saw or heard wild geese back then, so hearing this flock offered a rare and special thrill. I wondered where the geese had come from, and where they were headed. And, as their honking grew fainter and fainter, I remember feeling wistful, yearning to journey with them. *Take me with you. Take me away.*

Three decades later, other autumnal skies and the sights and sounds of birds passing through them created memories that remain fresh and indelible. Residing in northern Delaware, where we had met and married as graduate students at the University of Delaware, my wife Lyn and I frequently ventured downstate on Sunday afternoons during the fall to go birding. Our favorite destination was Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, which hugs the Delaware Bay coastline a few miles east of Dover, the state capital. We'd observe a myriad assortment of ducks, herons, ibises, plovers, gallinules, sandpipers and other waterfowl, scan trees bordering marshes to look for a resident pair of Bald Eagles, and linger until late afternoon so that we could watch as untold numbers of geese, both Canada and Snow, arrived to overnight in

the refuge's fields and waterways. Filling the skies as twilight approached, they flew in from every direction, huge flocks and streamers of them, the pepper-dark Canada and the salt-white Snow Geese intermingling overhead in a vast aerial ballet. The sound was a cacophony—the Canada's loud and feverish honking mixing with the Snow's softer hoots and calls. We never tired of the spectacle and looked forward every fall to witnessing it again.

Now, in northern Wyoming, I am discovering how autumnal skies and migrating waterfowl are providing new opportunities to create lasting memories. Standing outside in my front yard early one evening in October 2008 during my first experience with Wyoming's autumn, I glanced skyward after hearing an unfamiliar sound—a faint, almost plaintive, medley of rising and descending calls. High overhead, barely visible in the fading light, a V-shaped flock of Tundra Swans, 40 or 50 birds, was flying southwestward from the direction of Cedar Mountain and towards Carter Mountain. Their necks fully extended, the majestic white birds dipped and rose as they glided past, gabbling and calling to one another. I stood there riveted, straining my eyes and ears to follow the swans as they faded off into the distance.

In my entire life, I'd only seen swans a few times before in the wild. One afternoon while heading to Bombay Hook in central Delaware, my wife and I had taken a side road that led off to a little pond. We had gone there hoping to see a Glossy Ibis, which we did, but more memorable, and unexpected, was the sight of a pair of Mute Swans, their long, S-shaped necks carried in perfect unison as they floated gracefully together, side-by-side, across the surface of the pond. Thereafter, on subsequent trips to Bombay Hook, we made it a point to re-visit the pond and see if "our" swans were there, which they almost always were. But in all the times we observed them, we never saw them fly, nor did

they ever belie their names, never uttering a sound.

Since coming to Wyoming four years ago, I've been fortunate enough to see not only Tundra Swans, but also their larger counterparts, the equally majestic Trumpeter Swans, along the Yellowstone River and, occasionally, on Beck Lake outside Cody. But nothing matched the potency of seeing and hearing Tundra Swans in flight—at least, not until this year. On October 26—almost exactly four years to the day since I first saw them—I was treated once again to this spectacle. It was a lowering, blustery late afternoon, with thick grey clouds scudding past and sputtering out occasional bursts of snow flurries. Out in the corral feeding our horses, I once again heard a distant lilting sound, reminiscent of the bleating of sheep, coming from the vicinity of the nearby Buffalo Bill Reservoir. At first, in the dimming light, I couldn't make out its source, but all of a sudden, onward they came, nearly a hundred Tundra Swans in two ragged V-formations, flying low enough to the ground that I could hear the *swoosh* of their beating wings among the babble of their incessant hooting and calling. Their necks outstretched as they flew, the swans



Hans Kleiber, Whistling [Tundra] Swans, etching, n.d. Whitney Gallery of Western Art, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. Gift of Lucile M. Wright, 31.7.265. Used with permission.

looked like a flock of angels, seraphim and cherubim entrained together in flight. I stood there transfixed, wanting to etch this moment in my memory forever, feeling sad and wistful as the swans disappeared in the distance, yet also refreshed and invigorated at having seen and heard them. The experience was sublime, almost transcendental.

Afterwards, looking through some of my books, I discovered that others have had similar feelings, engendered by their own encounters with wild swans. Gilbert Klingel, a naturalist whose home ground was the Delmarva Peninsula, recounted in his book *The Bay how*, as he hiked along Maryland's Eastern Shore "on a gray November day," he heard "a faint murmuring which seemed to come out of the shrouded distance." As he headed towards its source, "the sound became more distinct, an odd gabbling and a queer rustling [that] appeared to cover a large arc of the invisible horizon and seemed to emanate from beyond the beach, out in the open water." Nearing the shoreline, Klingel began to make out individual sounds, and, as the fog lifted,

*there appeared not far from the shore a white line as though foam was piled deep in billowy drifts. The line was so white against the gray that it seemed to give off a light of its own, a loom much like a reflection of snow. Then the fog lifted completely, and against a dark-green sea appeared one of the largest flocks of wild swans I have ever seen. . . . As I reached the edge and sank into the vegetation out of sight, a wonderful event occurred. At that very moment a rift must have opened somewhere in the clouds, for a long shaft of rose-colored light stole down through the overhanging mist and bathed the whole group in a luminescent glow. Against the somber background of gray sky and dull-green sea, the sight of these hundreds of graceful, clean, curving bodies suddenly lighted with brilliant pink was exceedingly beautiful, and I rate it as one of the most enthralling spectacles I have ever witnessed.*

Another naturalist, Henry Beston, in one of the most lyrical passages of his eloquently-written memoir, *The Outermost House*,

described how, as he was walking along a Cape Cod beach in the fall of 1927,

*I chanced to look up a moment at the southern sky, and there for the first and still the only time in my life, I saw a flight of swans. The birds were passing along the coast well out to sea; they were flying almost cloud high and traveling very fast, and their course was as direct as an arrow's from a bow. Glorious white birds in the blue October heights over the solemn unrest of ocean—their passing was more than music and from their wings descended the old loveliness of earth which both affirms and heals.*

Even otherwise dispassionate ornithologists can be moved to almost poetic rapture when describing the sounds of flying swans. In the account of the Tundra Swan they prepared for *The Birds of North America: Life Histories for the 21st Century* [No. 89, 1994], for example, authors R.J. Limpert and S.L. Earnst wrote of how “the combined voices of hundreds or thousands of swans produce a musical murmuring that can be heard for miles.”

Lilting and lyrical, the evocative cries of migrating Tundra Swans strike the right note for autumn: wistful, even melancholy—just like the blues. They've been migrating each and every fall for countless millennia, bleating their mournful calls, carrying on and enduring, with or without us. Yet they, along with so many other species of waterfowl, are increasingly imperiled by the degradation and eradication of their breeding grounds, and especially by the decline or disappearance of wetlands used for stopovers during their migratory flights. Rather than leave us depressed, the blues of these majestic white birds should inspire us to redouble our efforts to conserve their threatened habitats, lest their unforgettable cries turn out to be truly their swan songs.

— John C. Rumm

## Greater Yellowstone Raptor Experience

*Editor's Note: Melissa Hill, manager of the Greater Yellowstone Raptor Experience and author of this article, will introduce Meadowlark Audubon members and others to her “Avian Ambassador” raptors on Thursday, April 12, 2012, at Northwest College in Powell. See the calendar for more details!*

The Cody area has much to offer visitors: a gateway to Yellowstone National Park, the Bighorn Basin and Shoshone National Forest, a world-class museum, trail rides, river rafting, ice climbing, gun fights in the street, nightly summer rodeo, and more businesses with the legendary Buffalo Bill's name on it than you can imagine. Now, Cody has one more unique and enriching attraction to add to the list: *The Greater Yellowstone Raptor Experience*, a live raptor education program run by the Draper Museum of Natural History at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

While this region is also quite well known for its wildlife viewing, birds aren't typically the first animals that come to mind. To be honest, this isn't the most productive region for general birders, but we can boast a fairly impressive diversity and abundance of some birds, especially waterfowl and raptors. A summer drive across northwestern Wyoming can barely be accomplished without spotting Swainson's and Red-tailed Hawks, Osprey, American Kestrel, and Golden Eagles. If you're really lucky you might even spot Northern Harriers and Peregrine or Prairie Falcons, as well as Burrowing and Great Horned Owls. In the winter, we have an abundance of Rough-legged Hawks, and you can easily spot Bald Eagles along rivers and lakes. Unfortunately, you rarely get to see these magnificent birds up close. That's where we come in!

As Assistant Curator of the Draper Museum of Natural History, I had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help establish, and now the amazing responsibility of managing, the Greater Yellowstone Raptor Experience. It is such a privilege to bring live birds of prey within a few

feet of folks who may never get the opportunity to see them up close again. The fledgling program, which was established with generous grants from the William H. Donner Foundation and the Canadian Donner Foundation in memory of Robert Donner, Jr. and Bobby Donner III, focuses on the natural history of raptors in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and their importance in nature. As such, the birds in the program are those found in the area and, hopefully, ones that our guests have seen. This program has been envisioned since the early planning stages of the Draper Museum, and represents a new partnership between the Draper Museum and the University of Wyoming's Berry Center for Biodiversity Conservation.

The program currently features a Great Horned Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, and Turkey Vulture. Each of the birds is permanently non-releasable, having a disability of some sort which makes survival in the wild extremely difficult or impossible. They come with stories as varied as their species. The hawk was struck by a car and suffered damage to his right eye so severe that the eye was removed. The owl and falcon both sustained impact injuries to their right wings. The falcon's wing healed in a manner that shows a noticeable droop and leaves her with very limited flight abilities. The owl's damaged wing is less noticeable, yet he will never regain good enough flight to return to the wild. The vulture, less than six months old, was thought to have been orphaned at a few weeks of age and ended up in a nature center where she was raised by humans and imprinted upon them. She never learned how to be a vulture and has no survival skills to keep her safe and healthy if returned to the wild.

Since the arrival of the birds at the end of summer, a very devoted group of staff and volunteers (including several Meadowlark Audubon members) has been hard at work, learning how to tie falconers' knots and hold the birds properly on their gloved left hands. At the

same time, the birds have been learning to trust people and to accept their presence, even in large numbers. Already appearing in public on a regular basis, we are gearing up for a busy winter filled with school programs, impromptu talks, and many other educational engagements. After all, education is what we do!

The Greater Yellowstone Raptor Experience is part of a larger raptor project through the Draper Museum of Natural History. In addition to the live raptor education program, Draper Museum of Natural History Senior and Founding Curator, Dr. Charles Preston, conducts Golden Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk research throughout the Greater Yellowstone region, writes and lectures widely about birds of prey and other subjects, and continues to lead field trips showcasing raptors, along with other predators. Being relatively large, conspicuous predators, raptors are often considered windows to nature. By studying raptors, we can gain a better understanding of the natural world in general. Having live birds to accompany the information we are gleaning and passing on to the public makes it a more enjoyable and impactful ecological lesson.

In the short time the birds have been "Avian Ambassadors" they have definitely already made an impact. Each day, our visitors ask Buffalo Bill Historical Center staff, "When will the birds be out?" They've also managed to build a small following on Facebook, the popular social networking website, and have already been featured in newspapers across the country!

The future appears bright for the Greater Yellowstone Raptor Experience, and we've set our goals high. We are hopeful that a Golden Eagle will join our ranks in the near future and that we do such a fantastic job bringing these birds to the public that we will be allowed to expand the number of birds in our care so that everyone can experience more of the raptors found in our area. If all goes as planned, you may one day see our birds as "national

celebrities.” For now, however, they’ll settle for local celebrity status.

— Melissa Hill

## Top Ten Christmas Gifts for Birders



Looking for the perfect gift for a birder (or to put on your own “wish list” to share with someone else)? Here are some suggestions!

- 1) Bird feeder: Ideally you’ll have more than one style, so as to accommodate the widest assortment of species. Make sure to request one that can be mounted so that it doesn’t attract bears, housecats or other predators.
- 2) Premium wild bird seed: Avoid commercial blends containing too much millet, which most birds tend to ignore in favor of black oil sunflower, Niger seed, peanut bits and other delectables.
- 3) Birdbath: Especially during winter, birds require fresh water for drinking or bathing. Look for birdbaths that will withstand prolonged exposure to low temperatures, such as those made of concrete or durable plastic.
- 4) Birdbath heater or de-icer: A necessity for keeping your birdbath ice-free in the coldest

winter weather. Expect to spend between \$35 and \$60 for a simple yet effective device, including solar-powered models.

5) Phone apps: A variety of downloadable phone apps for identifying birds are available, ranging from \$3 to \$20 and up, depending on the functions and features. For a good overview, read Bob Tedeschi’s review, “A Touch-Screen Field Guide to the Birds, for Instant IDs,” *New York Times*, April 21, 2010, accessible online.

6) Convertible glove/mittens: Available from REI, Land’s End and other retailers, these fingerless gloves have a mitten top that folds up, freeing your fingers to adjust your binoculars or check your field guide (or phone app).

7) BinoBib™: Manufactured by Dextron Scopecoat™ and made of soft Neoprene, this cover fits many makes of binoculars and is designed to stay in place while in use, offering protection from water, grit or other hazards.

8) Birding journal: A hard-bound journal that is arranged taxonomically is a great way to record your sightings. *National Geographic Birder’s Journal* is a good one. Another is *A Bird Lover’s Life List & Journal*, published in 1992 by Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts, featuring illustrations from John James Audubon’s *Birds of America*. It’s out-of-print, but copies are sometimes available from online booksellers.

9) *Bird Watcher’s Digest*: Published bi-monthly and intended for both “serious” birders and amateur enthusiasts, this attractive periodical offers ID tips, species profiles, book and product reviews, and other features. Gift subscriptions are available for as little as \$10.

10) Meadowlark Audubon Society membership: At only \$12 a year, you can’t beat this bargain! Need we say more?

— John Rumm and Lyn Stallings



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Big Horn Basin and Northwest Wyoming  
P.O. Box 2126, Cody, Wyoming 82414

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

*Unless otherwise noted, all events take place in the basement community room of Big Horn Federal Savings, 1701 Stampede Avenue, in Cody. Please make sure to check our website (<http://www.meadowlarkwyo.org>) for program details, announcements and updates!*

**December 8, 2011:** Board meeting, 6-7 p.m., Bison Room, Park County Library, Cody. No program meeting; members are encouraged to participate in one or more Christmas Bird Counts in our area.

**January 12, 2012:** Board meeting, 6-6:45 p.m. General meeting, 7-8:15. Program (tentative): Sophie Osborn (Wyoming Outdoor Council), "Reducing Raptor Mortality Rates Near Wind Farms/Wind Corridors."

**January 14, 2012:** BLM Eagle Survey. For more information please contact Destin Harrell, 578-5933.

**February 9, 2012:** Board meeting, 6-6:45 p.m. General meeting, 7-8:15. Program: Amy Pocerwicz (Landscape Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy), "Mapping Important Bird Concentration Areas Used During Migration in Wyoming."

**March 8, 2012:** Board meeting, 6-6:45 p.m. General meeting, 7-8:45. Program: Dr. Alan Krakauer (University of California-Davis), "Greater Sage-Grouse Behavior and Conservation, with Particular Emphasis on Acoustic Communication."

**April 12, 2012:** Board meeting, 6-6:45 p.m. General meeting, 7-8:15. Location: Fagerberg Building, Room FAB-70, Northwest College, Powell. Program: Melissa Hill (Draper Museum of Natural History), "The Greater Yellowstone Raptor Experience." *Annual election of Meadowlark Audubon Society Officers and Board Members.*

**May 10, 2012:** Board meeting, 6-6:45 p.m. General meeting, 7-8:15. Program: Philip McClinton (Draper Museum of Natural History), "Rattlesnakes and Rattlesnake Awareness" and "White-winged Dove Field Studies."