

Last  
Chance  
Audubon  
Society



# *Last Chance Chat*

Last Chance Audubon Society promotes understanding, respect and enjoyment of birds and the natural world through education, habitat protection and environmental advocacy.

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*Published September to May*

*Helena, MT*

*October 2016*

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## *Grasslands are for the Birds*

*With Allison Begley*

*Tuesday Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM*

Snacks & Conversation 6:30p.m.

Montana WILD, 2668 Broadwater Ave

FREE – All are Welcome

Grassland communities in eastern Montana provide some of the last vestiges of native prairie in the U.S. Birds such as Sprague's Pipit and Baird's Sparrow depend on intact grassland habitats. Fish, Wildlife & Parks is developing a strategy to provide a statewide focus on grassland conservation and coordination with conservation partners. Protecting and restoring grasslands is the objective to provide habitat for grassland-associated wildlife. The focus of this presentation will be the status of grasslands, grassland birds and the conservation of these habitats.



Photo by Bob Martinka



Our speaker, Allison Begley, is the Avian Conservation Biologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. She graduated from the University of Alberta with an MSc in 2002 after working on wetland restoration. She has been a biologist with the department for over 13 years, and coordinates the Montana Bird Conservation Partnership as part of her duties.

## *President's Perch*

### *On Working Together*

Think of a spider's web. Visualize the spider quietly situated in the middle of the web, with each of her eight legs taking the pulse of a sticky strand. An unsuspecting housefly or bumblebee flies into the net, and the spider immediately picks-up the vibration, like a telegraph code, and rushes to the scene to secure her prey; a quick response means a reward of a meal.

We are developing that sort of communication between the nine state chapters of Audubon through the Chapter Relations Committee of the Montana Audubon Board. Having just met in mid-September, we are developing means of communication so we can share what's working for our chapter and glean ideas from the State office and other chapters about what the potential is for action in the great state of Montana.

Besides the web of action within the Audubon circle, we also have a web for our GEMS Project (Golden Eagle Migration Survey Project), working in concert with the US Forest Service, MT FWP, Montana Audubon and Last Chance Audubon. Each entity brings their expertise to the table and

so much is accomplished more efficiently than if we were to shoulder the project ourselves.

And, within our chapter we have a core of people covering the various tasks that make for a vibrant chapter, communicating efforts so the vibration ripples out for the benefit of all.

Janice Miller

President, Last Chance Audubon Society



*Photo by Bob Martinka*

LCAS November 8, 2016 Program – Location: To Be Announced

### **An Eagle Spectacle in the Big Belt Mountains**

Ronan Dugan and Jeff Grayum, our two observers for the Golden Eagle Migration Survey (GEMS), fresh off the mountain, will tell tales of adventure, misfortune, science, and eagles. Their talk about life in the Big Belt Mountains in the Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest will be illustrated with outstanding photography.

## Newsletter Update - End of an Era



As fall begins to weave its way into the Helena Valley, the change that accompanies the passing months is subtle but obvious. The temps are cooler, the colors seem brighter with the changing angle of the sun, the days are noticeably shorter, and so on. Change as we understand it is inevitable, but with change comes newness and opportunity.

LCAS is in the midst of change also. Our focus is currently on migrating raptors, mitigation of weeds in good bird habitat, and continuing efforts to be good stewards of our environment. This last item may seem like something we are consistently involved in, but this, too, requires change in how our members help our environment.

In a couple of months, LCAS will discontinue the hardcopy newsletter. In the early spring LCAS Board of Directors made a decision to eliminate the hardcopy newsletter effective January 2017. As mentioned in previous newsletters, some of the potential impacts of discontinuing the hardcopy newsletter are:

- Reducing paper usage in order to curb deforestation
- Reducing waste to lessen landfill impacts
- Reducing LCAS newsletter associated costs so we can designate funds to other conservation efforts

As difficult as it is to let go of the paper newsletter, we want to be as responsible as possible to our environment. Help us in this effort by sending your email address to:

[lastchanceaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lastchanceaudubonsociety@gmail.com).

Your email address will remain with LCAS and will not be shared with any other organizations. We will then continue to send you the monthly newsletter - electronically! It will be sent out at the beginning of each month, and it can be accessed simply by clicking on the [LCAS eNewsletter](#) link. This will open the newsletter in exactly the same format as the printed version, only everything will be in color! We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you online!



## *LCAS Website*

The LCAS website is a great resource for finding out where LCAS has been, what we are currently up to, and where we are headed.

Can't find your latest issue of Last Chance Chat? There is a [Monthly Newsletter](#) link that has archived newsletters dating back to 2010.



Been looking for contact information for LCAS Board Members, Committee Chairs or Chapter Officers? Click on [Contacts](#) and a full list of email addresses and phone numbers is at your fingertips.

Ever wondered what chapter program is coming up for the next month? Just open the homepage and a detailed article will give you all the info about the upcoming program.

Looking to head out for a little birding and wondering where to go? Simply click on [Birding in the Helena Area](#) and open the LCAS brochure that describes all of the hot spots. Then surf on over to the [Birdtrax](#) link and find out which bird species are being found and where they are in our area.

How about some information on the [Christmas Bird Count](#) (CBC)? A full page is dedicated to all things CBC including the upcoming count and counts from each year for the last eight seasons. Visit us at [lastchanceaudubon.org](http://lastchanceaudubon.org) and see what you have been missing!

## *The Fall Fundraiser*

*By Jo Lace*

**Our website:**

[www.lastchanceaudubon.org](http://www.lastchanceaudubon.org)

This year's fall fundraiser coincides with the LCAS monthly program by Ronan Dugan and Jeff Grayum concerning the Big Belts golden eagle survey (GEMS) for 2016. Last year Ronan and crew counted over 2,600 golden eagles - an amazing feat! The survey continues to gain widespread support from Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and Montana Audubon. Last Chance Audubon is excited about the survey and is encouraging members to bring their checkbooks to the meeting\* for this fall fundraiser where Ronan and Jeff will present the results from this year's survey. All funds collected will be dedicated to ongoing support for the survey.

**\*Note: The November 8th program location will be announced at a later date. Please watch the LCAS website and Facebook for upcoming information. A location announcement will be sent electronically to those who have provided an email address to LCAS.**



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Please welcome to Last Chance Audubon Society new chapter members Sarah Bond, Debbie Fosket, Norman Harju, Michele Osborne, and Beverly Rhodes.

Many thanks to Last Chance Audubon Society renewing chapter members Jim & Suzi Stanger, and Carla Wambach.

Please also welcome National Audubon Society new members Susan Anderson, Mary Clark, Ann Galbraith, Robert Langenbach, W. Dawson List, Janet Nick, and Keif Storrar.

Sincere thanks to National Audubon Society renewing members Loren Bahls, Bruce Desonia, Debbie Fosket, and Caitlin Parke.

And, please also welcome National Audubon Society transfer member Jennifer Frazer.

**Errors and Omissions:** Apologies to Lowell & Donna Anderson & Bob Sanders who were listed as new LCAS members in our last newsletter. They should have been listed as renewing members. And, our apologies for not recognizing new National Audubon member Raven Smith.

**LCAS MEMBERSHIP:** For anyone interested in joining our local Audubon chapter, you can find a registration form in this newsletter or online at [lastchanceaudubon.org/membership](http://lastchanceaudubon.org/membership). Membership is \$15 per household and runs January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

**NAS Membership:** If you would like membership information about National Audubon Society please direct an email to them at [customerservice@audubon.org](mailto:customerservice@audubon.org) or you may contact them directly by phone at 844-428-3826.

Sharon Miller, Membership Chair,  
[12sharmil95@gmail.com](mailto:12sharmil95@gmail.com) or 406-513-1152  
(local call)



**Just For Clarification:** You may have gotten an appeal in the mail recently from *Montana Audubon* for their Annual Conservation Fund. We encourage you to support them however you can. Keep in mind that this is a state organization and is independent from Last Chance Audubon Society.

Last Chance Audubon Society  
PO Box 924  
Helena MT 59624

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Helena MT 59601  
Permit #29



<https://www.facebook.com/lastchanceaudubon>

Website:  
[www.lastchanceaudubon.org](http://www.lastchanceaudubon.org)

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Clip and mail to: PO Box 924,  
Helena MT 59624 with check  
for \$15. All contributions are  
tax deductible.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### LCAS BOARD

**PRESIDENT:** Janice Miller, 439-5762, [jan2854@gmail.com](mailto:jan2854@gmail.com)

**SECRETARY:** Brian Shovers, 443-6640, [sholace1049@gmail.com](mailto:sholace1049@gmail.com)

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**BOARD AT LARGE:** Don Skaar,  
442-3254, [tedradon@gmail.com](mailto:tedradon@gmail.com)

### LCAS COMMITTEE CHAIRS/CONTACTS

**Birdathon:** Jo Lace 443-6640,  
[sholace1049@gmail.com](mailto:sholace1049@gmail.com)

**Birdseed Sale:** Sue Jackson & Sandy Shull,  
443-4486 or 449-0904

**Christmas Bird Count:** Cedron Jones, 442-1271 & Lorna Milne, 443-7162,  
[lornajmilne@gmail.com](mailto:lornajmilne@gmail.com)

**Conservation:** Brian Shovers,  
443-6640

**Membership:** Sharon Miller, 442-7533

**Monthly Program:** Sandy Shull & Liz  
Hiltunen, 449-0904 or 227-5492

**Newsletter:** Meta Downhour,  
[meta.downhour@live.com](mailto:meta.downhour@live.com)

**Publicity:** Liz Hiltunen, 227-5492,  
[lhiltunen@q.com](mailto:lhiltunen@q.com)

**Silent Auction:** Sandy Shull & Jo Lace, 449-0904 or 443-6640

**Field Trips:** open

**Habitat Protection:** open

**MT Audubon State Office:** 443-3949

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