



# 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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*Helena, MT*

*March 2017*

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## *LCAS March Lecture Series 2017*

*6:30PM at Montana Historical Society*

*225 Roberts Street, Helena*

*Thursdays March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>*

The theme for the Last Chance Audubon March Lecture Series is Montana hunting and fishing to acknowledge the current exhibits on hunting and fishing at the Montana Historical Society. The programs begin at 6:30PM the first four Thursdays of March and are held in the Auditorium at the Montana Historical Society at 225 North Roberts Street.

### **March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Waterfowl Conservation**

Bob Sanders, Manager of Conservation Programs for Ducks Unlimited, will talk about DU's efforts to conserve waterfowl production areas in Montana and provide hunting opportunities.



*Aerial view of Flatt property - Bob Sanders -DU*

### **March 9<sup>th</sup> – Ethics and Conservation of Hunting**

Jim Posewitz, retired Montana FWP biologist (1961-1993) and recipient of the Montana Wildlife Federation Conservationist Award of 2015, will talk about the ethics and conservation of hunting. Posewitz is the author of *Beyond Fair Chase: The Ethics and Traditions of Hunting* and an ardent advocate of ethical hunting.

### **March 16th – Wild Trout Management**

Dick Vincent, retired fisheries manager from FWP, will talk about his research on the Madison River in the 1960s and 1970s that led to the current Wild Trout management philosophy, and the cessation of stocking hatchery trout in rivers and streams.

### **March 23rd – Tribal Hunting and Fishing History**

Tom McDonald, manager of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation Department for the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribe, will talk about the history of tribal hunting and fishing on the Flathead Reservation.

As an added attraction, the Historical Society has offered to show the original *Audubon Birds of America: From the Original Drawings*, 1860, archived in the collections. Showings will be from 6 to 7PM on the 16th and 23rd in the MHS Library on the 2nd floor.

For more info contact Brian Shovers at [shoelace1049@gmail.com](mailto:shoelace1049@gmail.com)



*Bison Skull Pile (1870s) courtesy of Jim Posewitz*

## *President's Perch*

### Conservation is Conservation

In an old photo, my Dad and I are straining to hold a stringer of fish up high enough for my Mom to take our picture. Five of the rainbow trout were 15" and one, that I caught, was 18". We are grinning from ear to ear at our good fortune. After the focused effort of preparing the fishing line – tying on the swivel, adding the leader, bobber and weights, choosing the hook and bait, or a lure, (he wasn't a fly-fisherman, after all) and then casting the works into the mighty Missouri River – my Dad would take a deep breath and look around at the scenery. There, below Hauser Dam, it wasn't uncommon to witness an osprey kiting for a fish, several pelicans on the water, or a Bald Eagle flying up and down the river. Dad would excitedly say, "Hey, fellas, look there!"

I see hunting, fishing, and birding as an excuse to get outside and into nature to rejuvenate.

In an article written by Ron Dungan for *The Arizona Republic*, and published August 2016, he says, "Exposure to nature improves concentration and problem solving. It reduces stress and increases feelings of empathy."

The list of speakers for our Natural History Lecture Series are from a variety of agencies and past decades who have concerned themselves with conservation, just as we do at Audubon. We are a state that recreates in the out-of-doors, and want our grandchildren to enjoy many of the same pursuits.

When you are out-and-about this spring, whether it be fishing, hunting, hiking, kayaking, or camping, be like my dad; raise your eyes to the skies once in a while and see what birds you may find.

So much of what we enjoy today was borne on the shoulders of conservationists who forged the way so that we, too, might renew ourselves outside in this beautiful place we call home.

Janice Miller, President

Last Chance Audubon Society

#### Freezeout Lake NWR field trip

April 1 & 2

Witness the phenomenal gathering of thousands of Snow Geese at Freezeout NWR at sunset and sunrise. We'll plan to stay at a motel in Fairfield. Contact Janice Miller for more details at [jan2854@gmail.com](mailto:jan2854@gmail.com).



Unidentified photographer. View of reference room showing Audubon's *Birds of America*, in the basement of the Capitol Building, Helena. 1902-04. Catalog #952-768. Montana Historical Society Research Center Photo

*Montana Audubon Wings Across the Big Sky*



June 9-11, 2017 Great Falls, Montana

Come join us for Montana Audubon's Annual Bird Festival, this year co-hosted by the Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon, June 9-11, 2017, at the Best Western Plus Heritage Inn in Great Falls. All festival activities will take place Friday through Sunday at the Heritage Inn, including registration, field trip departures, guest speaker presentations, meals, banquet festivities, our 40th Anniversary barbecue, and much more. The Heritage Inn is easily accessible from any exit to 10th Avenue South and provides easy access to all our birding activities and field trips.

Currently we have rooms booked for festival-goers Friday and Saturday nights. Be sure to tell them you're with the Montana Audubon Bird Festival group to get the special rate! If you're planning to arrive early or late to take in the pre- and post-trips sponsored by the local chapter, the hotel will try to accommodate you at our contracted rate outside the block. We suggest you make your reservations soon by calling 406-761-1900 or 1-800-548-8256. (cont. on page 3)

Our Festival Registration Brochure is scheduled to be mailed early March, with an online registration system active soon after. Use either system to register. The brochure is full of information on the festival events and all the field trips that will be available. If you are a volunteer or field trip leader with UMBA, be sure to get the special registration form to fill out and mail in; Nora or Kay will have the forms and details.

Here's a sneak peak at some of our scheduled events for the Festival:

- \* Keynote speaker David Ringer from National Audubon – “Protecting Birds and the Places They Need, Today and Tomorrow”
- \* Friday evening – Barbecue and celebration of Montana Audubon's 40 years!
- \* Saturday afternoon – Montana Audubon staff will present information about their programs and work to conserve birds and their habitats, and to educate all ages on the importance of our conservation efforts.
- \* Saturday and Sunday mornings - Educational field trips in and around Great Falls

Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon has decided that they are unable to manage a Silent Auction this year, so the only items for bid will be the custom tours arranged by Montana Audubon. There will be a BIG raffle this year plus our fun basket raffles. Fun for all!

Stay tuned for more information on other special happenings at or around this festival event.

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### *Membership Report*

- Please welcome to **Last Chance Audubon Society** new chapter members Ray Bieber, Ellen Bishop, Jill Downing, Steve Hoffman, Larry & Carol McEvoy, Coral White and Mary Yeshe.
- Many thanks to **Last Chance Audubon Society renewing chapter members** George Blyman, Bill & Vicki Fitzgerald, Dan Ellison & Jane Fournier, James & Diann Fradette, Suzy Holt, Janice Miller, Jim & Dolores Rose, Berma Saxton, Jim & Suzi Stanger, Ramona Turnbull, Carla Wambach and Charlena Porsild & Clark Whitehorn.
- Please also welcome **National Audubon Society new members** Justina Fedorchuk, Laurie Germain, Sandy Matule, Judy Murphy and Joan Schellenger.
- Sincere thanks to **National Audubon Society renewing members** Cheryl & David Belitsky, Jean Bond, Everette Lynn and Jorge Ramirez.
- **LCAS MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE NOW FOR 2017: Thank you to approximately 60% of our members that have renewed for 2017. Please save us the cost of mailing a reminder postcard to the remaining 40%. Read more below...**
- This is a great time to make sure we have all your correct contact information, INCLUDING YOUR EMAIL, by filling out a registration form located either in this newsletter or printed from [www.lastchanceaudubon.org](http://www.lastchanceaudubon.org). **\*\*IF YOU RECEIVED THIS NEWSLETTER BY POSTAL MAIL WE DO NOT HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.** Please help us reduce printing costs and opt to receive our newsletter electronically. Those dollars will be better spent for important bird habitat, education and outreach.
- The cost of membership/renewal is \$15 per household and is current for one year, January 1st through December 31st. Please send your completed registration form and your \$15 check to: LCAS, PO Box 924, Helena, MT 59624. Thank you.
- **NAS MEMBERSHIP:** If you would like National Audubon Society membership information, please direct an email to [www.customerservice@audubon.org](mailto:www.customerservice@audubon.org) or you may contact them directly by phone at 1-844-428-3828
- **Please note:** If you are a current member of National Audubon Society you are automatically enrolled in our chapter. That means you are not obligated to also pay dues to our chapter but, as always, we appreciate and welcome the additional support. Your \$15 membership to Last Chance Audubon Society is significantly more than we receive from National Audubon when you join at the national level, and it helps us with funding for local habitat improvements, surveys & research, yearly high school student scholarships, educational programs, field trips, resource guides, webpage management and more. However you wish to support Audubon, we are grateful for your gift to our feathered friends.
- For more information, contact Sharon Miller, Membership Chair, [12sharmil95@gmail.com](mailto:12sharmil95@gmail.com) or 513-1152

Last Chance Audubon Society  
PO Box 924  
Helena MT 59624



<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

**LCAS BOARD PRESIDENT:** Janice Miller, 439-5762,

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### 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

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

**Membership:** Sharon Miller, 513-1152

**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