

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.

Published September to May Helena, MT December 2016, January 2017

Birding Down Under with Bob Martinka

LCAS Program

December 13, 2016, 7:00PM

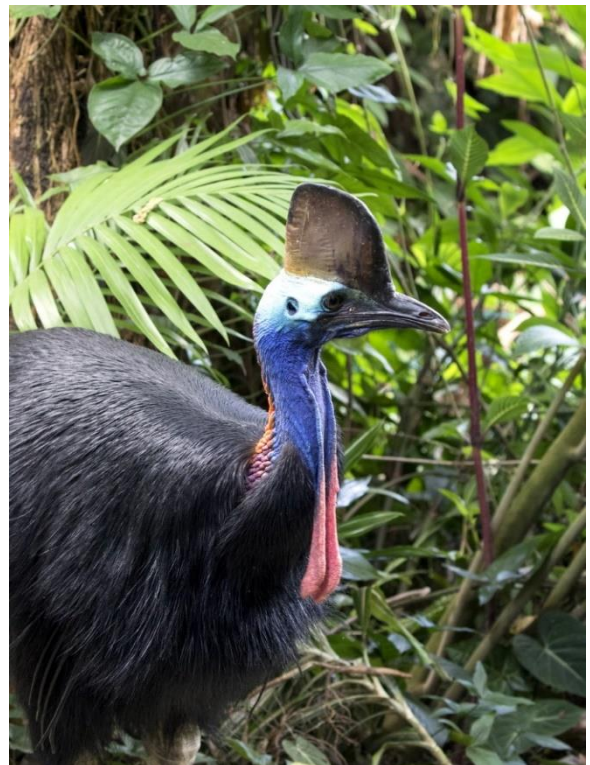
6:30 Social Hour

Montana WILD, 2668 Broadwater Ave.

Having just returned from a trip to Australia, Bob Martinka will share his adventure covering over 1,700 miles along the east coast from Cairnes in the north to Tasmania in the south. Birding was the primary target of this trip, with sightings such as the rare Cassowary and colorful Fairywrens. There were also opportunities to view some of the many marsupial mammals of Australia, including kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas, and others. Various reptile species were also seen most days. From the tropical Great Barrier Reef region to the wilds of Tasmania, scenery was a bonus. Bob's photography of Australia is a must-see!

Bob Martinka worked for nearly 30 years with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. In his career with FWP, he began as a field biologist and then held a number of positions, closing his career as Deputy Director. Since retirement, Bob has become an avid photographer, traveling around the globe to pursue his interest in most wild things, including birds, dragonflies, mammals and flowers. His passion for photography has allowed him to share his outdoor experiences and exceptional images with many others. Bob has served as a member of the Montana Audubon Board. He obtained degrees in Wildlife Biology and Ecology from Colorado State U, Purdue University, and a PhD from Montana State University in 1970.

Southern Cassowary by Bob Martinka



Non-Auction Fall Fundraiser

OOPS! We didn't get it in the November newsletter, but our Non-Auction Fundraiser is happening at our December 13th meeting! Remember, you don't have to take anything home, AND you have an opportunity to support the Golden Eagle Migration Survey (GEMS) project. **Bring your checkbook!**

Curassows, Motmots, and Costa Rica

LCAS Program, January 10, 2017, 7:00 PM

6:30 Social Hour

Montana WILD, 2668 Broadwater Ave.



From Tanagers to Curassows, from Motmots to Euphonia, Janice Miller was able to find and photograph many colorful birds, and mammals, such as sloths and anteaters, during a two week visit in Costa Rica this past spring. She visited La Selva Biological Station & Reserve, the Nature Pavilion Park, Volcano Poas, and Lagunilla Lodge, and fell in love with the colorful birds and tropical scenery. This program will feature the adventures and photography of Janice's travels in Costa Rica.

Janice, a local massage therapist, feels she has always had the eye of a photographer, but when she upgraded in early 2015, to a Canon 7D with a 400mm lens, it revolutionized her photography. Today she lugs that camera as she paddles a kayak or hikes, even up the steep, rugged road to the Golden Eagle Migration Survey (GEMS) observation site. Janice became active in LCAS during the 1980's and 90's. She was co-chair of the 2015 Bird Festival in Helena. She now serves as President of LCAS, is the LCAS Chapter representative on the MT Audubon Board of Directors and is chair of their Chapter Relations Sub-Committee. She also serves as the chair of the GEMS committee. Janice delights in world travel, bird and nature photography, laughter and hugs. In her free time, she sends lots of emails and organizes Audubon-related activities with a passionate enthusiasm.

Red-legged honeycreeper by Janice Miller



Christmas Bird Count

This year's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place on Saturday, December 17th. Lorna Milne is the coordinator and will be organizing teams in December. At the Dec. 13th program with Bob Martinka (see page 1), Lorna will be signing-up those who are interested. The CBC is a great opportunity for novice birders to join in and learn from veteran birders! If you're interested, contact Lorna at lornajmilne@gmail.com or at 443-7162. This year's post-count potluck will be held at the St Paul's UMC, 512 Logan at 6:00 p.m. This is a fantastic annual event, and we hope to see you there!

President's Perch:

On Change

Change is afoot! We all feel it on the national level, as well as within our state and local Audubon organizations - change is coming our way. For Last Chance Audubon, we already have our foot on the footpath of change.

Take a glance back at the past two years and recognize things we've done as a chapter that help us feel connected, both to each other and to the broader community. We have accomplished projects such as successfully hosting the Montana Audubon Bird Festival in Helena, providing support to a fledgling middle school birding group and awarding a generous financial scholarship to a Capital High School graduate.

We've therefore established a foundation from which to work, one of trust and comradery, of stability and solidarity. These things help to "clear the sky of despair" (Barack Obama) so we can maintain hope, optimism, and a strength to be able to say, like Obama told his daughters, "O.K., where are the places where I can push to keep it moving forward?"

For us the answer might be signing a petition, testifying at the Legislature, supporting others who are working towards clean water, or volunteering for LCAS – perhaps just using eBird with some regularity, taking a census at our local Lake Helena IBA, participating in the Curlew Study, leading a field trip, and/or serving on the LCAS board of directors. The list goes on and on.

We need to work hard and work together, communicate with each other, support each other.

We can change and roll with the punches. We need only to step-up every day for a more just and sustainable world.

Let's GO!

Janice Miller,

President

Last Chance Audubon Society

Our website:

www.lastchanceaudubon.org

Save Parking, Save the Environment

We are blessed and grateful that so many people want to learn about birds and help preserve their environment! We are less blessed in terms of parking capacity. We would so appreciate if y'all would consider carpooling, especially to Bob Martinka's much-anticipated December program. Thank you!



Black-capped Chickadee by Bob Martinka

Calling all Volunteers!

Last Chance Audubon promotes the health and well-being of our earth through bird conservation. It takes a village to manage the day-to-day and month-to-month activities of our organization, but we do it out of a need to satisfy our desire for stewardship to Mother Earth. With the upcoming “changing of the guard” there are indications that there is a possibility that conservation will take a back seat to resource exploration and exploitation.

Please join us in keeping our collective “thumb on the pulse” of the changes that affect us here at home in the Helena valley. Volunteer with Last Chance Audubon! Our organization is healthy and vital! But we still need you to help in leadership and committee roles. The following LCAS positions are open (or will be vacated soon) and there is no experience required. Please consider how you can best help us in 2017! The time commitment for these positions is very limited.

Contact LCAS President Janice Miller jan2854@gmail.com or any of the Board of Directors listed on the final page of our monthly newsletter. Make a New Year’s commitment that counts! See you in 2017!

Photo of White-Winged Crossbill by Bob Martinka



Volunteer Openings!

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| - Christmas Bird Count Coordinator – (opening Jan. 1, 2017) | - Field Trip Chair (open) |
| - Field Trip Chair | - Vice President (open) |
| - Treasurer – (opening Jan. 1, 2017) | - Habitat Chair (open) |
| - Membership (opening 2017) | - Website Assistant |

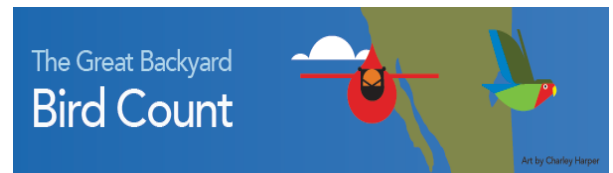
The Great Backyard Bird Count

(Underlined links are only available to eNewsletter subscribers)

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. Now, more than 160,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds.

We invite you to participate! Simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, **February 17-20, 2017**. You can count from any location, anywhere in the world, for as long as you wish! If you’re new to the count, or have not participated since before the 2013 merger with eBird, you must [create a free online account](#) to enter your checklists. If you already have an account, just use the same login name and password. If you have already participated in another Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you can use your existing login information, too.

[Click here for more info on how to get started.](#)



During the count, you can explore what others are seeing in your area or around the world. Share your bird photos by entering the photo contest, or enjoy images pouring in from across the globe. New in 2016: you can add photos and sounds to your checklist. [Read more](#). Your help is needed every year to make the GBBC successful!

Why count birds?

Scientists use information from the Great Backyard Bird Count, along with observations from other citizen-science projects, such as the [Christmas Bird Count](#), [Project FeederWatch](#), and [eBird](#), to get the “big picture” about what is happening to bird populations. With your help, this “picture” gets a little clearer. Help us count today!

*Excerpted from Great Backyard Bird Count Website –
Reprinted by permission of Cornell Lab of
Ornithology - ©2016*

Membership Report

Please welcome to *Last Chance Audubon Society* new chapter members Sandy & Gary Barker, M.J. Bradbury, Pat Clark, Wendy Ann & Robert Clark, Sara Grotbo, Paulette Hutcheon, Ann Kenny, Barbara Kenny, Wilda Komax, Ernie & Renee Lundberg, Sharon Potenza, Estelle Shuttleworth, Sandy & Len Wheeler and Gail Kuntz & Terry Wheeling.

Many thanks to *Last Chance Audubon Society* renewing chapter members Steve & Catherine Askam, Lisa Bay, Barb Belt & Jim Emerson, Paul & Juanita Bray, Carolyn Fox, Howard Johnson, Iloilo Jones, Mary Kelley, Robert Ray & Fran Penner-Ray, Ginny Talley and Carla Wambach.

Please also welcome *National Audubon Society* new members Jim Erickson, John Nix and Darlene Ross.

Sincere thanks to *National Audubon Society* renewing members Sue H Bennett, The Clums, Marilyn Kelly-Clark and Hugh & Karen Zackhei. Also, please welcome *National Audubon Society* transfer member Jay Simons.

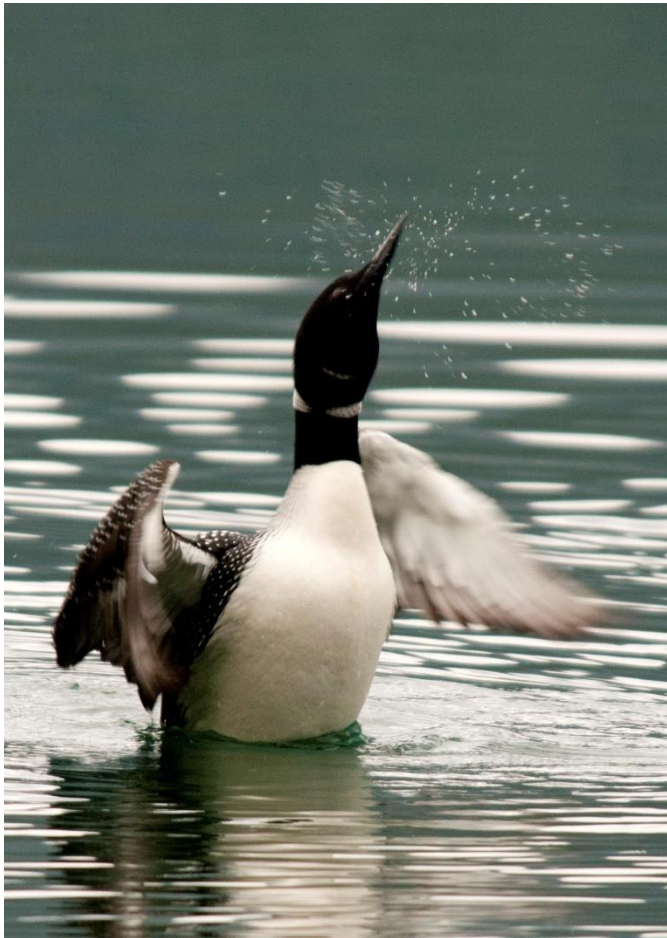
PLEASE & THANK YOU - LCAS MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE JANUARY 1st:

Please mail your membership payments to PO Box 924, Helena, MT 59624 or give them to Sharon Miller at our next evening program meeting on Tuesday, Dec 13, 2016. Please fill out the registration form either in this newsletter or print one from www.lastchanceaudubon.org. The cost of membership is \$15 per household and is current for one year, January 1st through December 31st.

SNOWBIRD MIGRATION: If you are heading south with our avian friends – you can renew your membership now for 2017. See the above paragraph.

NAS MEMBERSHIP: If you would like National Audubon Society membership information, please direct an email to customerservice@audubon.org or you may contact them directly by phone at 1-844-428-3826.

Sharon Miller, Membership Chair,
12sharmil95@gmail.com or (406)513-1152



Common Loon by Bob Martinka

Newsletter

With this issue, the hard copy version of *Last Chance Chat* has officially ended. LCAS is proud to say that we have reduced our collective environmental footprint by ceasing to print and mail the newsletter. While we are no longer mailing the newsletter, we will continue to print a small number of newsletters to archive with the Historical Society, Lewis & Clark Library and to give to visitors at our program meetings. If your circumstances are such that you **cannot** receive the newsletter electronically, please let us know. Contact LCAS President Janice Miller at 406-439-5762, and let's talk. Thanks for making our community and our earth a little greener.

Last Chance Audubon Society
PO Box 924
Helena MT 59624

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

Website: 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 COMMITTEE CHAIRS/CONTACTS

Birdathon: Jo Lace 443-6640,

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

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

Publicity: Liz Hiltunen, 227-5492,
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

LCAS BOARD

PRESIDENT: Janice Miller, 439-
5762, jan2854@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Brian Shovers,
443-6640,
sholace1049@gmail.com

TREASURER: Chris Hunter,
461-7038,
chbabahunter00@gmail.com

WEBSITE/BOARD: Stephen
Turner, 521-0000,
stepturner@yahoo.com

EDUCATION/BOARD: Sumner
Sharpe, mtnutmeg@gmail.com

BOARD AT LARGE: Coburn
Currier, clcurrier@hotmail.com

BOARD AT LARGE: Bob
Martinka, 449-3313,
rmartink@aol.com

BOARD AT LARGE: Jo Lace,
443-6640

BOARD AT LARGE: Don Skaar,
442-3254, tedradon@gmail.com